

THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Communist Successes in Israeli's Role Middle East

Mr. Menzies has said that in the event of a world war with Soviet Russia, Australian land forces might be required in the Middle East. It is alarming, therefore, that comparatively few Australians realise how Western influence and prestige in the Middle East has been undermined by Zionist aggression against the Arabs, and the support of that aggression by the "United" Nations, The Communists are exploiting the situation with outstanding success.

Not content with the robbery and dispossession of the Arabs which the Zionist-Communists had endorsed by the "United" Nations, the Israeli Government has persistently sought to extend its boundaries by military aggression against the Arabs. Although the "United" Nations have truce observers in Palestine, they tacitly condone Jewish aggression. In two articles in "The Straits Times," Singapore, of May 16 and May 18, the noted newspaper correspondent, Sefton Delmer, deals with continued Jewish attacks upon the Arabs, and then goes on to reveal how Western betrayal of the Arabs has opened the Middle East to successful Communist penetration. Delmer writes:

Now this situation is most dangerous. The pusillanimity of the U.N.O. commissioners and the Security Council called by both sides to deal with this is perilous for Western power and authority in the Middle East.

It is quite as perilous as that produced by Persia's oil grab and Egypt's threat to the Suez Canal.

For Israel has hitherto enjoyed the widest sympathy and support from the Western world.

The Arabs have been jealous and suspicious of this popularity of the young State. They have ascribed it to the financial and political power of the Zionists in New York and London.

They claim that no newspaper, no reporter, and no politician dare criticise the Israelis, however reprehensible their behaviour.

This makes the weak attitude of U.N. and its officials in the Middle East most damaging to the Western cause. For it gives the Arabs the false impression that Israeli influence is so strong in the West that they can expect no justice there, no support for their complaints against Israel, however justified.

Clearly in these circumstances the West can never expect to use the substantial armed forces of Israel — by a long way the strongest, best led, best-equipped, and most rapidly mobilisable in the Middle East.

The assurances of Israeli leaders — that they would regard a Soviet incursion into the Middle East as an attack on Israel itself — lose all strategic value.

One encouraging feature there is in all this.

In Tel Aviv I found a substantial number of influential Israelis who appreciate this situation and deplore it.

The newspaper, "Haretz," has publicly criticised the Government for ignoring General Riley's orders, however much it might disagree with them.

I can think of no other country in the Middle East where a newspaper would be so outspoken.

So far, U.N.O.'s Security Council has done little to deal with this dangerous situation.

If it continues to let it drift, the aggressions, bombings, and bloodshed will increase by compound interest on both sides.

But, most alarming of all, the situation now created by this Galilean Korea presents an ideal opportunity for the political agents of the Soviet — open and covert, conscious and unconscious.

Communists and anti-Communists, nationalists and internationalists, all have their place in the ingenious and skilful campaign of political warfare being fought by the Kremlin here in the vital area of the Middle East.

In an age-old convent off Damascus's Street called Straight I found how the Russians have even managed to percolate into the highest regions of the Christian Church.

Alexandros, Patriarch of Antioch, is 83 years old, and he looks it. But when I went to visit him in his patriarchal palace on the Street called Straight in Damascus, I found this aged, white-bearded Arab prelate of the Greek Orthodox Church jauntily preparing to take a little trip to Moscow this July.

And that, although he is bent almost double with arthritis.

No, he is not a Communist. In fact, he staunchly declares the Christian and the Marxist faiths to be incompatible.

The lure of Moscow for this kindly old

priest is not theological or doctrinal. It is simply—gold.

He told me: "For hundreds of years before the Bolshevik revolution the See of Antioch enjoyed the closest relations with the Church in Russia. We used to receive substantial revenues from there. That all stopped in 1918.

"Now I am told by my friend, the Metropolitan of Moscow, that if I will come and visit him in July there is an excellent chance of his receiving authority to start sending us an annual remittance of two thousand pounds in gold." He sighed wistfully. "Two thousand

(Continued on page 5)

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

The Berlin "Peace Congress"

According to a report in the Melbourne "Age" of June 8, "nearly 2,000 demonstrators sang the 'International' and the 'Red Flag'," when the delegates to the Red-sponsored Berlin "peace congress" left Sydney. "Eureka Youth League members performed folk dances and sang songs. Many New Australians took part in the demonstration. Hundreds sang the Russian National Anthem and gave three cheers for 'the other country'."

