

THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Rising Prices Aid Communist Strategy

A Federal Government elected "to put the shillings back into the pound," has announced a drastic increase in phone, post and telegraph charges, which must inevitably give a new impetus to the inflation spiral. All these increased charges, which if made by a private company would have resulted in loud cries about "capitalist exploitation," must increase costs in industry and thus further increase prices. Telephones, which should be an ordinary household amenity, must now be regarded as a luxury.

It is true, of course, that, while present financial rules and economic policies are pursued, rising prices are unavoidable. But it is most noticeable that Government Monopolies make a major contribution to rising prices because there is no incentive whatever to be efficient and render service. The Postal Monopoly made a total profit of over £40 millions during and immediately after the war, but customers did not benefit from either reduced charges or better service. The Federal Government has not even apologised for its increase in post and telegraph charges. This "anti-inflation" Government inflates its prices at the very time that it is saying that it will do all in its power to defeat inflation. This hypocrisy is being carefully noted by many electors, a fact which is worrying many rank and file members of the Liberal and Country Party, members who are concerned about their political future. We must be fair and admit that some are also worried about the repudiation of principles.

In recent weeks, consumers have not only had rising post and telegraph charges, and their ultimate direct and indirect results to worry them, but they have been told that sugar and butter prices are to be increased. As both sugar and butter prices directly affect basic wage computations, it is certain that another steep increase in the basic wage will take place when the next adjustment is made. It has been estimated that the increased price in the price of butter alone will increase the basic wage by at least 7/- per week. A basic wage increase will in turn increase industrial costs, and so prices will be given another upward thrust. With a policy of apparently indefinite inflation, it is inevitable that most business organisations not only increase their prices enough to meet actual cost increases, but tend to make price increases sufficient to cover anticipated rising costs in the future. Every section of the community is caught in a vicious circle which can only be broken by a direct challenge to financial policies causing the present spiral of rising price.

There is only one basic answer to inflation, and that is a modification of present financial rules. For a start, a policy of increasing price subsidies should be applied to every basic item in the economy, particularly those items used in computing the basic wage. We find it merely perverse for people and the Government to oppose this commonsense policy with the stupid argument that more taxation would be required to pay the subsidies. Let us make the point clear by pointing out that, assuming the increased price of butter forces the basic wage up 7/- per week, this extra wage will require an immediate increase in Australia's total wages bill of something over £15 millions per week. In order that this increased wages bill can be paid, there will be, not an increase in taxation, but an expansion of new credit by the Commonwealth and Trading Banks. But this expansion of new credit, as we have seen, will merely result in price increases, which eventually will require still greater credit expansion. Would it not be more sensible for the Commonwealth Government to use the Commonwealth Bank — or other banks for that matter — to expand the necessary credit to pay direct an increased subsidy on butter and thus prevent an increase in the basic wage and the consequent results on this increase? If this simple proposition is beyond the understanding of the politicians, then they have no hope whatever of defeating Communism or Socialism.

A Fundamental Desire

"If the age in which we live has been unable, with its enormous, weight of propaganda, proletarian values, financial pressure, political ideology, economics of the mass and the machine, export obsession and State paternalism to crush out the traditional passion of the individual to be self-supporting on his own piece of land, it must be one of the profoundest and most ineradicable satisfactions of human nature."

—H.J. Massingham.

Lenin lays it down, and Stalin quotes him with approval, that a "Revolution is impossible without a nation-wide crisis (affecting both the exploiters and the exploited)." This is what inflation does. It is a deadly weapon, which intensifies conflicts within a community, and assists the centralisation of power in every sphere. A general policy of price-subsidisation would be one of the most telling blows the Federal Government could deliver against the Communist-Socialist conspiracy. We feel that the time is now appropriate for a little electoral pressure on Members about this matter.

OUR POLICY

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

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

WHITTIER.

TO THE POINT

Mr. Clarey's Appeal for Power

Speaking at Canberra on June 27, Mr. P. Clarey, M.H.R., former president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, made a powerful appeal for the establishment of an all-party committee to investigate what increased powers the Commonwealth should have. Mr. Clarey wants the Commonwealth to have power over marketing, prices, transport and education. Mr. Clarey is also concerned that the Commonwealth's limited power frustrated its ability to carry out its obligations to the "United" Nations and the objectives of the International Labor Organisation.

