

THE NEW TIMES

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

VOLUME 16, No. 24.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1950.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY

"Over-Production" Threatens Again! Financial Reform or Chaos?

In spite of the threat of war, which the Communist conspirators have so obligingly maintained, it is becoming painfully obvious that even large-scale armament programmes are not preventing the problem of "over-production" from growing rapidly. The Melbourne Herald of June 1 publishes the following significant report from New York:

"Both in Canada and the United States manufacturers are demanding increased tariffs against the increasing imports of devaluated sterling goods. In each country the Government is resisting such pressures. . . . It is difficult to persuade local manufacturers, confronted with falling profits, or workers forced out of jobs by oversea imports, that national interests come before their own." All of which must make cheerful reading for the Communists, whose major strategy is governed by the belief that the "inherent contradictions of capitalism" will inevitably create one crisis after another.

A Warning

The following day after the Melbourne Herald report above, the Melbourne Age published the following in a featured article: "Warning that the eleventh hour is striking for the economy of the free world is given in the annual survey of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Unless the European dollar-gap problem is solved, say these international economic experts, not only Europe but most of the other countries in the world will suffer serious dislocation in their trade and industry. If the present trends continue and the dollar gap is bridged by buying less from America instead of selling more, other countries—Latin America, Canada and other overseas countries—will suffer more than Europe itself If nothing is done about this situation between now and 1952, clearly the result will be complete chaos in world economy, with the possibility of a world depression."

Confirmation

These reports provide further confirmation of our contention that, while present financial rules are maintained, the more highly industrialised a country becomes, the greater the necessity of developing a "favourable balance of trade." A "favourable balance of trade" simply means exporting more production than is imported. This policy means that credit is expanded locally against production exported. It seeks to overcome a local deficiency of purchasing power, or, as has been often stated, to "export unemployment." Now it is clear that every country cannot export more than

it imports—not unless the exports become war production "given away" in a third world war.

Increasing Competition

Assuming that there is no Third World War, the next few years are obviously going to intensify the "overproduction" problem. Already German and Japanese production is growing so rapidly that it is being regarded apprehensively by British, Canadian, and American producers. It is suggested that America may, as the most highly industrialised country, and therefore the one with the greatest problem of "over-production," seek to extend the Marshall Aid idea to the "undeveloped countries" of the world such as parts of the British Empire's colonial possessions. This would help maintain "full employment" in America while at the same time permitting the controllers of financial policy to extend their grip upon the assets and policies of other countries. All this suits the Communist propagandists admirably, who can point to "American economic aggression."

An Alternative Policy

As we have insisted ever since the inception of this journal, there is no hope of genuine world peace and stability for the peoples of the world while financial rules are based upon the unrealistic proposition that the purpose of the production system is to provide "full employment." The great-

est contribution any country could make to world peace at present, is to modify its financial rules in order that its individuals may effectively control their production programmes, have adequate purchasing power at all times to buy what they have produced, and to reduce their working hours as production efficiency increased. Exports would then be genuine surpluses exported for the purpose of obtaining exports from other countries, not for trying to provide "full employment."

There is no reason why Australia should not by a modification of its financial rules, set an example to a world now threatened with complete disaster.

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.

Does Mr. Casey Remember?

We don't know whether Mr. Casey knows very much about Communism or not. But we do know that over twelve months ago, when a Liberal supporter in Brisbane moved a motion that the Liberal Party investigate what connection, if any, there was between Communism and Zionism, Mr. Casey strongly opposed the motion. Does Mr. Casey remember this? And is he still as afraid of offending certain groups as he obviously was then?

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging,
In God's name, let us speak while there is time!
Now, when the padlock for our lips are forging,
Silence is crime.

WHITTIER.

TO THE POINT

American Production

"The urgent American need is to dispose of her production, to which end she has been carrying out the programme of beneficent dumping known as Marshall Aid. As the tendency in almost every country is to become as far as possible industrially self-sufficient, there will come a time when such exports will cease to be a blessing. What will happen then? Clearly, as *Truth* has often insisted, American production, except for a small margin, will either have to be organised to meet home consumption alone — a revolution which would mean more leisure for the Americans — or the surplus resulting from full production will have to be bought by the taxpayers and dumped in the sea."

—The English *Truth*, April 14, 1950.

The above statement should be commended to all those people who claim that increased production will solve all problems.

* * * *

An Organic Conception of Wealth

Men, who want, as Socialists do, to diminish the prestige and position of money in society, defeat their own purpose when they try to abolish inheritance, and ensure that all the money is "first generation money," in the most acquisitive hands. The essential notion of continuity between the generations is completely ignored in favour of a conception, which would make of life a series of individual competitions, with the winnings of the successful few all going back into the pool at their death. There could be few shorter cuts to a lower state of civilisation and lower levels of achievement, in all those human fields in which a high level of excellence is the work of more than one generation, in coming from children born into homes of a special kind, surrounded from infancy by special influences, inheriting special predispositions and aptitudes, and being thus helped to overcome the otherwise shattering handicap which the shortness of human life imposes on all human endeavours after excellence.

—*The Tablet* (England), April 1, 1950.

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Backbenchers and Policy Control

"Some honourable members have referred to the banking ability and political affiliations of the present Governor (Dr. Coombs) of the Commonwealth Bank. I consider that his political views are somewhat extreme. An extremist must always be harnessed, and it is then impossible to obtain the best results from a person under guidance."