We trust that Mr. Holt looks in to this report. He should be interested in the political sympathies of many of the New Australians.

* * * *

Producing Communists' Dupes

Sydney "Century" estimates that the Communist Party has spent up to £50,000 to finance the sending of 130 Australian delegates to the Berlin "Peace Congress." Many of the delegates are not Communists but they are young and impressionable. The controllers of the "Peace Congress" will take all steps to ensure that these young people return to Australia with a glowing picture of life behind the Iron Curtain. The Communists know the value of propagandists who can claim that they are not Communists.

* * * *

British Socialists' Treachery

Mr. Kenneth Younger, Minister of State, said the British Government still believed the Central People's Government should represent China in the United Nations, but he added that, in view of the Peking Government's persistence in behaviour which was inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter, consideration of

this question in the Commons should be postponed for the present.

—Melbourne "Age," June 13.

How can any honest person suggest that the British Socialist Government is genuinely concerned about defeating Communism when it is prepared to condone Communist aggression? And why waste British lives in Korea, fighting a Communist Government which it is proposed should be made a member of the "United Nations?"

* * * *

Recruiting Failure

Lieut-General Sir Edmund Herring, Director-General of Recruiting, speaking at a luncheon of Melbourne Sales and Business Management executives on June 6, said that Australia can "write itself off" in about three years if increased defence preparations are not made. Sir Edmund also complained that there was little public interest in Korea. We sympathise with Sir Edmund, but his task is hopeless while the Government continues with policies, which undermine the individual's independence and destroy his morale.

* * * *

Victoria and Uniform Taxation

Writing in the Melbourne "Herald" of June 7 John Heughan states that:

"Victoria could afford to have the finest and cheapest hospital and services in the world if the State got a fair deal from the Commonwealth under the uniform tax system.

"Because of this system, Victoria, the wealthiest State in the Commonwealth, is able to spend less a head of population on its hospital services than any other State.

"Higher hospital fees would not be necessary in Victoria to meet wage increases if the injustices of this tax system were rectified . . .

"Uniform taxation is crippling Victoria's ability to expand and improve its hospital services. Were Commonwealth tax reimbursements on a more equitable basis, Victoria would be in a position to spend millions a year more on its health services."

Victorians suffering from the results of the Socialist Tax Monopoly might recall that Mr. Menzies promised before the last two elections that he was going to destroy Socialism. When is he going to abolish Uniform Taxation?

* * * *

Mr. Nehru

Mr. Nehru, so beloved by intellectuals like Professor McMahon Ball, is reported in the Melbourne "Age" of June 12 as saying that "India is sympathetic to oil nationalisation" in Persia. Mr. Nehru is in favour of any policy, which will help destroy what is left of British prestige and influence.

* * * *

Persian Oil

Every time a new crisis flickers up in the world the letters come in. What does it mean? Does it mean war? We have been asked that frequently since General Razmara of Persia was assassinated. We will give you our views; we hold decided views on Persia, and have watched with

Disgust the inept handling of our foreign policy in the Middle East.

Look at it this way. As the economics or armament is today, Persian oil is necessary to us. It is necessary to Russia. We would even say it is vital to Russia. We can't put it stronger than that. We will qualify the statement. If we thought Russia wanted to go to war soon, we would say that first she must possess herself of the control of Persian oil. Further, she must obtain the oil, then she must stockpile the oil.

Next question. How is Russia to get the oil? Certainly not by marching into Persia and taking it by force. Her weapons will be political and economic. We have a shrewd idea just how successful she has already been in this direction. We recently made a fresh study of all our available reports. We believe it will take Russia three more years before she secures control of Persian oil (assuming that she ever does), and has stockpiled sufficient to enable her to think in terms of military action.

—"The London Newsletter," April 5, 1951.

