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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

Copland and Communism

A Dangerous Man

By ERIC D. BUTLER

After concluding his term as Australian Minister in China, Sir Douglas Copland returned to Australia and used his influence to spread Communist propaganda suggesting that the Chinese Communists were not real Communists, working in close Collaboration with Moscow, but were merely "agrarian reformers." At the same time, Sir Douglas's admiration of these "agrarian reformers" was made obvious by his open advocacy of collectivist policies. He now continues his pro-Communist activities by asking that Australia recognise the Communist Government controlling the Chinese people.

Like many other "intellectuals," Sir Douglas Copland opposes Communism verbally while advocating policies, which, if supported, make a Communist victory certain. Speaking from Wesley Church, Melbourne, on January 28, Sir Douglas said: "We should recognise China, and allow her to participate in world affairs instead of shutting her off and making Russia the only country to which she can turn. The Chinese Government is the strongest China has had for a hundred years. The leaders of the Chinese regime are more theoretical than those of Russia. They are men of great ability and integrity, who have gone through a great revolution and emerged successful. The question now is whether they will become imperialist, or whether they will make a real contribution to the lot of the Chinese people."

"Agreement"

Sir Douglas Copland's appeasement policy will, unfortunately, further the current campaign of wishful thinking concerning the Chinese Communists. No sooner had the Chinese military pressure in Korea been eased, than the press and radio commentators launched a misleading campaign concerning the possibility of reaching some agreement with the Chinese Communists. Whatever the reason for the present military position in Korea, it can be taken as certain that Mao Tse-tung and his gang will make no "agreement" with the Western Powers which does not help further the Communist conspiracy. For example, recognition of the Chinese Communists by the "United" Nations would be a major victory for the Communist leaders.

Korea, a Trap

If Communist China is recognised by the "United" Nations, it will provide further support for the view expressed by this journal, that the Korean incident was deliberately manipulated for the purpose of stampeding the Americans and the British peoples into accepting further doses of Socialist controls and regimentation. To

suggest, as many have done, that the Chinese Communists were "provoked" into entering the Korean incident because of General MacArthur's drive towards the northern frontiers of Korea, is an insult to commonsense. The military campaign conducted by the Chinese required months of preliminary organisation. Even if the Communist appeasers try to whitewash the Communist "intervention" in Korea, what of the invasion of Tibet? One of the leading apostles of appeasement of the Chinese Communists, Sir Keith Murdoch of the Melbourne *Herald* and associated newspapers has attempted to excuse the invasion of Tibet by saying that "this poor armless country seemed to have been waiting to be absorbed into China." (Melbourne *Herald*, January 20.)

Every competent student of the Communist conspiracy knows that it is wicked deception to suggest that non-recognition of the Chinese Communists will force them to accept the Russians as their only friends. Does the history of the Chinese Communists indicate that they have any genuine desire for peace with the non-Communist countries? None whatever. These men are part of a worldwide conspiracy. They have been specially trained in Moscow or indoctrinated by instructors from Moscow, and their propaganda has faithfully followed the "line" familiar to all those who have made it their business to know what Communism really means. The Chinese Communists have not deviated in the slightest from Moscow policies.

Falsifying History

When Sir Douglas Copland and others like him create the impression that the Chinese Communists have only gained control of China because of their "reform" programme and the "corruption" and "ineptitude" of the Chiang Kai-Shek regime, they are, either consciously or unconsciously, falsifying recent history. During the war years, while Chiang Kai-Shek was a faithful ally and making every effort to defeat the Japanese, the Chinese Communists were

building up and reserving their strength. At the conclusion of the war against Japan, the Russians armed the Chinese Communists while Communist influence in the American State Department used General Marshall first to try and force Chiang Kai-Shek to form a coalition Government with the Communists, and later to block all American military supplies to Kai-Shek. Endorsement of the present Chinese Government would mean endorsement of the Communist conspiracy. It would endorse the very aggression the "United Nations" are allegedly opposing. It may, of course be argued, as a correspondent to the Melbourne *Age*

(Continued on page 2)

OUR POLICY

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

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging
In God's name, let us speak while there is
time!

Now, when the padlocks for our lips are
forging,
Silence is crime.

WHITTIER

TO THE POINT

In Spite of Governments

"It is clear that the progress of civilization cannot be due to those who, on the most important subjects, have done so much harm that their successors are considered benefactors simply because they reverse their policy, and thus restore affairs to the state in which they would have remained if politicians had allowed them to run on in the course which the wants of society required."

—The English historian, T. Buckle.

Buckle contended that all genuine progress of the human race was made in spite of governments, not because of them.

* * * *

What Portends?

The shape of things to come? The press of January 31 reports that Mr. C. F. Cobbold, Governor of the Bank of England, visiting Australia at the invitation of Dr. H. C. Coombs, says that "he would attend informal and anti-inflation talks with other Governors of central banks of the British Commonwealth who are also visiting Australia."