—Mr. Hubert Opperman, Liberal M.H.R., May 3, 1950.

If the above views are to be considered as a mild criticism of the Menzies Government's support for Dr. Coombs, would Mr. Opperman care to tell his electors just how much say he and other rank and file members of the Liberal Party had in formulating banking policy?

* * * *

Consulting Dr. Coombs

"This clause (of the Commonwealth Bank Bill) was drafted in consultation with the

Governor of the bank. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Chifley) that that was so, because I was a member of the Cabinet sub-committee that discussed this matter with the Governor of the bank."

—Mr. P. Spender, M.H.R., at Canberra on April 28, 1950.

It would be interesting to know just how many clauses of the Bank Bill were drafted in consultation with Dr. Coombs.

* * * *

Nonsense

"As for the alleged falling value of the £1, the fact is that value is fast returning to the £1."

—Mr. T. White, Liberal M.H.R., at Canberra on April 27.

This ridiculous statement by a senior Minister of the Menzies Government should cheer Labour-Socialists looking forward to a Federal Election on the inflation issue.

* * * *

T.A.A.

When the members of the Federal Ministry were in Opposition, they bitterly opposed the establishment of Trans-Australian Airlines, and declared that it was (a) rank socialism, (b) an unwarranted waste of public money, (c) an uneconomic proposal, and (d) simply the outcome of petty pique.

These men are now in charge of affairs, and, if they were sincere in the views they expressed, should take immediate steps to right what they then declared to be wrong.

It would appear, however that they were not sincere — or are the inducements of socialism more sweet when under one's own control? Perhaps it then ceases to be socialism.

The fact remains that, far from scrapping T.A.A., they are actually extending it.

The fact that this same Government is hampered for lack of dollars does not prevent it from wasting many thousands of gallons of spirit every year in duplicating a service across Australia when the traffic could be handled without it.

GERALD B. LINCOLNE, Little Collins Street.

—Melbourne Age, May 30.

The Roosevelt Myth

"The malicious extravagance of anti-Roosevelt talk astounds and almost frightens visiting Australians and Britons. They arrive in this country expecting to hear Roosevelt's name mentioned with respect if not with praise. Instead they meet people who make jokes about his grave, who tell false stories about his mode of life, and who even sneer and wisecrack about his widow."

—"John Walters Writes From New York," in the Melbourne *Argus* of May 31.

As Australians are not told by their press of the factual exposures of the Roosevelt regime by sober American writers like John T. Flynn, it is not surprising that they are astonished to find that a growing number of Americans have seen through the "Roosevelt Myth," and have very strong views about the Roosevelts.

"American" Society

Three high school students, who modelled their behaviour on criminals in detective stories, have admitted the hold-up and murder of a liquor storeowner.

Police said yesterday the store owner, Dominic Calaraco, was shot on May 12, when he refused to hand over money to the trio.

They said the students were Thomas Charles Cook, 17, who fired the fatal shot; Muriel Clara Downs, 17; and Peggy Byrns, 15.

Byrns, they added, had driven the car in which the trio escaped after the shooting.

Police said they learned of the students' exploit when questioning a 16-year-old high schoolboy whom they arrested during another hold-up attempt. The trio told the police they learned from detective stories how bandits operated.

"We figured out the criminals' mistakes and decided we could do better," the police quoted one as saying.

—*The Age*, Melbourne, May 29.

The above frequent and dreadful aberrations in American society discloses a state of affairs which should cause everyone concerned with preserving and strengthening Western civilisation to furiously think. Can a society disclosing such dreadful extremes give any worthwhile leadership? Whilst admitting their tremendous tool-power superiority, we are gravely concerned by their political, cultural and moral influence over the past 25 years.

Austro-Hungary

No doubt many of our readers have seen the interesting correspondence proceeding in the *Daily Telegraph* on the charms of Austro-Hungary under the Habsburgs. We refer to it because it brings into relief certain factors, which appear to characterise the Brave New World and its New Statesmanship.

The first of these, of course, is contempt for Christianity. Austria was a Roman Catholic country and it is scarcely open to doubt that she was singled out for destruction at least as much because of this as for more obviously political reasons. Next, Austrians were a people of exquisite manners; perhaps the most attractively mannered race in Europe, which, in the era of which we treat, is as much as to say, in the whole world. And thirdly the whole population was *persistently* and markedly light-hearted and happy.

We have for long been convinced that the Marxian "Class" war, like so much of Marx, is a curious twist to a persistent fact; what we now call an inferiority complex. The genuine Collectivist hates superiority and fears beauty, and would much rather make the rich poor than the poor rich because *some* rich foster beauty. The dogma that the only differences in culture are economic in origin is so patently absurd in the light of the evidence which can be gleaned by anyone who will visit the haunts of the present-day rich, that it ought not to be, but it is, a matter of importance to place on record the memories of a better day.

—*The Social Creditor*, May 6.

Wards of the Government

We are indebted to *Industrial Victoria*, the official publication of The Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, for this copy, published below, of a speech delivered by Dean Russell, a member of the staff of the Foundation for Economic Education of New York, to the Convention on Individual Liberty at Montana. Before commencing Mr. Russell's speech we would offer a little advice to *Industrial Victoria*, that they critically examine the centralised financial rules that are rapidly driving us to the Welfare State. If desired, we would be delighted to help in the examination.