Mr. Clarey's appeal will no doubt appeal to that section of the Liberal Party attempting to further the policy of centralising power. We understand that Mr. Clarey's "moderate" politics have endeared him to many of his political "opponents."

The "Free" Press

The Australian press barons are concerned — so they say — that shortage of newsprint will prevent them from providing their readers with vital news. In giving evidence before the American Senate inquiry into Far Eastern Policy and the dismissal of General MacArthur, Major-General P. Hurley, former Ambassador to China, said on June 21 "The post-war success of Russia is not due to Russia's strength, but to the weakness of American foreign policy." General Hurley accused the American State Department of "appeasing" Communism, and described American foreign policy as a "cowardly surrender" of the principles for which World War II was fought. Attacking the Yalta Agreement, General Hurley said that

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.

American and British diplomats had surrendered China's territorial integrity and political independence in a secret agreement."

With the exception of the Melbourne "Age" of June 22, no other major daily newspaper in Australia reported General Hurley's important statement. Why?

Destroying the States

The following is portion of a letter by Mr. Gerald Lincolne, which appeared in the Melbourne "Age" on June 22: —

When the Australian people first agreed to unite into a Commonwealth, the powers, which were to be granted to the Federal body, were discussed in detail and explained by the sponsors of the movement.

Such powers were extremely limited, and it is reasonable to state that it was only because of this fact that the people consented to the establishment of a central Government.

Loopholes in the Constitution have enabled the Federal body to encroach more and more upon those rights, which neither the States nor the great mass of electors intended or desired to hand over.

The result is that we now depend on the Federal Government for the power to carry out even purely domestic works, and are saddled with an overwhelming burden due to inefficient centralised control.

By all means, give the Federal Parliament the right to deal with matters, which concern the people as citizens of the Commonwealth, but strictly limit the powers to such.

Many of its present activities are proper functions to be performed by the States, and would be carried out much more economically in this way.

If they confer the new powers, the States should stipulate that a convention be appointed to overhaul the Constitution and re-draft it in a form acceptable to the people and more in accord with the original intention.

Migration Menace

Foreign Communist groups are much more difficult to control than locals.

In the United States, most of the terrorists and gangsters were recruited from migrant centres . . .

Migration is not merely a question of numbers. It is primarily a question of getting the right people to migrate.

—"Century," June 22.

The Anti-Human Enemy

" . . . There are an untold number who seem to think that the chief objection to the (Communist) system is that it is inefficient as regards the production of goods and the promotion of the better material standards of life. The idea that there is a question of human degradation involved does not seem to occur to them as of any particular importance.

"We shall never have a real crusade against this anti-human enemy unless we realise that the struggle isn't about social

betterment, or who owns who and how much. It's over the question whether man is to be held a free creature under the rule of Divine Law or a mechanical animal to have his life and death managed for him in the interests of some arbitrary pattern of communal power which can be manipulated at will by 'social planners.' "

— John Calhoun, in "Newsweekly,"
Melbourne.

The Ideological Empire

"During the last five years, they (the Europeans) have witnessed a phenomenon unprecedented in history; the rise of the Soviet Ideological Empire, which in extent exceeds the Empire of Genghis Khan. Like the great Tartar's, this vast heterogeneous Empire is held together by terror, and therefore is fragile in the extreme. All that is needed in its overthrow is the determination to overthrow it. Given the will to survive, all else logically follows; for the intellectual, industrial and moral resources of the West are so vastly superior to those of Russia, that, with will behind them, victory is certain."

— Major-General Fuller in "How To
Defeat Russia."

Private Property Rights

Mr. J. B. McDonald, Victorian Premier, has taken a step in the right direction by condemning the growing practice of Government Departments grabbing mansions, guesthouses and other properties. But far more is required than Mr. McDonald's proposal that no Department can obtain property for accommodation without the consent of the Government. A constitutional safeguard is required making it ultra vires for either Government Departments or Governments to take people's properties without the consent of the owners.