* * * *

The New Egg Board

The victory of the National Poultry Farmers' Association at the recent Victorian Egg Board elections was a victory for the Communists. The State Secretary of the N.P.F.A. is Mr. C. A. Hurst, a well-known Communist, who can be relied upon now to use his position to further Communist policies under the label of "co-operation." No doubt there will be a gradual tightening of control of the egg industry, with the usual results following controls.

* * * *

Long Term Conspiracy

The present world revolution is a continuation of the conspiracy against Western Christian Civilization, which first openly manifest itself during the French Revolution. It is therefore appropriate to recall just now the words of that great English philosopher and historian, Lord Acton, in his lectures on the French Revolution: "The appalling thing in the French Revolution is not the tumult but the design. Through all the fire and smoke we perceive the evidence of calculating organisation. The managers remain studiously concealed and masked; but there is no doubt about their intention from the first."

Copland and the Colombo Plan

In the clash between Sir Douglas Copland and Mr. Spender on the question of whether Australia should recognise Communist China, it is worth noting that Sir Douglas claims (vide Melbourne Sun, January 31), that "Mr. Spender had based his Colombo plan on a memorandum that he (Sir Douglas) had produced at Mr. Spender's request." The "Colombo Plan" is similar to Point Four of the Truman Government's plan for "uplifting" the Asiatic peoples. As exposed by anti-Communist specialists like Major Williams in America, these plans are in reality Communist inspired. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that Sir Douglas Copland has been furthering these plans.

* * * *

Still Growing

The Commonwealth Statistician, Dr. Wilson, reports that the Federal bureaucracy is still expanding. 1,200 were added to the pay roll during October. But wait until the new Boards start operations. What a chance for the unknown Communists to penetrate still further into the Government of this country.

From Darkest Africa

"... Just heard on the wireless that they have cut your meat ration to 10d. again with 2d. of corned beef thrown in. Pretty dreadful isn't it. If you happen to be a West African native you can have all the meat you want. And sugar! There is so much out here they can't sell it. The Africans are so spoilt these days that they won't take granulated sugar in bags: they only buy cube sugar in packets! Even a small firm I know has about fifty tons of granulated sugar they can't sell, so imagine what the big firms must have. When I was with - a fortnight ago, he showed me his warehouse stacked to the roof with sugar. It's a crime. If you have a black face, and your grandfather and grandmother were cannibals a few years back you can have a nice limousine car today and if you smash it up you can have another one tomorrow. But if you are an Englishman and make the cars, you won't get one for ten years, if then . . ."

".... I was surprised to hear the laboratory assistant arrive under my window with a roar on his motorbike 'in top.' When the din subsided, I asked the dark beaming countenance why he did not come into the yard in second.

"Bass, is there more than one!"

GREAT SUCCESSES

In 1923 nine of the most successful businessmen of the U.S.A. held a meeting in a hotel in a Mid-Western city. They were:

The president of the largest independent steel company.

The president of the largest utility company.

The president of the largest gas company.

The greatest wheat speculator.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange.

A member of the President's cabinet.

The greatest "bear" on Wall Street.

The head of the world's largest monopoly.

The president of the Bank of International Settlements.

Twenty-five years later the world's most successful financiers and industrialists had the following records:

The president of the largest independent steel company—Charles Schwab—died a bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death.

The president of the largest utility company—Samuel Insull—died penniless in a foreign land.

The president of the largest gas company—Howard Hopson—is now insane.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange—Richard Whitney—was recently released from Sing Sing penitentiary.

The greatest wheat speculator—Arthur Cullen—died abroad, insolvent.

The member of the President's Cabinet—Albert Fall—was pardoned from prison so that he could die at home.

The greatest "bear" on Wall Street—Jesse Livermore—committed suicide.

The President of the Bank of International Settlements—Leon Fraser—committed suicide.

—*Messenger* (Melbourne), December 1, 1950.

COPLAND AND COMMUNISM

(Continued from page 1)

recently did, that the "United" Nations recognise Communist Russia, so why not also recognise Communist China.

U.N.O.'s Record

In reply to this Superficial argument, it is first necessary to point out that not only do the "United" Nations recognise Communist China, but have recognised the Communist rape of Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Albania, Czechoslovakia, and Jugoslavia, Even worse, U.N.O. condoned the Zionist aggression which drove hundreds of thousands of Arabs from the homes their forefathers had possessed for over a thousand years. The "United" Nations has ever since its inception been an instrument for furthering world enslavement. Most of its agencies like Unesco have been blatantly used to further Communist propaganda. Because the Communists have been appeased and recognised for years, is no reason why this policy of suicide should be continued any longer.

If Western Civilization is to save itself, Sir Douglas Copland and other Communist appeasers should be repudiated by all genuine patriots. Copland has been one of the greatest disasters ever suffered by the Australian people and the sooner all Governments free themselves from his influence, and the influence of all the "intellectuals" whose theories have been persistently contradicted by facts, the greater the chance of a genuine anti-totalitarian policy being formulated in Australia.