The Constitutions of former American slave States generally specified that the masters must provide their slaves with adequate housing, food, medical care and old-age benefits. The Mississippi Constitution contained this additional sentence:

"The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves... (except) where the slave shall have rendered the State some distinguished service;"

The highest honour that Mississippi could offer a man for distinguished service to his country was personal responsibility for his own welfare! His reward was freedom to find his own job and to have his own earnings, freedom to be responsible for his own housing, freedom to arrange for his own medical care, freedom to save for his own old age. In short, his reward was the individual opportunities—and the personal responsibilities—that have always distinguished a free man from a dependant.

What higher honour can any Government offer?

But many present-day Americans are trying to avoid this personal responsibility that *is* freedom. They are voting for men who promise to install a system of compulsory, Government-guaranteed "security"—a partial return to the old slave laws of Georgia that guaranteed to all slaves "the right to food and raiment, to kind attention when sick, to maintenance in old age . . ." And the arguments used to defend this present-day trend toward the bondage of a Welfare State are essentially the same arguments that were formerly used to defend the bondage of outright slavery.

But as proof of the fact that personal responsibility for one's own welfare brings increased material well-being, consider the emancipated slaves. Among them there were old and crippled and sick people. They had no homes, no jobs, and little education. But—most precious of all—the former slaves were responsible for their own welfare. They were *free*. They had the privilege of finding their own security.

Now compare the remarkable progress of those former slaves to the lack of progress of the American Indians who were made wards of the Government; who were given State-guaranteed "security" instead of freedom with responsibility. In 1862 most American Negroes were slaves. Today they are about as self-supporting and responsible as other American citizens. Meanwhile the Indians as a group have become less self-supporting and more dependent on Government aid. It has been claimed that many thousands of Indians will actually die of starvation unless the Government feeds them. If this is true, why is it so?

There seems to be no scientific basis for calling the Indians an innately inferior

race. As has been proved by the success of many individual Indians, they have just as much capacity for understanding and advancement as the Negroes and the so-called Nordics. But today there are more than 12,000 Federal employees directly "taking care" of the 233,000 reservation Indians who are still classified as wards of the Government. The number of Government caretakers for the Indians has been steadily increasing over the years. As a result the reservation Indian is becoming less self-sufficient and more dependent upon what he calls "the Great White Father Washington."

Instead of freedom the Indian has Government-guaranteed "security." Instead of individual responsibility he has a Government bureau to handle his personal affairs. There are special laws governing his right to own land and to spend tribal money. Under that system of bondage it should surprise no one to find that many thousands of Indians have remained uneducated, hungry, diseased and mismanaged.

The only *lasting* solution is for the Indians themselves to handle their own affairs on the basis of individual freedom and personal responsibility. If this were not true, then the blessings of freedom would appear to be fanciful myths. But for some queer reason we Americans seem to believe that just because our pioneer fathers once subjugated the Indians, we in turn are obliged to keep them in the bondage of Government "security." As a result the Indian has the status of a *ward* instead of a citizen. Instead of being a responsible person he is a dependant.

And in a like manner, if we free Americans continue to turn to Government for our security, we too will surely become dependent wards instead of responsible citizens. There will be a Commissioner to control our personal affairs and our individual responsibilities. Instead of calico and blankets we may be promised a hundred dollars every month. But since the principle is the same in both cases, the results will also eventually be the same.

A Return to Bondage

The advocates of this compulsory "security" honestly seem to believe that most Americans—including the Indians—are too ignorant, or lazy, or worthless to be trusted with their own destiny; that they will literally starve in the streets unless their welfare is guaranteed by a "benevolent" Government. However good their intentions may be, these disciples of a Relief State are demanding that they be given the power to *force* mankind to follow their plans. In the name of liberty they advocate bondage!

This is true because the persons who receive support from the State are thereby

led to expect—and then to demand—more support from the State. They become dependants. Thus they enter into a form of bondage. They lose their individual freedom of choice to whatever extent the State assumes responsibility for their personal welfare. In time, as is now the case in the Welfare State of Russia, the people become completely subservient to the State. In effect, they become slaves of the "benevolent" Government that has promised to solve all of their personal problems for them!

Admittedly this is not the intent of the planners. Apparently most of the advocates of Government paternalism really believe that they are able to know and to do what is "best" for all of the people. Most of them may honestly desire to help the people. But their efforts *always* result in some form of bondage. For example, the leaders of the Labour Government in Britain probably never even dreamed of bringing compulsory labour to its supporters. Yet that is what they did. In England today the democratically elected leaders can—and do—force persons to work where the Government decrees they are most needed. And if the person objects to his Government's decision force is used to make him conform.

In Russia we find another example of the fact that good intentions are no guarantee of freedom. For instance, in the beginning Lenin and Stalin probably had no desire whatever to bring slavery to Russia. Their announced plan was to free the Russian people *from* the slavery of an all-powerful Government. But look what happened!

We Americans of today are following this same path toward the bondage of Welfare, or Slave State. Just as the law once guaranteed "adequate" medical care for American slaves, so a law to guarantee adequate medical care for all Americans is being demanded today. And who will determine what is adequate medical care for a person? Not the person, but the Government official who has the *authority*.

And jobs? Of course the Government can guarantee every man a job—just as every slave was "guaranteed" a job; just as every Russian is "guaranteed" a job. But it is impossible, of course, for the Government to guarantee everyone a job of his own choosing. Some persons must be guaranteed the scavenger jobs. They may not like it, but dependants have little choice.