More Light on Japanese War

Mr. Toshikazu Kase, Japanese Foreign Office official and member of the Japanese "Peace Party," which sought the end of the Japanese war long before it came, reveals in an account of Japan's defeat that Japan was already beaten before the atom bomb was dropped and the Russian armies marched into Manchuria. "It is certain we would have surrendered in due time without the terrific chastisement of the bomb or the terrific shock of the Russian attack." Mr. Kase does not apparently understand that the policy of "unconditional surrender" and the dropping of the atom bomb was part of a policy of driving the whole human race down the scale of existence.

SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF SUEZ

By DOUGLAS REED—14/3

We have a limited number of this book, the latest work of this important writer, in which he gives more evidence of the Communist-Zionist conspiracy.

The Press Ban on General MacArthur

By Eric D. Butler

In recent times spokesmen for the daily press in Great Britain and Australia have expressed concern that the cause of freedom will suffer if they cannot obtain adequate supplies of newsprint to prevent further reduction in the size of their papers. The few remaining rights which the peoples of the Western World still possess, although rather precariously, were fought for and established long before the daily press made its appearance. The spokesmen for the daily press argue, however, that in the world in which we live, it is essential that they have the facilities to bring to the individual information and news which will help him to understand the modern challenge to his liberties.

So far from the daily press of Australia, fed with "news" via the various news agencies, making any notable contribution to the cause of liberty, it has persistently suppressed and distorted important news, particularly from overseas. The daily press has had a great deal to say about Communism, but the same press has permitted itself to become one of the major vehicles for furthering Communist policies. A classic example is the manner in which, with few exceptions, the Australian daily press has presented the Korean incident, the dismissal of General MacArthur, and what has been happening in the United States.

In my booklet, "The Truth About Communist China," I provide factual evidence proving that anyone who supports appeasement of the Chinese Communists, and the withdrawal of all remaining support, such that it is, is either consciously or unconsciously furthering Communist policy. In attempting to assess the present situation in the Far East, it is essential to bear in mind that the Communists were only successful in China because of the betrayal of the Chinese Nationalists at the Yalta Conference in February, 1945, and the further betrayal when General Marshall, under Communist influence in the American State Department, advocated a policy of withdrawing all military support from Chiang Kai-shek. The Australian press has never made these facts public, and, when General MacArthur sent a telegram to the American Senate Inquiry, drawing attention to General Marshall's disastrous policy in China, the Melbourne "Age," rather obscurely, was the only Melbourne daily to make mention of MacArthur's charges. Strangely enough, the A.B.C. news service did feature his telegram.

Although the daily press has consistently supported the Truman-Acheson policies, it has neglected to point out that, prior to the Korean incident, the charges that there was considerable Communist influence in the American State and other Departments, were creating considerable uneasiness among the American people, and that Mr. Acheson, Secretary of State, and personal friend of Communist traitor, Alger Hiss, was the target for serious criticism. The American Government was also becoming embarrassed by the internal economic situation. There was a threat of a return to unemployment and poverty amidst plenty.

One of the major criticisms levelled against Acheson and Truman was their obvious intention of seeking recognition for

Communist China, the military support voted by the Senate, their open invitation to the Communists to attack Korea by publicly stating that they did not regard Korea as vital to their defence plans, and their proposal that Formosa should not be defended. The press has never pointed out that Truman and Acheson have been forced, rather reluctantly, to support General MacArthur's major proposal that Formosa must be held at all costs, thus reversing their previous attitude.

The decision to enter Korea was undoubtedly a desperate decision by Acheson and his associates, to try and appease American public opinion, which believed that the Communists in high places had control of American policy. Although his public statements since returning to America indicate that he has obtained some understanding of just how far alien forces have gained control of American policy, General MacArthur apparently accepted without any doubts his military task in Korea. From a military viewpoint, it is understandable how he should have chafed under political restraints, which asked him to sacrifice valuable lines on the Korean Peninsula without being permitted to attack the major enemy's lines of communication, or his bases.

It is now clear that all the American

military leaders, including General Marshall, are unhappy about the indecisiveness of the Korean campaign. General Wedemeyer stated before the Senate Inquiry that he believed that there should be a withdrawal from Korea immediately. Wedemeyer also stated that, although he disliked the Chiang Kai-shek Government he had opposed the policy, which betrayed it to the Communists. The Washington correspondent of the Melbourne "Age," who has been a consistent supporter of Truman and Acheson against his Republican critics reported in the "Age" on June 16:

"Like his contemporaries, Lieut. -General Albert C. Wedemeyer and General of the Army MacArthur, General Marshall hated the indecisiveness of the war in Korea. But he, unlike Generals Wedemeyer and MacArthur, was compelled to accept the unpalatable fact that what may be militarily unwise is sometimes politically inescapable."