Inflation Threatens "New Times"

Supporters Must Decide Future

Growing inflation, which shows every sign of becoming much worse in the near future, has so seriously threatened the financial stability of the "New Times" that the Board of Directors has been forced to bring the matter to the attention of all supporters. They must decide the future of their paper.

In spite of rising prices and, consequently rising costs, over the past two years, the financial position of the paper was steadily improved. This improvement, however, was only made possible by a drastic reduction of all administrative costs — a great amount of work is now done by a group of loyal and never-tiring volunteers — and persistent attempts to increase circulation. The financial position was also helped by a number of purchasers of the paper through newsagents becoming direct subscribers.

While exhaustive experiments have proved that a steady stream of new subscribers can be obtained by persistent campaigning, experience has demonstrated beyond all argument that there is only a minority of the community with the capacity to maintain permanent interest and initiate action. Investigations have revealed that the great majority of those who cease reading the *New Times* do so, not because they disagree with the journal's policy, or because they dislike its presentation, but simply because they are either not sufficiently keen, or "have no time." All those who have read the paper are, of course, sympathetic in a general way and, when some vital issue arises, will help further action *if someone else initiates it*. We have always felt that it was impossible to get a large circulation for the *New Times*. But we do know that there are still many potential readers in the community, those leaders in every community who are ineffective today because they lack

necessary advice and information. In order to obtain these valuable individuals as permanent readers, it is essential that a great deal of work be done in order to ascertain who they are. The fact must be faced that a large number of new readers must be signed up in order to obtain a small increase in permanent readers.

We think that all supporters will agree that it is more important than ever that the *New Times* should continue to be published weekly in its present form. It is our main vehicle for introducing to Truth and Reality that small but vital section of our community, which can yet show the rest of the community how to save itself. How, then, is this to be done? Costs are rising so rapidly — the increase in postage charges alone has been a serious blow — that there is no possible hope of offsetting them by an increase in the number of readers, either temporary or permanent. An increase in the price of the paper has been considered, which would ensure that all supporters shared equally increased costs. But this policy has been decided against because it is felt that increasing the price of the paper would make it more difficult to introduce to potential readers.

We have therefore decided to ask whether a number of readers are able and willing to provide a subsidy in order that the paper may continue as at present. On present indications we shall require a subsidy of £10 per week — £500 a year. This subsidy is apart from money being obtained by the Action Group for campaign work. We believe that our present supporters could contribute to both funds this amount without any individual hardship. We now leave the matter to them. Send all donations to the Hon. Secretary, *New Times* Ltd., Box 1226L., G.P.O., Melbourne. C.I.

"Capitalist" Press Advocates Slavery

Not only has newspaper magnate, Sir Keith Murdoch, been writing personal articles advocating acceptance of the Communist Party "line" on Eastern affairs, but his journals have been conducting an editorial campaign in favour of the creation of the Socialist State in Australia.

In an editorial in the Melbourne *Herald* of January 24, it is stated that further inflation is inevitable. Then the following:

"In these circumstances, we must try to control the effect even if we cannot reach and deal with all the causes of inflation. We must consider a return to many of the wartime restrictions, which we rightly regarded as tolerable only as temporary measures. We will have to go back to strains and dangers very similar to those of the war years. It will be difficult to face them without accepting some of the conditions of an emergency economy.

"This applies to living costs. Inflation was braked during the war because both wages and prices were pegged, manpower was directed away from non-essential activity, and priority tasks were set for the employment of capital and plant. The system was irksome and imperfect, but it was comprehensive enough to work. Those who are now clamoring for price controls should recall the wartime facts. If prices

are to be pegged, wages and other elements in price-fixing must also come under regulation.

"The people were certainly not looking for a return to regimentation when they gave the present Federal Government its mandate. But the past year has swung us abruptly away from the conditions under which a free economy could operate.

"Some acceptance of controls is now unavoidable."

In the Melbourne *Sun* of January 24, the above demands for Socialist controls were repeated. The task confronting all supporters of a free society is clear: They must, while they still have time and liberty of action, resist the introduction of the Slave State. They must repudiate the Devil's argument that the Devil can only be defeated by adopting his ideas.

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UNDER THE THREAT OF WAR

The announcement that the British Government is reimposing all major wartime controls provides further grim evidence of our prediction that the threat of war is being used to drive the British peoples further along the road to the complete totalitarian State. Similar controls are being imposed in America, and there is no doubt that the Menzies Government is now about to make a determined effort to impose these same controls in Australia. Could anything be more tragic than the spectacle of the peoples of the Western Democracies surrendering internally to Communist policies allegedly in order to strengthen themselves to resist Communist aggression from without?

We have repeatedly stressed the fact that to attempt to defeat Communism by regarding it merely as a material threat similar to that made by Hitler, is to court disaster. Communism is a conspiracy, seeking first to corrupt and pervert the individual by false ideas. If this conspiracy is to be defeated, and we believe it can, it is surely first essential that Communist ideas be rejected. To accept Communist ideas of control and central planning is to surrender a community's first line of defence to the enemy.