The Only Hope

It is true that many citizens in this country are old and crippled and sick and homeless. Possibly some of them are jobless through no fault of their own. The same conditions existed during our Revolutionary War. But our ancestors knew that their only hope, for permanent security lay in their own individual efforts. They knew that the main purpose of government should be to *protect* whatever security the people were able to attain individually or in voluntary co-operation. They knew that electing or appointing a man to public office cannot endow him with wisdom; it can endow him only with *power*. Thus they took no chance on this power of government being used to encroach upon their individual liberties and their personal responsibilities. In advance

(Continued on page 5)

THE NEW TIMES

Established 1935.

Published every Friday by New Times Limited, McEwan House,
343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. Postal
Address: Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone: MU 2834.

Subscription Rates: 25/- Yearly; 13/- Half Yearly; 7/- Quarter.

VOL. 16.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1950.

No. 24.

The Planners and Subsidies

One of the strongest argument in favour of a general policy of Price-Subsidies is the fact that the Socialist planners everywhere are opposed to them. It is true that during the war years, the planners were compelled to accept a Price-Subsidy technique in order to prevent extreme inflation. But it is also true that the Price-Subsidy technique used during the war years was acceptable to the planners because it enabled them, through the rationing and quota system, to extend their policy of centralised planning.

It has often been pointed out that advocates of central planning have no genuine faith; they are afraid of the future; they fear that the individual, if left to his own desires, will certainly plunge himself into chaos. This attitude of mind is one of the reasons why the planners are opposed to a Price-Subsidy mechanism operating in such a way that both consumer and producer would have genuine freedom. The following extract from a report in the Melbourne "Herald" of June 2 throws considerable light on this aspect of the subject: "The Government's financial advisers in Canberra have always advocated withdrawal of subsidies when rationing ended, on the ground that it is impossible to limit payment if sales are unrestricted"

Liberal and Country Party Members at Canberra, to whom electors are looking for some action to "put the shillings back into the pound," would do well to recall that when the Labor-Socialists, "advised" by the same Socialist "experts" advising the Menzies Government, were refused permanent powers for centralised price-fixing, they immediately started abolishing Price-Subsidies. If they are willing to oppose Price-Subsidies because of arguments advanced by Dr. Coombs and his fellow-planners, they deserve the political extinction which certainly threatens them while they do nothing to honour pre-election promises.

What ridiculous and misleading nonsense it is to claim that, without centralised controls, Price-Subsidies might cost too much. Surely Members of Parliament have learned sufficient about finance over the past twenty years to know that the volume of financial credit required by the community can be increased to meet the facts of production and consumption. Price-Subsidies paid only on that production desired by the consumer as indicated at the retail counter, is a technique for using financial credit without consequent inflation. Once it is agreed that the volume of financial credit should be governed automatically by the facts of production and consumption, not by the dictates of central planners of any description, the argument that Price-Subsidies cannot be extended because they would cost too much, is seen to be deliberately misleading. The real reason the central planners oppose general Price-Subsidisation is because it would confer real freedom upon the individual; it would enable free, competitive enterprise to operate satisfactorily. And this does not suit the planners.

Their hypocrisy can easily be demonstrated by the fact that they do not allow the fear of "financial cost" to deter them from their grandiose schemes of centralised planning a la Snowy River. Oh yes, they are prepared to plunder the community's credit for purposes which allow them to control both the individual and his productive capacity, but they will not permit even a portion of this credit to be used to enable the individual to control his own and his Government's policies.

I Can't Figure It Out

Says our Crazy Statistician

During recent months we have heard so much about productivity and incentives.

The following report, therefore, may be of interest to fellow members.

Employment Figures

Population of United Kingdom 50,000,000*
People of 65 years and over .. 12,000,000

Balance left over to do the work 38,000,000
People of 18 years and younger 20,000,000

Balance left over to do the work 18,000,000
People working for the Govern-
ment 9,000,000

Balance left over to do the work 9,000,000
People in the Armed Forces .. 2,000,000

Balance left over to do the work 7,000,000
People in State and Council
Offices..... 6,800,000

Balance left over to do the work 200,000
People in hospitals and lunatic
asylums, pools, and dog rac-
ing 126,000

Balance left over to do the work 74,000
Spivs and others who will not
work..... 62,000

Balance left over to do the work 12,000
Persons in gaol..... 11,998

Balance left over to do the work 2

You and I have, therefore, got to work harder, especially you, as I am getting fed-up with running this country single-handed.

* This is probably an over-estimate, but have made allowances for the number of children who will be born between now and when the *Scribe* is published.

—From the *Scribe*.

Keep This Date Free

New Times country readers in particular will be pleased to know that this year's *New Times* Dinner will be held during Show Week. The date is Friday, September 29. We feel confident that having the Annual Dinner during Show Week will result in a very large attendance. Plans are in hand to make this year's Dinner an outstanding success in every way. No *New Times* supporter should miss it. Details will be announced later. At this stage we merely draw our supporters' attention to the date and ask them to reserve it.

WARDS OF THE GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 3)

they put positive restrictions on all office-holders. And as a final guarantee of freedom they specified that any powers not expressly given to the Federal officials were to remain with the individual citizens and their local Governments.

The American Constitution naturally did not list virtues—such as compassion, charity and respect for one's fellow man—as functions of government. The statesmen who founded our Government knew that *all* virtues are purely personal and voluntary. It is utter nonsense to imagine that a person can be *forced* to be good. Government can and should use force to punish a person who commits a crime. But this same force *cannot* be used to create kindness and compassion within the mind and heart of any person.