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Special Series of Anti-Communist Booklets

The Victorian League of Rights has launched a special educational campaign to bring to the attention of all responsible members of the community all aspects of the Communist conspiracy. The first of a How-To-Defeat-Communism Series of booklets has been published. This booklet, by the League's Campaign Director, Mr. Eric D. Butler, is entitled *The Truth About Communist China*, and is an excellent introduction to the frightening subject of Communist influence in high places in Western countries.

The League appeals to all *New Times* supporters to co-operate fully in ensuring that this important booklet is widely read. The price is 1/- per copy, post free. Orders of one dozen or more at 8/- dozen, post-free. Order now from The Victorian League of Rights, Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Referendum Is Sign of Weakness

The Menzies Government has decided to take a referendum in an attempt to obtain an amendment to the Constitution to enable it to deal with the Communist Party. That is a definite sign of weakness. It means that there will be further delays, with nothing done.

The Communist Party will be given at least another three months' breathing space. If Menzies' election speeches meant anything, they meant that the problem of Communism was an urgent one that brooked not the slightest delay. There were many protestations that, if given a further mandate by the people, the Government would get on with the job immediately. We were told that the continuance of Communist control of key unions was a threat to the security of this country. That the Communists were acting as agents of the Kremlin. That they were traitors. That the Government had one mission, to get rid of them as quickly as possible. Yet this same Government has issued passports to a large number of young Communists to proceed abroad, knowing full well that the avowed intention of the delegation is to go to a World Communist Youth gathering in Soviet Berlin. Had a Labor Government issued those passports, it would have been assailed for giving aid to the Communists. What difference is there between a Menzies Government giving aid to Communists and a Chifley Government giving aid to the Communists?

So the Government failed to stand up to its obligations when the first test was applied. It was begging the question to say that the passports have only been issued for travel in Britain, and the Western European countries. The Government knows what happened when Healy, Mrs. Street, and the other delegates decided to go to Warsaw last year. They also know what action was not taken.

It is so much humbug then to suggest that the Government is getting on with the job. It has failed to block the first leak. A spectacular raid on city premises means nothing. The Communists do not leave that kind of evidence scattered about for the investigators.

A referendum is only a delaying tactic. The Government knows the fate of most referenda that have been taken in this country. It also knows the perils of giving the Communists a further three months to perfect their underground machinery.

There is no guarantee that the Government's proposed constitutional amendments will receive the support of many people, who would be prepared to take the most extreme action against the Communists.

An amendment of the constitution is not simple to draft, and not to be accepted lightly without viewing all its implications. It becomes a permanent fixture, unless another subsequent referendum removes it from the Constitution.

The basis of any such referendum is a proposal to transfer powers from the States to the Commonwealth. The people of Australia have to be satisfied that the Commonwealth can exercise such powers better than the States.

But Commonwealth powers are never as satisfactory as State powers. The States can legislate on all matters that have not been specifically referred by them to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is

restricted to the letter of the Constitution, as interpreted by the High Court. Sovereign powers in the hands of the States are unrestricted and unhampered. But in the Commonwealth, no one knows the meaning of the Constitution until the numbers go up with a High Court interpretation. Even then, the High Court is at liberty to change its interpretation.

The Commonwealth muddled the last action against the Communists. The Bill was badly drafted. It was found to be unconstitutional, although all the Government's advisers had a hand in its drafting and in the action taken under it. If the lawyers made a mess of that action, is there any guarantee that they won't make a mess of drafting the proposal for a referendum?

If the Government was correct in its statements during the elections, then it shouldn't waste any time messing around with a referendum. It should act within the scope of the present powers as indicated in the judgment of Mr. Justice Dixon and other members of the High Court.

An Internal Security Act can surely be framed in simple terms to come within the scope of the Defence powers. No one has suggested that the Commonwealth hasn't the power to pass a Sedition Act. No one would surely deny it the right to provide for heavy penalties to deal with treason.

But the first step that should be taken by the Government is to request the State Government to take action against Communists in control of key unions. Instead of asking the States to hand over powers, the Menzies Government should tell the States what it wants them to do in simple, direct terms. The problem is a simple one. The States cannot only pass the legislation, but can deal with the Communists. Every Government in Australia is in agreement that certain Communists have no right to hold union office, control union

funds, or have control of union propaganda machinery. If the Commonwealth has the evidence, let it hand it over to the States, with a specific request that they should take immediate action.