While it may be true that the British and American peoples may accept without opposition drastic control of the individual after military war has started, we predict now that all attempts to impose centralised planning at present can only lead to widespread resistance expressing itself in all the various ways used during the latter part of the war years. Attempts to defeat centralised planning will, of course, be used to try and impose more and more controls — and more bureaucrats to try and police the controls. It is significant that in Great Britain, if Mr. Aneurau Bevan, militant Socialist, has been shifted to the Labor portfolio. No doubt it is felt that Mr. Bevan is the man to get the workers to accept manpower directions without protest.

While we have no doubt that those responsible for the building up of Soviet Russia, the International Zionist plotters, will have no scruples about encouraging the use of Communist military power to smash the peoples of Western Europe and America if it is thought necessary, our considered opinion is that the mere threat of war is proving so effective in stampeding the non-Communist world into accepting Communist policies, that no large-scale military clash is likely in the immediate future. After all, why should Stalin and his associates wish a large-scale military clash when their potential victims are succumbing to their conspiracy without, as yet, any effective opposition? We are inclined to think that there may be considerable truth in the recent American report by a group of specialist investigators, that while maintaining large military forces, Soviet leaders are at present making strenuous efforts to increase the material standard of living of the Russian people, thus overcoming Russian opposition to the Communist regime, and to "digesting" conquered countries like Poland.

Communism in America

A special correspondent of *The Scotsman* in New York writing in that newspaper on November 13 gave information about Communism in America. The American public, he said, "knows the numbers and distribution of the Communist Party. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told a Congressional Committee last February that there are 54,174 members of the Communist Party in the United States.

"Their distribution, he said, was as follows: New York, 25,000 (10,000 people attended a Communist rally in New York City earlier in the year); California, 6,977; Illinois, 3,361; Pennsylvania, 2,879; Ohio, 2,834; Michigan, 1,250; Massachusetts, 1,022; Nevada, 23; Wyoming, 10; Tennessee, 27; Alabama, 141; New Hampshire, 43.

"The great bulk of the Communists are thus in New York City, around Los Angeles and Chicago. Add a few for the industrial cities in Ohio and Pennsylvania, between the East Coast and the Middle West, and there is practically none unaccounted for. Mr. Hoover reported that 48 percent of America's Communists were employed in basic industry.

"Mr. Hoover also provided some other facts about the Communists. He said that party cards were now no longer issued, that Communists had secret printing works in different parts of the country, that they identified each other by secret signs and spoke in special language which seemed innocent to the bystander but had a double meaning."

The correspondent says further, that in 1947, the F.B.I. investigated the activities of 4,984 "militant" Communists. It was noted that 2,202 of these or 44 percent were of Russian stock, that is born of Russian parents, having a Russian parent or—in the case of eleven percent—married to a Russian.

Another 614 or 12.5 percent came from or were of stock from countries adjacent to Russia. Less than two percent of the whole American population is of Russian stock, while 44 per cent of the F.B.I.'s top suspects were Russian.

ENDS AND MEANS

It ought to become clearer as each day passes that totalitarianism is a disease of incompetence. Any able man can obtain his ends by the proper kind of persuasion, and most men who are both able and experienced come to recognise that an objective, which can only be obtained by ruthless methods, is a bad objective.

The present "British" Government is a bad and degenerate government, so obsessed with a theory that it is impervious to facts. But we all share its responsibility, since it ought to have been obvious long ago that no Constitution should permit unlimited powers to the chances of a transient and venial group of office-bearers.

—*The Social Crediter* (England), Nov. 18.

The Doctrine of Progress

The following is from a Lecture by Dr. Tudor Jones to the London Douglas Social Credit Group on January 6 of this year.

"As we look around our shocked and bewildered world we see two things: the alienation of mind of most of those we meet in our various avocations, in public vehicles, in the shop and the street, and we observe, over and over again, how the fitful vision of most of our associates seems to be, for them, only a source of greater confusion. If they see anything at all clearly, it immediately comes to lie in so false a perspective as to distort the whole scene, including itself. We have traced this phenomenon, so frustrating to the victim as well as distressing to us, to the disintegration of the traditional culture of West-Europe, which, it is apparent to us, has been proceeding for a long time. Those who pass by us in the street however have persuaded themselves that this disintegration is in fact something fine and desirable. They call it 'progress.' There is scarcely one of us (I question whether there is one of us who has not been touched at some point or other by this perversity. For many centuries, man in society seems to have been slowly elaborating something, building it up, not at a constant rate or with uniform or varying success; but side by side with all that, his construction was being as certainly undermined. The eidōs, the form, the idea, has suffered constantly a loss of integrity. It spoke with two voices.