Just why it is "politically inescapable" that a costly and indecisive military campaign must continue indefinitely to the advantage of the Communists, has not been explained. But this is certain: Those in control of American domestic policy are subtly exploiting the Korean crisis to impose Socialist and Communist policies on centralised control upon the American people. General MacArthur has drawn attention to this internal menace in two addresses, which the Australian press practically ignored. On June 15, General MacArthur said that "Insidious forces created a basis for fear by spreading false propaganda designed to destroy those moral precepts to which Americans had clung since the Declaration of Independence . . . the Communists had many allies, blind to reality, who supported general Communist aims, while reacting violently to suggestions that they did so."

On the previous day, June 14, General MacArthur had stated:

"I have been amazed since returning to the United States, at the trend in national policy. This trend tends to depart from the traditional courage, vision and forthrightness which has animated and guided our great leaders of the past to be now largely influenced, if not indeed in some instance dictated, from abroad, and dominated by fear of what others may think or what others may do. . . ."

Books on Social Credit

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BOOKS ON THE

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Full text of "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

Does It Fit The Facts? . . . 5/

C. H. Douglas's correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Sallis Daiches concerning the "authenticity" of The Protocols.

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Totalitarianism on the March

The late Professor Harold Laski, a pro-Communist and one of the leaders of the Socialist conspiracy in the English-speaking world, often emphasised the importance of Government by Regulation in the campaign to obtain a Socialist victory: "The necessity and value of delegated legislation and its extension is inevitable if the process of socialisation is not to be wrecked by the normal methods of obstruction which existing parliamentary procedure sanctions." (Vide the Fabian Socialist journal, "The New Statesman," September 10, 1932.)

Under the guise of defending Australia against Communism, the Menzies-Fadden Government now openly proclaims itself as having succumbed to the very totalitarian virus it says it proposes to destroy. Not only does the Federal Government's Defence Preparations Bill seek to concentrate enormous economic powers under Commonwealth control; Mr. Menzies specially states that, "The Bill will confer power to make certain regulations to speed the Government's aim." In other words, the vast powers sought by the Federal Government will be the plaything of anonymous bureaucratic planners, who will be a law unto themselves. Power without responsibility can only result in even more widespread corruption than is so manifest in the community today.

Preparation for "total war" has a fascinating appeal for immature minds, who accept the false idea that strength comes from centralised planning. Hitler's "total war" organisation did not enable him to win; rather was it his greatest weakness. Australia's "total war" organisation during the last war resulted in the greatest waste of manpower and most inefficient production this country has seen. Mr. Menzies and his colleagues apparently have learned nothing from past experiences of centralised planning. Even if confronted with an orthodox military threat, there is no reason why the Western Powers should submit to centralised economic planning. But Communism is not an orthodox military threat; it is a conspiracy and a revolution, which seeks to destroy every country from within by exploiting the evils of centralised policies.

If the Federal Government really believes that it can implement come centralised controls, and then stop, it is clear that it does not understand the problem to be solved. John Hladun, a former Canadian Communist Party member, who had been sent to Moscow for special training, has made the following observation: "... one control tends to cause another, until, as a logical result, the State controls and finally owns everything."

Before Members of the Federal Government permit themselves to be stampeded any further along the Communist road of centralism, they might profitably consider the warning of the noted British authority on Soviet Russia, Edward Crankshaw, who, in his latest work, "Russia by Daylight" reaches the conclusion that there is only one way by which the Communists can conquer the West, and that without war: "It is by so frightening us (but it is we who allow ourselves to be frightened), that for fear of the enemy within, we transform our society imperceptibly into an apparatus of totalitarianism indistinguishable in essence from Soviet Russia. ..."

A SUGGESTION FOR MR. MENZIES

The Supreme Court of the United States has handed down a judgment that should be studied most carefully by the Menzies Government. It points to a most effective way in which to deal with the Cominform's agents in this country. It also explained in the simplest possible language how simple the problem really is. It provided the answer to those simple souls who believe that Communism can be cloaked in a garb of legality.