What State Government would refuse such a request? It would be altogether different asking the States to hand over powers permanently. The Commonwealth should pocket its superiority complex and let the States do the job. Let them ban the Communist Party in each State. Let them legislate for uniform penalties to deal with Communism. Any State Government would find it extremely difficult to keep out of a deal like that.

The advantage of State action would be that it could be repealed at any time. The people would always have a direct control over its operation. Instead of making some such approach to the States, Prime Minister Menzies has stifled any hope of State action by announcing his referendum plan prematurely before meeting the States in conference. Why dynamite hope of early action? Is it that the Government doesn't really want to lose its biggest political card and pet alibi?

—J. T. Lang, in "Century," June 8.

Zionist Control Under Truman

A recent survey reveals that Jew personalities—and Zionists, at that—have been planted in positions of strategic control in the present Administration. Following is a brief outline of the personnel plot which has attempted to steer our domestic and foreign policies into the hands of individuals who put Jew-Zionism first and America second: (1) Philip Pearlman, Solicitor-General of the U.S.; (2) Felix Frankfurter, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; (3) General Feldman, Head Quartermaster in charge of all supplies; (4) General Lemnitzer, Head of Ordnance; (5) General Guinsburg, Public Relations and in charge of all press releases; (6) General Lemay, Head of the U.S. Air Force; (7) Anna M. Rosenberg, Assistant Secretary of Defence; (8) Ernest Gross, U.S. Representative to the United Nations; (9) Herbert Lehman, Senator from N.Y.; (10) Isidor Lubin, who lived for many years in the White House and is said to be very favorably regarded by the Kremlin; (11) General Mark Clark, who has complete charge of all armies in the U.S. in all the fields. Some question his Jewishness, but he is married to a Zionist Jew. (12) David Niles, who works in the White House and never permits Truman to leave his sight; (13) Sam Rosenman, who wrote most of Roosevelt's speeches and some of Truman's; (14) Admiral Lewis M. Strauss, who was the head of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and who was planted in the U.S. Atomic Commission to guide and direct it; (15) David Lilienthal, recent Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission when our secret was given to Russia; (16) Henry Dexter White (original name: Dorn Weiss), now deceased, was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Morgenthau; (17) Philip Jaffe, who was employed and lectured at our State Department; (18) Benjamin J. Bittenweiser, Assistant High Commissioner in Germany and ranks next to John J. McCloy.

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THE MACARTHUR INQUIRY

It is to be hoped that the Australian Government, which rushed in to supply Australian armed forces for the Korean incident, has been noting carefully the statements being made before the American Senate Inquiry, which was established following President Truman's dramatic dismissal of General MacArthur. Although the Korean war is allegedly being conducted by the "United" Nations against aggression, it was not the "United" Nations which "sacked" General MacArthur, but the President of the United States of America. In giving his evidence, Mr. Dean Acheson, American Secretary for State, said that the American State Department had been trying to make arrangements with various countries to supply troops for Korea. It is clear, then, that President Truman and his advisers have in reality been responsible for the conduct of the war in Korea. Australian forces have been provided for a campaign about which the American leaders are bitterly divided. Is the Australian Government content to continue supplying forces for a war the conduct of which is outside their control, and which looks like finishing in a stalemate?

In facing up to this serious question, one which concerns the very sovereignty of the Australian people, it is interesting to note that one leading American General, A. Wedemeyer, has told the Senate Inquiry that in his opinion America should immediately withdraw all its forces from Korea. He said that any truce with the Russians or their satellites at the 38th parallel, would be a psychological defeat for America. General Wedemeyer also stressed the fact that while the United Nations was losing its finest manpower in Korea, the Communists had unlimited manpower to pour into "the cauldron." He also showed realism by suggesting that America should immediately sever all relations with the Kremlin.