You all know the strange hypnotic influence which throughout our lifetime, and gathering force from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, has come to be exerted by the very word 'science.' Whatever practical measure may be proposed, it is made almost certain of acceptance by the single, quite irrelevant assertion that it is 'scientific'. It does not matter that there has been and still is great argument concerning what the word means, among so-called 'scientists' themselves; there is in the popular mind, no possibility of objection to any course, which is proposed if, it 'scientific.' Between the two propositions, "This is right because it is scientific," and "War is right because it is 'explosive,'" there is no difference, whatever, that I can see, in their form, and they seem to me equally meaningless. It is not very long since there was published posthumously in America a book of essays by A. N. Whitehead, in which, with unusual discernment as well as candour the mathematician found fault with the generality of other mathematicians because, while much that they asserted might be true, they themselves did not know what it was; did not know what they were saying. He said openly that, in regard to the great scientific movement of the nineteenth century, "Every scientific proposition which the great scientist of the mid-nineteenth century entertained, was erroneous in the sense in which it was then construed. Their doctrine of space was wrong: their doctrine of matter was wrong: their doctrines of evidence were wrong..." He concluded, "The conclusion is that Logic conceived as an adequate analysis of the advance of thought is a fake. It is a superb instrument, but it requires a background of common sense . . . My point is that the final outlook of Philosophic thought cannot be based upon

the exact statements which form the basis of the special sciences. The exactness is a fake."

Yet, far from providing any effective check upon the course of events, this mood of self-criticism is already spent (though not perhaps everywhere), and the 'Age of Science' is visibly and rapidly passing into the 'Age of Incompetence,' which is outstandingly the age in which we live: Compare our politicians with such statesmen as, for example, Pitt and Chatham, what is the difference? I think most judges would agree that, relatively, those earlier caretakers of the national fortunes were competent, whereas their modern counterparts are in every respect incompetent. And so, passing from one function in society to another, the heritors of the doctrine of progress are decreasingly competent according to any standard of performance which could survive public statement or be exposed to public censure. We have entered the era of the common man. But if we are going to oppose the heady stream of this descent successfully, or at all, surely it is necessary that we shall have a complete understanding of what it is we are attempting? I admit that modern life offers every persuasion to ignore this necessity, and that we are moderns. Everyone is encouraged to 'master' a limited territory, within which he is tempted to regard himself as competent. So we have our 'glub box-makers' — makers of little boxes with holes in their lids, the use of which, or the purpose of which, neither the craftsman, nor the bureaucracy which catalogues him and classifies him, nor the Admiralty which enlists him knows; yet most truly and certainly 'glub-boxes,' well and truly made, because when flung overboard in derision they emit, astonishingly, in a mockery of self-justification, as they sink, the useless sound, *glub . . . glub . . . glub*. I wonder whether the industrial-scientific-economic system we live under is not actually much closer to what we may call a 'glub-box-economy' than, as yet, any of us realises.

"*Scientia* means knowledge. What sort of knowledge is it of which we can say, almost as soon as each new expression of it is announced, that it is already under suspicion and about to be discarded, and that the discarding of it, certain in its time, will but be the herald of some new fashion of the mind? Yet this process, of which the world is so proud, goes hand in hand with another equally curious, the diminishing return for all the effort which is expended to sustain it and keep it in a state necessary to it, which is a state which knows no rest or intermission, no seasons, such as mark the turn of the year and the natural fertility of the soil (though indeed all things that are natural have their seasons): a state of ever increasing acceleration. "Faster! faster!" cried the Red Queen. ." "Now, the *nature* of this error, this alienation of the mind, this heresy, has been clearly apprehended at some times in the past. Saint Augustine, for example, had a clear understanding of it when he said (though he said the same thing with a variety of emphases) that the essence of sin (which is the practical implementation of heresies) lay in the conversion to our

use of those things which are meant for enjoyment, and the enjoyment of those things meant for our use. Once you fragment the experience, is it remarkable that the bits get misplaced, and you can no longer put them together profitably or correctly? And fragmentation seems to be the staple industry of our time, from jigsaw puzzle to chemical analysis. But what results is universally rejected as unsatisfactory the point of view of the human personality involved. We have to be sure beyond a peradventure of the source of this maladjustment, so that unawares we ourselves do not embrace some facet of the truth as Truth, and unconsciously reject the Truth which is one and indivisible, the Law, which, as Douglas said, *may* be discovered (uncovered) but cannot be invented. The aim of 'science' to invent, to make the Master,' is very thinly disguised under its presumed function of discovery-discovery of what?"

(To be concluded.)

Nothing Done on Value of £

Mr. R. G. Casey states that the Menzies Government took over a deliberately depreciated currency, and active inflation.

Quite so, and it was because of this his Government swept into power on an electioneering promise to put value into our £1. After more than 12 months in power Mr. Casey and his colleagues have done nothing to remedy this.

Rising inflation is the greatest weapon the Communists have. If the Government had kept its promise to put value into the £, present industrial upheavals probably would not have happened.

— (Dr.) Robert S. Blair, - *The Herald*, Melbourne, January 30.

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WHY I GARDEN ORGANICALLY

By E. J. ANDERSON, in "Organic Gardening" (U.S.A.)