Thus the authors of our Constitution left compassion and charity—aid to the unfortunate—on a strictly voluntary basis. They designed a form of government based on individual freedom, personal responsibility and equality before the law for all citizens. Wisely they made no attempt whatever to separate freedom of choice from the resulting reward or punishment, success or failure. Since they recognised the absurdity of passing laws to protect a person from himself, they left all citizens free to make their own decisions concerning their own personal welfare. From all viewpoints, including that of material security for the so-called common man, those decisions concerning the proper functions of government proved to be the most effective that the world has ever known in this field.

Bread and Circus

If this State-guaranteed "security" idea were new it might help explain why so many people insist on trying it. But it is not new. It was written into the Code of Hammurabi over 4000 years ago. In one form or another it has been tried time and again throughout history—always with the same result. In the Roman Empire it was called "bread and circus." More recently Karl Marx called it socialism. He believed that the State should take "from each according to his abilities" and give "to each according to his needs."

Marx said that it was the duty of Government to provide all people with adequate housing, medical care, jobs and social security. Word for word, the advocates of Government "security" in this country are saying the same thing today.

And just as the Russians are enslaved to a Welfare State, so this country is being carried into bondage by accepting the same false principle. Just as force is used in Russia to make the people conform to the security laws designed "for their own good," so we also are now forced to submit to American security laws designed "for our own good." And just as the Russian State punishes any objector, so the American State will now imprison us if we refuse to conform.

The Use of Force

If you doubt that compulsory socialism has gone to that extreme in this country, just test it, for instance, by refusing to pay the social security tax that is taken from

your salary. The Government will do the same thing to you that it did to the owner of a small battery shop in Pennsylvania who balked at the idea of compulsory social security. First, the State confiscated his property. Still he refused to obey. Then the State preferred *criminal* charges against him. And in January of 1943 the Government gave him the choice of conforming or going to prison as a criminal—an enemy of the State because he refused to pay social security! He paid. And his six months' prison sentence was suspended.

Enemy of the State

Next may come total Government housing—"for our own good," of course. Then the State will assign us so many square feet of "adequate" living space. This is true because, under complete State ownership of housing, there is no other way that Government can do it. We may ask for more space, a different location, better service, or a choice of neighbours. But we already know the Government's answer. Even today a person has no real choice when he lives in Government housing.

Next may come full employment with Government-guaranteed jobs for everyone. A person will say: "I don't want this job." And as happened under England's programme of Government-guaranteed employment, the American Welfare State will also answer: "We will put you in gaol as a criminal unless you work at your assigned task."

Along about then the advocates of Government-guaranteed "security" may begin to understand the inevitable results of their ideas. They may realise that it is *power* that makes a dictator, and not what he's called or how he's elected. When that fact has become obvious to everyone, the advocates of compulsory "security" will then exclaim: "But we didn't mean this!" It will be too late to turn back at that point. Just as the night follows the day, so Government aid to the individual is followed by Government control of the individual, which necessarily means Government force *against* the individual.

No Easy Way

Fortunately, it is not yet too late for America to turn away from the evil that is a Welfare State; a Slave State. But, unfortunately, there is no simple or easy way to do it. Both major political parties—along with the smaller ones—seem to be trying to outbid each other by promising more Government housing, more social security, more "free" medical care, more Government "welfare" projects, and more special privileges to various groups and interests.

Most of our movies, magazines, newspapers and radio programmes generally endorse—directly or indirectly—the idea of some form of Government-guaranteed "security." Even the few objections seem to be aimed mostly at poor administration instead of recognition that the theory is wrong in principle.

And, whether we like it or not, many of the instructors in our schools and colleges are teaching the desirability of the Relief State, the "planned economy" and Government ownership in general.

Golden Rule Rejected

Finally, even some of our church leaders are teaching that the force of government should be used to make people charitable and good. Some of these Christian leaders seem to have forgotten that the principles of the Good Samaritan and each individual doing unto others, as he would have others do unto him are voluntary principles. In many cases these principles have now been discarded for this evil slogan: "It is the duty of Government to care for the sick, to feed the hungry, to aid the unfortunate, and to build houses for those who need them." Probably one of the main reasons for the declining influence of the church is that the church is defaulting on many of its own responsibilities by turning them over to Government. Many of our church leaders are rendering unto Caesar that which does not belong to Caesar.

But the politicians, periodicals, schools and churches generally reflect the opinions of the persons who support them. Thus the final decision rests on the attitude of each individual American. If enough of us accept the degrading idea of a Welfare State—a Relief State, a Slave State—the process will soon be completed. But if enough individual Americans desire a return to the personal responsibility that *is* freedom, we can have that too.

The Choice is Ours

Before choosing, however, consider this: When one chooses freedom—that is, personal responsibility—he should understand that his decision would not meet with popular approval. It is almost certain that he will be called vile names when he tries to explain that compulsory Government "security"—jobs, medicine, housing, and all the rest—is bad in principle and in its total effect; it saps character and strength by encouraging greed and weakness; it destroys the individual's God-given responsibility for self-help, respect, compassion and charity; in some degree, it automatically turns all who accept it into wards of the Government; it will eventually turn a proud and responsible people into cringing dependence upon the whims of an all-powerful State; it is the primrose path to serfdom. No, the choice is not an easy one. But then, the choice of freedom never has been easy. It never will be easy. Since this capacity for personal responsibility—freedom—is God's most precious gift to man kind, it requires the highest form of understanding and courage.