The eleven top Communists in the United States are now serving long gaol sentences. They are out of circulation for a long time. They were convicted by juries of American citizens. They then exhausted every legal process right up to the Supreme Court itself. But in the end they became just common felons, guilty of clearly defined crimes.

So they have been sentenced as convicted criminals. That is the most effective way to deal with Communism. In future, anyone in the United States who links up with the Communist Party automatically knows that he faces a long stretch in prison. It won't matter if they are on the surface or underground. They will go before juries, and, if convicted, will be sent to prison.

The particular crime of which they have been convicted is that they have sought to overthrow the Government of the United States by force and violence. That is criminal. The United States Congress passed a very simple Act, making it a criminal offence to advocate or teach the overthrow of a Government by force or violence. For that offence, lengthy terms of imprisonment have been provided.

As leaders of the Communist Party, the convicted men were found guilty of conspiring to achieve that objective. Chief Justice Vinson declared significantly, "This is the ultimate value of any society, for if a society cannot protect its very structure from armed internal attack, it must follow that no subordinate value can be protected. The words 'clear and present danger' (as defined by Mr. Justice Wendell Homes) cannot mean that before a Government may act it must wait until a putsch is about to be executed, plans have been laid, and a signal is awaited."....

The Commonwealth's task would be much easier if it drafted a very simple Bill similar to the Smith Act and asked the States to pass it. That would preserve the right of trial by jury in every case. It would overcome the objections of anyone afraid of Fascism emerging as an alternative to Communism. The United States has shown the way. It is now up to Menzies to follow. —J. T. Lang, in "Century," June 15.

The International Jew. 2/9

By Eric D. Butler.

The most detailed commentary on The Protocols yet written. Packed full of explosive factual material.

Printed by W. and J. Barr, 105-7 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, N.6. for New Times Ltd., McEwan House, MELBOURNE ON WHOSE AUTHORITY THESE ARTICLES APPEAR.

Governments "Greatest Threat to Freedom"

Early in 1950, Sir Earle Page, a Senior Minister in the Menzies-Fadden Government, delivered an address on decentralisation to the Northern Dailies' Conference in Sydney. We publish important portions of Sir Earle's material at present because we are alarmed that his Government is taking the very steps towards the totalitarian State, which he warned about. We suggest that Sir Earle Page's colleagues would do well to ponder over his statements before proceeding any further with centralised controls.

The following extracts from Sir Earle's address are from "The Countryman," Victoria, of February 24, 1950:

On the international plane, the enemies of freedom are easily recognised by their methods and tactics of governmental tyranny and intolerance. Here in Australia the greatest threat to freedom is the growing power of the authority and controls of centralised governments.

This threat is concealed. These Australian thieves of freedom masquerade in all guises as pseudo-progressives — their planners, subtly and quietly extending the power and controls of the government.

The pass is often sold under a spate of propaganda before the threat is realised.

An outstanding illustration has happened in Sydney with electricity blackouts. The cure for these was said to be more Government control by taking over the most efficient private electrical concern, whose supply was always ahead of demand. These blackouts still come in continuous succession, and will do so until some insurance against coal shortages is obtained by such means as quick harnessing of the Clarence or other waterpowers.

The same approach was made to the hospital bed shortage at a time when it was impossible to get materials to build new hospitals. Government policy eliminated private hospitals by the score, which were the only safety valve for the seriously sick.

Similarly with housing, shortages with all sorts of controls on building materials and with priorities for Government undertakings. The real cure is giving some incentive to produce materials and to build houses.

Controls merely lead to rackets on all sides—evasion of the law, to operations on the black market, to contempt for authority.

Increased cynicism regarding corruption in public and private life becomes more prevalent. Personal and class irresponsibility becomes more in evidence. Under these conditions men of integrity and good will may just as easily be dragged down to low moral standards as are the law-breakers, especially while expanding Government expenditures tend to keep taxation above the moral conscience of the people.

In their floundering and confusion in this chaos the community is betraying the whole movement which has fought for 2,006 years to find a law which would be superior to arbitrary power — some check on the exercise of force.