When I started raising vegetables and flowers a few years ago I found that there was pretty general agreement among the writer-gardeners that chemical fertilizers and insecticides are indispensable for the happiest results. This seemed reasonable to me. Isn't this the age of science? Hasn't the science of chemistry done amazing things for the industrial world? Why can't the right chemicals do as much for our agricultural world?

The chemical corporations, of course, did their part to educate me. Reading their pleasant persuasives in the magazines, I accepted their contention that most soils have an undersupply of needed minerals and that the smart remedy is to mineralize the land artificially. The advertiser would offer me a box or bag or can of something that chemistry assertedly had discovered for the special benefit of *my* garden, and he'd say cajolingly, "Here's the means to a more bountiful bean-patch for you, sir; here's the way to bigger and better tomatoes, tastier cabbages, nicer carrots, free from all bug mutilation." Although I knew the chemical people hoped to pocket my money, I had only to recall the presumably disinterested endorsement of the experts to fancy that my vegetable plot did require these artfully propagandized fertilizers and insecticides.

The garden magazine, which arrived every month, a magazine expressly designed to help duffers like me, approved of compost but seemed to think it was a luxury a fellow could get along without. I'd do well to start a compost pile but my main reliance ought to be on chemicals. It so happened that this very magazine eventually called my attention to an investigator who was convinced of the serious shortcomings of artificial plant foods and bug repellants. Broadmindedly the editors had printed two articles debating the merits of the chemical versus the organic way of growing plants. The friend of chemicals had written a piece, which seemed to me unanswerable, but afterward I read the unsettling reply of a Mr. Leonard Wickenden. It seemed that Mr. Wickenden was a professional chemist avocation was gardening. He had superior chemicals every chance to their efficacy but the results jnning. His plants often insect injury, he chanced upon a by a soil scientist, *gricultural Testa*-interesting.

the book fairly
ive his theories

a whirl. I did everything I could to get humus into my garden. I had manured it occasionally before, but now I dug in leaf-mould; I built compost heaps out of everything I could lay my hands on. The following spring I dug in my compost, sowed my seeds, and awaited results—with, I may say, more scepticism than hope. For the first time I went right through the season without once spraying my tomatoes, and I had the finest plants and the biggest crop I had ever grown." ("See Here, Mr. Carleton" by Leonard Wickenden in *The Home Garden*, June, 1946.)

Upon reading his article I concluded that Mr. Wickenden had knocked a few good-sized holes in the chemical man's armour. I still had faith in chemical fertilization but it was a weakened faith. On walks in the neighborhood, on hikes along our Colorado mountainsides I used my eyes more observantly. I noticed how much healthier were the plants in nature's fields and valleys. That beautiful leaf-green which nature achieves without any effort whatever, what is its secret? Poking around, I observed the stone and twig and leaf mulches, which protected the soil from the scorching sunrays. I scooped up a handful of the earth. I looked at it, smelled it, mentally compared its velvety blackness, its woody odors, its soft crumbly texture with the clayey cement I was working with back home. How did nature build up such a soil? I didn't know, but I did realize that there had been no chemical doctoring to attain that perfect loam.

I saw I needed the help not only of man but also of Mother Nature. I started collecting material for my first compost pile. Surprisingly, it turned out to be a lot of fun. It was fun because it was creative work. What was I creating? The conditions for the existence of something the chemist cannot achieve in his chemicalized world—life. I had only to supply food for her microorganisms in the form of weeds, kitchen waste, henhouse and rabbit hutch litter, and wet the stuff down well, and Mother Nature would do the rest. Thanks to her microbiology and the resultant humus, a bricklike soil would become spongy, wilted plants would have moisture, anaemic vegetables would be revitalized.

I carried on with my gardening activities for a couple of years, sometimes successfully, sometimes unsuccessfully. I could seldom be sure of the causes for the pitiful or plentiful results as too many factors were at work, some of them known, such as the weather, others invisible, such as soil organisms promoting plant disease or health. But I grew convinced of two things. Artificially fertilized plants were not performing as spectacularly as the experts and

the advertisers had predicted they would. Vegetables experimentally grown with compost were as a rule bigger and more flavoursome, contradicting the claim that inorganically-fed plants would yield the finest harvest.

By now sceptical of the infallibility of the chemically minded know-it-alls, I had a growing curiosity to hear what the organic school had to say for itself and subscribed to *Organic Gardening*. This magazine quickly won my confidence. Those of its editorials and articles which were explanatory of nature's methods showed much greater biological awareness than anything I had read in the chemical-exploiting press. Every month I read my copy with care and had the feeling, "At last I am on the right track."

It did not take me long to recognize the advantages of compost over chemicals in giving a soil better fertility, aeration, water retentiveness, and a richer biological life. But bugs were my big problem and it seemed to me that sprays and dusts were a weapon I'd be a fool to throw away.

Then an editorial by Editor Rodale "Insects: The Censors of Nature" gave me a new conception; the six-legged critters are not really enemies of the garden, I learned; in the long run they are its friends. Mother Nature is too good a plant breeder to reproduce sickly plants; insects are her instrumentality for preventing the survival of the unfit. When insects appear in large numbers in my garden and start wrecking it they are telling me that Mother Nature disapproves of my husbandry.