Mr. Acheson's evidence before the Inquiry provides further reason for regarding him as either a fool and an unconscious dupe of the Communists, or a knave. He disagrees with the suggestion that the Communists should be driven out of the "United" Nations, claiming that it is easier to "show them up" while they remain members. This fantastic observation should be considered in conjunction with Mr. Acheson's attempt to defend the betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek at the Yalta Agreement. He had the audacity to claim that President Roosevelt could not have prevented the Russians from taking what was given to them! This flatly contradicts all the known evidence concerning the Yalta Conference. Perhaps Mr. Acheson was attempting to defend the role played by his Communist traitor friend, Mr. Alger Hiss. He still, persists with the falsehood that the Chinese Nationalists collapsed because they were corrupt and lacked the will to fight. When General MacArthur, in a telegram to the Inquiry, drew attention to the betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek by General Marshall and his Communist advisers in the American State Department, Mr. Acheson said he had "no desire to comment." It is significant that General Mac Arthur's charges, which substantiate all we have had to say on this matter of the betrayal of China to the Communists, were carefully ignored by most of the Australian papers. It is time that all patriotic Australians asked whether they can continue to follow blindly the policies of a Washington dominated by men who have, during and since the last world war, made possible one Communist victory after another.

Immoral Dupes

A final word on people who return from Czechoslovakia and tell you all is fine there.

Frequently while I was there, Czechoslovakia was visited by Communist-sponsored parties of people who were to be shown a "people's democracy" in action and in the making. We were visited too by delegates to Communist-organised conferences and rallies.

Some of the visitors from the West were sincere, but uncritical folk. They swallowed what they were expected to swallow, accepted the explanations they were given, saw what they were expected to see.

But there were some who clearly were opportunists.

One visiting clergyman was lauding the Czech regime. I asked him why he thought it was so good. His answer amazed me with its frankness.

"Where else would an official give me £stg.15 spending money as I stepped from the aeroplane?" he said. "Where else would they pay all my expenses, lay on lashings of entertainment?"

The clergyman had been to a conference of the front movement and had been on innumerable conducted tours. He did not speak a word of Czech. He said he had not sought contact with any Czechs other than delegates to the conference and those to whom he had been introduced.

He said he was going back home to tell the truth about the "people's republic."

A newsagency man asked him what went on at the conference. The clergyman offered to produce next morning full notes he had taken.

But next morning the clergyman said he was sorry, but the Government official who supervised foreign clergymen's comfort had said he was not to show the notes to any but fellow-delegates.

"I don't like that," the clergyman replied. "But I don't want to fall out with these people. There are some more good free trips like this coming up."

—Miss Gloria Foley, in "The Herald" (Melb.), June 9.

The French Peasantry

These peasants (of the Dordogne Valley, France) own their own houses, fields, vineyards, plots of woodland, whether they are farmers, carpenters, wheelwrights, masons, cobblers, and so on. No one is a complete specialist, even when he has a handicraft. Every one is his own master, does his own work in his own way and his own time. Ownership is the very basis of freedom and independence — and, as far as the land is concerned, full production from it is possible only under individual ownership. A paid agricultural worker or a tenant, for that matter, cannot be expected to do as well by the land as he would if he owned it. Everyone has a right to sunshine and air and should have a right to as much of the earth as he and his family can cultivate — but no more. In a Christian community-Christian in fact, I mean — no one would be denied this right, and no one would want to possess more than he could cultivate well."

—Philip Oyler, in "The Generous Earth."

COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Continued from page 1)

pounds in gold! It would come in so useful."

Moscow's nobbling of the patriarch, revered head of the most important Christian community in the Arab world, is typical of the brilliant political warfare the Kremlin is waging against us in the Middle East.

Forgotten for the moment are the atheistic scruples of Marxism, forgotten the thousands of Greek Orthodox priests ruthlessly liquidated in Soviet Russia and the Balkan satellite States in order to "liberate" these countries from the "opium" of religious superstition.

All that matters for the present is to get an important and influential body of men looking to Soviet Russia for help and leadership.

Ideological alignment will follow as a natural consequence.

It works out beautifully. The patriarch himself has not been able to resist an invi-

Flight From The City

By Ralph Borsodi

"Men and women who desire to escape from dependence upon the present industrial system and who have no desire to substitute for it dependence upon a state-controlled system are beginning to experiment with a way of life which is neither city life nor farm life, but which is an effort to combine the advantages and to escape the disadvantages of both."