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Sheet Composting on the Farm

By Dr. WILLIAM H. EYSTER

Dr. Eyster, the well-known American writer on organic farming, shows how the fertility of the land can be restored by green manuring, where sufficient compost is unavailable for spreading on the land.

The objection is sometimes made that the compost method of farming is not practical. Other objections often made are that it requires too much labour, green matter is not available in sufficient amounts, manure is hard to get and farm equipment for the compost method is not available.

These objections, even for making compost in pits, are more apparent than real. Such helps as the hydraulic manure loader and automatic elevators take most of the labour out of the handling of the materials. Plant material grinders, mechanical digesters, earthworms, and special cultures of the organisms, which convert the raw organic materials into compost, greatly shorten the time required for making compost.

An effective type of composting, known as *sheet composting*, lends itself well to the farm equipment and practices with which every farmer is familiar. The factors involved in the transformation of green matter and manure into humus in the soil are the same as those in the compost heap. All factors must be favourable, and must act together.

Grow a Cover Crop for Green Matter

Green matter is grown in the form of a cover crop. Recommended cover crops are *kudzu beans, sweet clover, other clovers, lucerne, soy and other beans, crotalaria, vetch* and other legumes, brome and other grasses; and for soils lower in fertility, *rye and buckwheat*. The growing of these cover crops requires no special equipment. They are worked into the soil with manure and lime to form compost.

Apply Manure and Lime with Regular Equipment

The manure can be applied in the regular way with a manure spreader at the rate of from three to five tons per acre. The raw limestone, which has been pulverised to colloidal particles, may be applied with the manure, or may be drilled in the field with a regular lime drill.

After the manure and lime have been spread over the cover crop, all these materials must be incorporated into the surface layer of the soil. It matters little with what equipment this is done, so long as the organic matter is near enough to the surface of the soil, where there is sufficient

oxygen from the air to enable the aerobic organisms to break down the organic matter and convert it into humus. If the plough is used, do not plough deeper than 4 or 5 inches. Other suitable equipment includes the disc, rototillers, and other types of tillers.

Nature Supplies Suitable Moisture and Temperature

The moisture necessary for the composting process is inherent in the green matter and the soil, and is renewed from time to time by the precipitation of water out of the atmosphere. The moisture factor is important, and must be just right if humus manufacture in the soil is to succeed. It should not be attempted in regions where sufficient water is not available in the form of rain or irrigation water. The rate of composting will vary also with the temperature, and will proceed most rapidly when aeration, moisture, and temperature all are optimum for the organisms of decomposition.

Soil Organisms Convert Organic Matter into Humus

As soon as the organic materials have been worked into the soil and to the extent that environmental conditions are favourable, decomposition begins. The soil organisms secrete digestive enzymes, which digest the carbohydrates; sugars, starches, celluloses, and lignins; the proteins; and the fats in the soil in much the same way as the digestive juices in the intestinal tract of an animal break these substances into simpler water-soluble compounds. The composting process begins slowly, but increases rapidly, just like a fire, which consumes a brush pile or other organic matter.

The Soil Cannot Make Humus and Grow a Crop at Same Time

During the time the soil organisms are consuming the organic matter in the soil, they often use the available plant nutrients for their own use. It is for this reason that a soil cannot grow a crop at the same time humus is being made in it. The soil will invariably give preference to the making of humus.

The time required for the complete transformation of raw organic matter into humus depends upon the nature of the soil, the amount of organic matter involved, and the conditions, which favour the activity of the soil organisms. Any farmer can, by digging into the soil, determine how the decom-

position is progressing, and when it is complete. This is no more difficult than checking a baking potato or a fowl in the oven by the housewife. Some kinds of plant material will break down more rapidly than others. Cellulose breaks down more rapidly than lignin. *Leguminous plants break down much more rapidly than the straw of wheat and other grains. Accordingly leguminous cover crops lend themselves especially well to the sheet composting method of fertilisation.*

Crop May be Planted when Composting nears Completion

When the organic matter has been more or less completely converted into humus, the crop may be planted. With some crops, as Indian corn, the seeds may be planted before the sheet composting process is entirely complete, because the corn kernel contains sufficient food to feed the corn seedling for two weeks or more. But humus formation in the soil should be completed by the time the fibrous roots develop from the base of the young plant and reach out for nutrients for the growing corn plants.

—From *Organic Gardening* (U.S.A.).

"We Have Broken with the Soil"

"Modern man, who has lost all contact with nature, the modern city dweller especially, who only contemplates nature but no longer lives in and with its rhythm, who has lost belief in the spiritual basis of his own and the world's existence, and who thinks belief in God an antiquated myth, this man becomes obsessed with a fear that in times of social crisis grows to an unreasoning, blind anguish. And when this anguish takes on mass characteristics (which occur when the mass is cut loose from its economic, social and spiritual moorings), confusion and chaos appear. Fear leads to bestiality. Fear, too, is more easily mastered by brutality than by the spirit. Hence, the leader who ruthlessly seizes power and holds power without qualms and conscience is glorified and almost deified because of his brutality.

"Half of our misery and weakness derives from the fact that we have broken with the soil, and that we have allowed the roots that bound us to the earth to rot. We have become detached from the earth; we have abandoned her. And a man who abandons nature has begun to abandon himself. It is in the moment when we realise the dire consequences of our having lost contact with nature that we must begin to think of returning to her."