No wonder the wearisome and expensive chemical warfare had gotten us no true relief from the insect hosts. Everybody would advise my wife to use nicotine on her aphid-infested roses. Using it, she would kill thousands of the plant lice. But in a week or so still more rose buds would refuse to open or would have disfigured discolored petals. Yet our recently planted roses, *Peace*, *The Doctor*, *Crimson Glory*, would be almost free from aphids. Why? Presumably because these roses were superior specimens, full of vitality, that we had planted in large holes copiously supplied with loam and organic materials. The older roses had been planted by former owners of our place. Last summer I dug up one of them and saw why it had died. It had been put into a shallow pocket of earth; when its roots grew down into the yellow clay and rocks that had been excavated from the nearby cellar, the poor thing had starved to death. The other aphid-eaten roses no doubt were also putting up with a starvation diet.

Then there were the instructive battles with flea beetles. These I had sometimes licked with a dust gun. But was that the whole explanation of their disappearance? I noticed that flea beetles bothered my

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Why I Garden Organically

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tomato transplants only when they were in a state of shock; as soon as they had time to stretch out their cramped roots and adjust themselves to their new environment they grew sturdily and the flea beetles left them alone, evidently finding them un-savoury.

While I learned a lot about the deleterious effects of chemicals from *Organic Gardening*, I wasn't fully prepared to give up the use of insecticides. I believed I should try to get along without these dangerous chemicals but until my soil was rebuilt organically, which probably would take four or five years, I might properly employ poisons in emergencies to check bug saboteurs that otherwise would ruin a whole planting of beans or tomatoes.

But I pumped my dust gun and sprayer not only sparingly but rather guiltily. I was persuaded that nature had far better ways for controlling insects than those offered by chemical science.

My struggle with the grasshopper proved how right this belief was. Out in this part of the country the grasshopper is garden enemy number one. Two summers ago western locusts threatened to eat up our whole garden. After all my hard work I was sick. I got poisoned bran from our County Agent, which helped save the crops although I must say the hoppers were still destructive until Mother Nature came to my rescue with the right weather; rains and, in a couple of weeks, light frosts.

Last summer my strategy called for using more compost in the garden and little if any poison. As the season moved along we began to see nymph grasshoppers jumping up when we walked over our lawn. It worried me. There were so many of them. The newspapers carried warnings from the City Forester of Denver and from Colorado Agricultural College; in all probability this would be our worst grasshopper year and we had better give our plants ample chemical protection in time.

All too soon the grasshoppers were full-grown. They had excellent appetites. A climber rose that was commencing to bloom for the first time was set back a year; other flowers were ravaged. In the emergency drastic measures seemed called for. I borrowed my neighbour's air pressure sprayer and mixed several tankfuls of chlordane. It killed a lot of grasshoppers, all right. But that isn't all it killed. We found crickets and bees on their backs, kicking their legs in the death throes. In a few days the residual chlordane started yellowing the leaves of our flowers. For a while we thought our roses and snapdragons were done for. They finally recovered—after several months of leaf ugliness and defoliation.

Vowing that I would never again drench my beloved plants with caustic poisons such as chlordane, I scratched my head and wondered what I should do to check the grasshopper hordes that were moving in on me from the nearby prairie and weedy vacant lots.

We opened up our non-chemical warfare with a couple of homemade nets such as butterflies are caught in. When the grasshoppers had quietened down around sundown my son and I scooped up hundreds of them off grapevines and tall-stalked plants, especially sunflowers. But it seemed that

for every hopper we got rid of in this fashion ten others invaded our place from the roadside ditches. I consulted my *Organic Gardening* magazines but this particular problem was not discussed in the few issues I possessed. I asked myself, "How would nature meet this challenge?"

Chancing to see robins flying low and catching grasshoppers on the wing, it occurred to me that here was my answer. Having about thirty young chickens cooped up, we turned them loose. They damaged our vegetable garden and flowers to some extent, though usually fencing and vigilance on our part prevented noticeable depredations. Certainly the chickens were far less destructive than the ravenous insects would have been.

Our young cockerels and pullets were wonderful grasshopper eliminators. They either attacked regimentally, deploying over a wide front; or they rested in the shade and deputed two or three of their number to patrol the grounds until recall time, when the entire flock would go out for another massacre of the foe. Alternately all day long, there were these big grasshopper hunts followed by small patrol parties making a careful circuit of the premises. It was especially amusing to watch the feathered patrolmen; they took their responsibilities so seriously; they pounced upon grasshopper foragers so comically. Once a raider had been spotted it was a sure kill; he might be swallowed after his first or his second jump, but he was always swallowed.

When I reflect that last summer the grasshopper threatened to become as big and hungry as geese, but that, after our poultry were enlisted to counter-attack, any grasshopper injury was undiscoverable, I am full of admiration for nature's control methods, which are vastly surer and safer than man's.