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tation to sign his name to the Communist-sponsored "peace" appeal.

He has called on his flock to follow his example.

Above all, the news of the new ties between their spiritual leader and the Soviet-authorized Church of Russia has brought about a pro-Russian orientation among many members of the Greek Orthodox Arab community—particularly the younger ones.

But what impressed me more than anything else about the Russian technique of political warfare in the Middle East was the large number of highly placed men I met who were either completely unaware of it or dismissed it as insignificant.

The reason for this is that in the Arab countries of the Middle East, from the Lebanon to Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt, the Politburo agents are as yet making no effort to create anything like a Communist mass movement.

Instead, the Politburo is:

1. Organising a closely-knit Communist underground. This underground is restricted to brainworkers. Muscle-workers, the traditional storm troopers of the pro-

letarian revolution, are being ignored for the moment.

2. Working through non-Communist and sometimes even ostensibly anti-Communist organisations.

Extreme nationalist movements, separatist minorities, are being fostered—often without their being aware of it themselves—with financial aid and every other device known to the experienced agents of Soviet Russia's clandestine propagandist web.

Their job is to create trouble and disruption in this area, and whip up popular anger against such "Western exploiters and blood-suckers" as the British and American oil companies.

In the squalid refugee camps where the million and a half Arabs driven from their homes in Palestine by the victorious Israelis have found temporary shelter, I discovered an organisation called "The Displaced Palestinians' Committee."

The police had evidence that it was Communist created and Communist run. Its broadsheets and propaganda pamphlets were printed on a clandestine Communist press in Beirut.

But in writings and speeches the committee carefully refrains from any direct pro-Soviet propaganda.

It attacks the British and the Americans, the Israeli Government, the "lackey" Governments of the various Arab States, the U.N. organisations and committees, and U.N. itself.

The chief theme is that never, never must the Palestinian refugees think of accepting their fate and settle down in a new home outside Palestine.

Yes, in the Arab countries the planners of Soviet Russia's political warfare are doing very well by this cuckoo policy of getting the nationalists to hatch their Communist eggs.

Soon they hope to see the next stage arrive—the stage that has been reached now in Persia.

Then the Communists will come out into the open. They will take over the leadership of the nationalist upsurge.

The Nationalists will make the same discovery, which that poor muddled "patriot," Dr. Moseddegh (pronounced Mozzadair)—Persia's oil-nationalising Premier—is making in Teheran today.

They will find they have been riding a Communist horse without knowing it, and that the horse has bolted with them.

It is not too late, even now, to defeat Stalin's underground in the Middle East.

All we have to do is restore Persian and Arab confidence in our firmness and fairness.

But to do so we must stop at once our present policy of yielding to faits accomplis, to unilateral repudiation of treaties and acts of aggression—from whatever quarter they may come.

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Composting Municipal Wastes at Fremantle, West. Australia

By JOHN WELLER

At Fremantle, W.A., the enthusiastic Town Clerk, Mr. N. J. C. McCombe, is carrying out a valuable experiment in the composting of municipal wastes. Mr. McCombe made a thorough investigation into methods being used in South Africa, New Zealand, America, and elsewhere, and, with the full backing of his Council, has proceeded to adapt a technique suitable for Fremantle's particular purposes and conditions. Unfortunately, the experiment has been greatly delayed and hampered with such disheartening problems as labour worries, lack of adequate finance, non-availability of suitable machinery, and a recent fire, which destroyed part of the necessary structure.

The site for the composting operations is at the local tip, where the ground drops from one level to another in a steep bank of about 27 feet. The Council refuse trucks back in on the top level, tipping the refuse on to a sloped steel runway. The wastes slip down on to a table about halfway down the bank, where they are hand-sorted. All tins and bottles, etc., are removed and thrown on to another runway, where they roll on to a heap at the bottom level. Care is exercised to see that an excessive quantity of fat is not allowed through with any one batch, while a note is made of the comparative amounts of paper, which pass through.