—Pierre van Paasen.

The Casting Worm

By O.O. PERRY, in *Compost Magazine* (N.Z.)

Some years ago I read an article in a farming paper on the casting worm. I read it again and then handed it to my wife, and when she had read it I said that if it was half as good as the article would have one believe there must be something in it, and I'd like to go and have a look. But that, at the time, seemed impossible. I was particularly interested because the Raetihi and Taihape districts were mentioned—districts I knew, especially the Taihape district, having worked on a sheep station east of Taihape from 1910 to early 1914.

A few months later I was able to go and see for myself what the worm had done. Mr. A. S. Ashmore, of Ruatiti, Raetihi, was, I think, the one who first realised the possibilities of this particular earthworm, commonly known as the casting worm, but to zoologists as "allolobophora caliginosa."

I stayed a few days in the Raetihi area, visiting Mr. Ashmore and seeing over the greater part of his farm. Years before, when things were pretty black—to use his own words—and the second growth definitely getting the upper hand, and some of the neighbours walking off their farms, he noticed a dark green patch outside his orchard fence. This patch was slowly but surely getting bigger, and was always kept close-grazed by the sheep.

On investigation he found the patch covered with worm casts, and wondered if this might be the answer to his hill country-farming problem. He set to work planting out turfs about the farm from that small area. The worms spread, the grass came back and improved, the stock thrived as never before, and in under 20 years the carrying capacity trebled. I saw by adjoining farms what the Ashmore place had improved from: I had something to think about. Then on to Taihape and out to the station where as a young man I'd spent four years.

Most of the station in my day was in danthonia, carrying two ewes to the acre. But on my return after, nearly 30 years, the carrying capacity had doubled—four ewes to the acre—and the danthonia had for the most part disappeared and been replaced by English grasses and clovers—this all on the hills, without any top-dressing or re-seeding. Grass, nothing but grass and still more grass, with a few patches of bush and scattered kowhai and cabbage trees; and away to the north-west, Ruapehu. One has to see it to believe it. Thousands and thousands of acres of wonderful pastures, and underneath millions and millions of this "wonder worm."

I could find nobody who knew where they came from, but some knew where they started on their farms—often close to the farm orchard.

It was mid-summer when I made that trip, and I was assured I would find no worms at that time of the year. But on one block on the station there were fresh worm casts. My friend headed for the station homestead and got a box and a spade, and we packed six neat turfs in that box—my first importations.

How I Started

Each "plant" was pegged—and how they were watched! That winter we saw cast-

ings only on the imported turfs, but the following winter the worms began to spread, and one could see the dark green ring getting bigger and bigger. For the three following winters we had turfs from the Taihape and Raetihi areas, and as the original spread I'd load up the sledge and plant further afield, at last to discover that the worms had beaten me to it. The stock, carrying the eggs and worms in their gut, had spread them, and they were appearing all over the farm. Slowly but surely the danthonia and brown-top hills came into English grasses and clovers, and the hills took on each year a deeper green.

Once the worms get going root-bound paspalum just isn't. The hills stay green later into the summer, the grass grows later into the autumn, recovers quickly even in the winter, and starts away earlier in the spring; with the result that the stocks improve out of recognition, carrying capacity goes up, and your bank balance goes from red to black. Here they have made a job on poor fire-clay country, leaving up to a foot of rich black soil, on sand-stone country and just plain North Auckland yellow clay.

In four years, paddocks that were in fern 10ft. high are clean. Don't think that the worms will kill fern. They don't. But the stocking does, and the grass comes back. It is really amazing the way the stock does on bare pasture—quality is more important than quantity.

Now about this worm "allolobophora caliginosa." It is a thin, pink-red worm about three to four inches long when fully matured, with a very distinctive lighter-coloured band nearer the head end. It seems to thrive in hard conditions on all classes of country, and goes down to quite a depth. I have followed it to 3ft. 6in.—not an easy job. A great proportion of the castings are white and yellow, showing that it is well down in the clay. The castings are very much richer in available plant food than the surrounding soil. Frequently analyses have been published, but always American figures have been used.

One thing that should be mentioned is that worms are the only creatures known that secrete lime.

A Large Proportion

One of the highest-ranking U.S. officers, Major-General George Van Horn Mosley, recently disclosed that (although they constitute but 5 percent, of the population) 75 per cent of the files of the Committee on Un-American Activities are on Jews.

Out of the eleven Communists recently convicted in the U.S.A., nine were Jews and two Negroes. During the Canadian Trials it was pointed out that 19 out of the first 24 charged with espionage were Jewish.

—*Information Bulletin*, Vic. League of Rights, May 31.

No doubt the information contained in the first paragraph above has some bearing on the International News Agencies attempts to discredit the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Mr. Menzies and Price Subsidies

Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister, yesterday; would not define the Federal Government's policy on the payment of price subsidies."

He was asked if the Government intended to maintain payment of subsidies on butter and tea. He replied: "We are continuing to pay these subsidies."

Mr. Menzies said he could not answer whether subsidies would be continued on butter and tea if rationing were lifted.

It was pointed out to Mr. Menzies that in his policy speech last December he has said: "We shall hold ourselves ready to pay price subsidies in appropriate cases."

He replied: "That policy is now in operation."

—*The Argus, Melbourne*, June 6.