Engaged in congratulatory handshaking's with myself over the fact that what was supposed to have been our worst gardening year for grasshopper injury turned out to be our best year, I was by now pretty thoroughly convinced of the merits of organic gardening. I had learned a lesson, which the you-can't-garden-without-chemicals school has yet to learn. What I had found out was this: If we don't tie nature's hands with our artificialized procedures, she is capable of dealing very smashing blows to insect invaders of our farms and gardens.

About this time I took a very enlightening walk one Sunday afternoon. Climbing a hillside, I sat down to rest and observed grasshoppers everywhere. I asked myself, "What do all these hoppers live on?" I was unable to detect any appreciable damage done to the weeds and grasses and wildflowers that covered the rolling prairie. Far fewer hoppers would have ruined my garden in no time. Why did these heavy eaters manifest a loss of appetite in their natural habitat? Were our plants tenderer, juicier? That couldn't have been the fundamental explanation because grasshoppers have such catholic tastes that they have been known to gnaw the curtains off a settler's windows.

I looked around for birds but not one was to be seen. I pondered the problem. Unquestionably these prairie grasshoppers

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Are You An Organic Farmer or Gardener?

If so, the Editor of *Rural Review* would be pleased to hear from you at any time. All over Australia increasing numbers of people are applying organic farming and gardening methods. Readers who have any interesting concerning the results achieving are requested so that other readers can obtain the benefit of their experiences.

LAND IS KEY TO WORLD CRISIS

At least 75 percent of the population of the world lives on the land. Some maintain that it is closer to 90 percent. Approximately 50 percent of the people live in the Orient, and at least 90 percent of these live on the land.

As an example of their methods and conditions of living, 98 percent of all grain—wheat, rice, etc.—raised in India, is cut by hand, and not with a scythe, but with a small sickle. Their threshing methods are equally primitive. Transportation for some is by bullock cart, the majority must walk. Illiteracy affects about 85 percent. Malnutrition, disease, misery and premature senility are the common lot.

The people of China, Burma and other oriental countries fare no better. Even in Europe, notably in parts of Italy, Portugal, Spain and Greece, small holders eke out a bare existence on unproductive soil or starve on the wages paid by big landowners. The problem is largely one of maldistribution of landownership, concentration of landownership in the hands of a few who live in luxury while the teeming millions starve.

Now it will be noted that while the Communists first began their revolution with an appeal to the sweatshop workers of factories, they have in recent years changed their emphasis to capture the people on the land. They came to realize that were they able to enlist all factory workers they still would have only a small minority of the world's population. Their object now is to gain control of 75 per cent (to 90 percent.) who live on the land. Gaining these alone would be sufficient to control the world.

The Communist tactic is to promise land reform and even make some pretext at dividing the huge estates in territories captured. The overall strategy, of course, is merely to gain rural support and then

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

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control resources and man power for the advantage of party leaders and as an aid toward dominating even greater portions of the world. Once in control of the natural resources and having in their power the hundreds of millions who populate the Orient they will have a military machine, which by sheer weight of expendables will be most difficult to contest. The economic power inherent in such control can likewise play havoc with our economy, which, to remain healthy, needs world trade.

The world crisis today hinges on the land and the people on the land.

—Rev. A. J. Adams, S.J., in Bulletin of National Catholic Rural Life Conference (U.S.A.), December 7, 1950.

WHY 1 GARDEN ORGANICALLY

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had an enormous capacity for food. Unquestionably there was much vegetation spread out before their voracious jaws, vegetation that was chewable and life sustaining. Mentally comparing the two sets of plants, Mother Nature's, and mine I decided at last that the main difference was that the naturally grown ones had a vitality lacking in my artificially raised vegetables. In some mysterious, wonderful way the grasshoppers recognized this difference and, when given a choice, expressed a decided preference for food gotten out of my devitalized garden.

Wider awake after that, I found further corroborative evidence of this law of nature which holds that plants which do not come fully alive invite their own destruction.

One further example most suffice. While irrigating a long row of sunflowers one day I noted some leaves that were being eaten lacy-thin by black caterpillars. Most of the sunflowers were husky giants, but a few were dwarfs. The big sunflowers had a few caterpillars on them, but they seemed to be resting and hardly nibbled the leaves. The stunted sunflowers were being ravaged. Why this difference in palatability? The people whose knowledge comes out of chemical laboratories would give the wrong answer. The only answer which makes sense is that which points to a biological law requiring plants to sustain insect injury to the degree that they grow in a nutritionally deficient soil. This was the case with my chewed-up sunflowers, which did not have the correct spacing of their big brothers and evidently had germinated from seed spilled accidentally. Apparently nature was protecting the well-established plants by destroying the competitors, since they would be robbers of food and water and show little for it while unfairly weakening the ten-footers. To these dwarfs Mother

Nature was saying, "If you can't grow normally you can't stay alive. Get off my earth." And in some subtle, clever, unfathomable manner she infested the inadequately nourished sunflowers with caterpillar destroyers.

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