The waste is now shovelled through a wide hole at the end of the sorting table

into the pulveriser. It is anticipated that this machine will handle from 10 to 15 cubic yards per day when in full operation. It is a Van Gelder machine, 10 x 14 in. size, and manufactured in Sydney. The apertures through which the wastes are forced have been found to be too small. Larger apertures, which will be incorporated in a future machine; will make this operation more efficient. The material then falls on to an elevator conveyor belt, which can be swivelled in an arc to deposit the wastes in any one of three bays. These bays, of timber construction, are built up on stilts from the bottom ground level, thus allowing aeration from underneath the heaps as well as from the top and sides. Below these bays are three more similar bays, still built up on stilts, into which the material is turned after three or four days. After a further three or four days in the second bays, it is turned on to heaps on the ground, where it matures after approximately three months.

The activator is sewage sludge from the municipal treatment works, which are about a mile from the present site. A specially designed truck delivers the sludge in the form of a thick slurry to the scene of operations, where it is hosed directly into the first bays in layers as the pulverised waste is being fed in.

Temperatures from 168 degrees F. to as high as 182 degrees F. have been recorded after the first turning. Mr. McCombe says that, from his observations, there is no doubt that the pulverising of the raw materials accelerates the decomposition process. It also eliminates such problems as rats, as there is nothing solid in the pulverised wastes on which they can live. Only a handful of flies have been seen around the heaps during the first two or three days.

In order to carry through the experiment to a successful and satisfactory conclusion, accurate daily records have to be kept, noting the moisture condition, any addition of water necessary, odour of compost, prevalence of flies, condition of compost at time of turning, dates of turning and removal of maturing heaps, acidity (check each layer of sludge), temperatures, and the percentages of sludge, swill, house and trade refuse used in each experiment.

The total quantity of house and trade refuse to be treated each week is approximately 120 tons, including 11 tons of swill. The total amount of sludge available per year is approximately 400 tons, or equal to about 5 percent of the total material available for composting. It is also intended

that some of the experiments will include a limited quantity of grass clippings, wood shavings, and sawdust, as it will be necessary for these wastes to be treated if a complete plant is installed.

Mr. McCombe is certain there will be no difficulty in marketing the final product, as there is a constant demand from the local market gardeners.

The fundamental objective of the experiment, as Mr. McCombe emphasises, is to discover whether it is possible to compost all organic wastes from the municipality, as, from the financial aspect, this is essential. All other municipal councils around Perth and Fremantle have called for reports on this experiment. When the full plant is installed it will also handle the wastes from a number of other municipalities around Fremantle.

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Why Graziers Oppose the Wool Marketing Plan

(President of Graziers' Association of Victoria)

Woolgrowers will be required to vote on the wool-marketing plan that has been agreed between the four Governments concerned, not on some variation of it that someone might like to suggest.

The Graziers' Association urges growers to reject this plan for the fundamental reason that, in all its important functions, the scheme would be subject to Government control.

To clarify this statement, let me point out that the two most important decisions in the whole scheme — the level of the annual reserve price and the wool reselling policy — depend upon the unanimous agreement of the four Governments concerned—Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Even on the proposed Central Authority, which will advise the four Governments on these two vital points, growers will be in a minority. Australian growers would have only two representatives in a total of ten. The third Australian member will represent the Australian Government.

In other words, although Australian growers are expected to supply 58 percent of the total capital of the scheme, they are to be given only 20 percent of the voting strength.

Through the creation of this supreme Central Authority, the proposed Australian Wool Organisation has been shorn of any real powers. All the policy decisions would be made elsewhere.

The Australian Organisation, although nominally "grower controlled," would have to take its orders either from the Central Authority, which is directly subject to the decisions of the four Governments, or from the Australian Government, which has reserved to itself the right to decide the rate of annual levy growers should pay.

The functions left to the Australian Organisation thus would be merely administrative and advisory.

One can derive little comfort from the assurance that Ministerial veto will not be exercised over the Australian Organisation when it is realised that in any case, this body will have no policy-making powers.

The degree of influence exerted by Australian woolgrowers in the proposed plan would be:—

1. Determination of the general level of the reserve price — no representation.
2. Advice on the level of the reserve price —two votes out of ten.
3. Final determination of reofferings policy —no representation.
4. Advice on reofferings policy—two votes out of ten.
5. Relating the general reserve price to the different types of wool grown in the three Dominions—two votes out of ten.
6. Determination of the rate of annual levy to be paid by Australian woolgrowers —no representation.