Quite an appropriate reply for our Mr. Menzies, i.e., delightfully vague. We would like to know what determines an appropriate case for price-subsidy, and who determines its appropriateness? Unless Mr. Menzies and his government intelligently face up to their responsibility in this matter of prices, their tenure of office will be hectic and short-lived.

The Joke of the Week

President Soekarno of the "United States" of Indonesia asking for Australian support in their claim to Dutch New Guinea on the basis of his assertion that it would never come under Communist control. At the same time the Indonesian Parliament passes a resolution calling for the recognition of the Communist-inspired Vietnam opposition government in Indo-China.

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Fidei Defensor

By Footle

You really cannot help noticing the love of fair play, which is such a persistent characteristic of the English speaking races. The latest example of it is announced in my newspaper of May 26, 1950, as a dispatch from Washington "the United States, Britain and France have agreed to ship limited quantities of arms to Middle Eastern countries for strictly defensive purposes. The policy would presumably apply to the Arab countries and Israel"

There is not only a large magnanimity about this; there is a reminiscence of the good old duelling days when the disarmed opponent was courteously handed back his weapon to enable him to continue the good work. No one really likes to use a weapon on an unarmed man—except in a rude state of society or in very private circumstances.

There are, of course, decadent and non-belligerent peoples who would be prepared to exploit their lack of arms and take advantage of their powerful neighbours by refusing to have anything to do with war, thus meanly preserving their lives and possibly their national boundaries, as for instance, the Swiss though theirs may admittedly be a special case, as their scenery is somewhat perpendicular and they don't seem to have anything worth while in the portable line. But there must be quite a few millions conforming to the Gandhi tradition of non-violence. Naturally this attitude cannot be permitted; it would be almost as disastrous to the economic system as Christianity besides being a violation of sportsmanship.

There is no reason why the Middle Easterners should be left without the means of extermination. Their brethren of the Far East have been richly endowed from the western arsenals and have taken to explosives so well that they have apparently neglected to keep the larder stocked. That will not injure economics, of course; it may even help to keep America's industry going by providing for the destitute inhabitants of the East, for it is a law of economics that you have to give away a lot to get a little for yourself. I don't really understand it myself; I only know that it is so.

It is not only fair and seemly that the Middle East should now have its share of the white man's burden; the withholding of such privilege would be an injustice to Israel. Things seem to have been very quiet lately on the Palestine front, evidently, it would appear, for lack of the wherewithal to pursue the fight for the democratic right of Israel to form itself into a nation and help itself to whatever it wants. The Arabs must be taught that owning a place for a few thousand years gives them no priority in the eyes of modern ideology. But the Arabs are not democratic in outlook and they never have been. Left to themselves they always seem to have managed hitherto to keep their quarrels within the family.

I notice that the paragraph announcing the decision of the Big Three makes quite

a point about the arms being used for defensive purposes only. I think that remark was quite unnecessary. All wars are defensive, of course. If you will take the trouble to read the history of wars on both sides you will find that each side was defending itself; neither aide ever yet admitted that it was abort to wage a war of aggression. England has had to defend herself against many enemies in her time: against the Germans, the French the Spanish, the Boers and the Zulus, to mention a few. The cause has always been just; so has that of her opponents although I admit that as regards the Zulus I make this assertion by induction and not from experience of Zulu literature. The fact is I cannot read Zulu fluently.

It is somewhat difficult for us to see when we take up arms, what the other fellow thinks he is defending himself against: a little bit of reasonableness on his part could doubtless avert the necessity for armed conflict. But we have to accept the verdict of our own history that the other fellow never is reasonable. It was, for example, unreasonable of the Germans to imagine that we wanted to fight them for the possession of a colonial empire. A moment's thought should have made it evident that we got our empire practically without any fighting at all.

To come nearer to the present, everybody knows that the great menace today is Communism—everybody but the Russians and their satellites, that is. But eminent people like the Dean of Canterbury will tell you that the boot is on the other foot—that the rest of the world is a menace to Communism. Once again each side is defending itself against the other. I believe it has always been so with events culminating in war. If we could only obtain access to contemporary documents we should, no doubt, hesitate to apply the term "aggressors" even to Alexander the Great or Genghis Khan, the historical version notwithstanding.

So it was unnecessary to mention the restriction of the use of arms to defensive purposes only. I feel sure all our defenceless brethren of the Middle East understand that arms must never be used for aggression. But was it wise to commence their political education with the scientific refinement of high explosives? No serious-minded student in learning a language attempts to master the bad language first. I am afraid that complications may arise in the quite near future entirely through a lack of understanding. I mistrust these primitive peoples; their education has been sadly neglected; they're nothing but a mass of prejudices and commonsense. Their prejudices probably don't matter so very much; they may even come in quite handy if we should want our benighted brethren to defend themselves against something or other. But their commonsense, if persisted in, could become nuisance number one. Look at the trouble we've had with our own people in getting them to unlearn their primitive notions of economics and democracy! And even now I am not convinced that every one of us is completely purged

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of commonsense. These Middle Easterners might quite conceivably take it into their heads to defend themselves against US. All they require is a leader with a modern conscience and easy access to the root of evil.

Fortunately we shouldn't have to worry about the expense. That's the one bright spot in this armament business. Everyone eats when there's a war. And we don't even have to foot the bill; that's the job of posterity.

But everlastingly defending one's self is very wearing. Let us hope we shall do all our defending in this world and not be a defendant in the next!

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