7. Advice to the Australian Government on the rate of annual levy—seven votes out of nine.

By no flight of imagination could an organisation of the type envisaged in this plan be termed "grower controlled."

Yet Australian wool growers are expected not only to supply 58 percent of the total capital of the scheme, but also to pay the annual operating costs of the Australian Organisation and carry practically the entire financial consequences which could result from a misjudgment of market trends or administrative actions dictated either by the four Governments or the Central Authority.

This financial risk cannot be lightly brushed aside. A misjudgment of market trends, in fixing the reserve price for wool, could have disastrous effect on wool consumption and thus cause prolonged if not permanent damage to the market for wool.

Nor can the danger of pressure for wider international control of this scheme be disregarded.

The official explanations so far published have not mentioned that the United Kingdom Government fought hard for the right to have a voting strength on the Central Authority equal to the combined strength of the three Dominions.

Growers have not yet been told that the United Kingdom's final acceptance of three votes is subject to that Government's reservation that the question may be reopened at a later stage, if consumer interests bring pressure for greater representation.

Neither has the significance of the resolution adopted by the International Wool Study Group been stressed.

This group assented to the terms of the plan only on condition that, when buying-in operations at reserve prices are expected to assume substantial proportions, there shall be further opportunity for full international discussion, at which further consideration shall be given to the question of consumer representation.

It would be idle to suggest that, because the Havana Charter has not been ratified or, because the present plan does not provide for increased international representation, this danger has been eliminated.

Future Governments could not be expected to consider themselves bound by an assurance given by the present Government, nor could the present Government legislate in a way that a future Government could not alter.

It should be clearly understood that a vote in favour of the proposed plan may not only commit the industry to this form of Government control for an experimental period of five years. It could hand control to the Government for all time.

The Graziers' Association most earnestly recommends growers to vote "NO."

—"The Leader," June 13.

Need for Soil Fertility

"Waste not, want not, is the lesson that must be learnt by farmers all over the world if we are to save ourselves from a severely depleted food supply and perhaps partial starvation."

Stating this in an address to the C.W.A. Conference, Mr. H. Weller, president of the Victorian Compost Society, said that disease was caused by malnutrition. Properly balanced diet of foods grown on vital, rich soil was the only means by which we could hope to achieve vitality in our old age and freedom from the numerous illnesses, which attack our modern civilisation.

Mr. Weller warned against the danger of using artificial fertilisers, which tended to use up the humus in the soil when this was not replaced by waste products. He contrasted the small farms of China, where three and four crops are harvested each year, and all waste is returned to the soil, with the rapidly decreasing production of the heavily mined Australian soils.

LAW OF RETURN

Organisms living in the topsoil build up its fertility, and these must be fed if the soil is to maintain a high level of production of food rich in vitamin and mineral elements. Without the decay of organic humus, there can be no life. Great civilisations of the past had died because they did not, wilfully or through ignorance, obey the law of return, Mr. Weller said.

"Deserts are man made," he said, "and the largest waste lands were once fertile—for instance, the Sahara Desert provided most of the wheat for the Roman empire until it was devastated by bad husbandry."

Mr. Weller appealed to members to grow their own food as much as possible, and so improve the health of their families and the nation.

—"The Weekly Times," June 13.

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At the heart of this conception, behind all the wrappings and talk of brotherhood, there lies something profoundly wrong, a lowering of the whole conception of what a man is in relation to government and the society of which he is a part; and it is a matter for continual astonishment how often Christians will speak of human responsibility and human dignity, profess to understand the basic importance of the institution of property, and then proceed to recommend as truly Christian progress arrangements by which property is deprived of its essential meaning and value because its possession is made highly precarious and dependent on the changing moods of an electorate, if not on the fancies of officials and ministers. If property is to fulfill its function it must be invested by opinion and law with a really inviolable character, and this involves the rejection of policies by which it is ever lightly taken away for inessential reasons.

—"The Tablet" (England), April 21, 1951,

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