This is the meaning of the thousand years of struggle to bring the Sovereign under the Constitution, to establish for the individual and voluntary organisations of men rights, which they can enforce against

governments, majorities, and mobs. This is the meaning of the struggle to emancipate conscience, the arts, education, and commerce from the inquisitor, censor, monopolist, and policeman.

Socialism or Communism, which are the fathers of government control, spell slavery, and will destroy these freedoms to obtain which we have had to fight for thousands of years.

In fighting the countries, which are trying to impose their slavery on us en masse, we must beware lest we allow their Trojan horse to enter our community, and we lose those freedoms, which have cost us so much.

Such freedoms are the freedom of expression; the freedom of choice of those controlling our Government; freedom in the choice of our occupation; freedom in the disposal of our income, and freedom to acquire and hold our property.

These freedoms have been gained as a result of centuries of struggle. They are indispensable to the social security of the individual. The welfare State, with its controls, does not compensate for their loss. Without these freedoms, the only social security the individual can get is the same as he can get in the prison cell—food, a bed, a roof over his head, and free medical attention.

To preserve these freedoms we must develop initiative, personal and social responsibility. To this end, my Health Scheme is aimed at the encouragement of self-help through voluntary organisations. It attempts to train the community in civic spirit in order to get a healthy civic morale as well as a healthy body.

To this end all my life I have fought for local self-government, for rural universities and centres for culture, for the Federal system, and for more States in Australia, with their seat of government within sight and hearing of the people.

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HAVE YOU STUDIED THE COMMUNIST MENACE?

The following is a complete list of special publications recommended to those who want to study authentic, factual material on the Communist menace:

The Real Communist Menace,

by Eric D. Butler. 1/9d.

This is an excellent commentary on the Canadian Report and Soviet policy as laid down by Lenin and Stalin. It also contains the most important part of the Canadian Report.

Red Glows The Dawn, by

Michael Lamb 6d.

A detailed exposure of the history of the Australian Communist Party. The author shows by documentary evidence how the policy of the Australian Communists is dictated by Moscow.

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This famous book is the one that caused considerable consternation amongst the Comrades all over the world. White visited Russia during the war years. A brilliant firsthand hand account.

Communism — Why Not? by

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The Answer to Socialism, by

C. Barclay-Smith 2/9d

This excellent book is a "must" for every student of Communism. All the essential facts and figures are available for those who engage in controversy on the Communist question.

All prices listed above include the cost of postage. Order now from *New Times Ltd.*, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Alberta for Persia?

The following letter appeared in "The Social Crediter" (England), of June 9, 1951: —

Is it any longer necessary for this country to be dependent for oil on concessions from Persia? According to a report in "The Times" of May 29th, the new Canadian High Commissioner to Australia, Mr. C. Fraser Elliott, said, on his arrival in Sydney (May 28th) that the newly discovered oil-fields in Alberta, when in full production, would be able to offset any loss of output from Persia. He said, further, that this oil discovery in Alberta, the biggest in the world, was of tremendous importance to Canada and the British Commonwealth, and that Canadians saw in it the elimination of Canada's dependency on United States dollars, since Canada would soon be exporting oil instead of importing it.



Organic Surface Cultivation

Notes of an Address given by H. HOLT to Members of Victorian Compost Society in May, 1951

Organic surface cultivation has a wide application, and implies generally the efficient and economical incorporation of the organic matter with the surface soil.

This subject is of particular interest to both agriculturists and horticulturists alike, but as time will not permit of a complete discourse, we will have to restrict ourselves to the horticultural aspect only, and even then we can only touch on the fringe of the subject.

During the Second World War the "Gardeners' Chronicle" (England) published a revolutionary article by Mr. F. C. King on surface soil cultivation. This aroused a lot of interest, and, since it was a challenge to the orthodox methods, it created, and is still the cause of, many controversies. In view of the confusion cast in the minds of so many horticultural exponents, and in answer to many requests, Mr. King decided to write a more comprehensive article, and the outcome was his pamphlet, "Is Digging Necessary?" published in 1946.

Mr. King, as head gardener at Levens Hall, in the Lake District of England, is a successful and practical professional gardener with nearly 50 years' experience. He bases his conclusions on the observations he made in a close study of the processes of Nature over the past 30 years.

His interest was first aroused while strolling through a wood which was carpeted with wild garlic, a clump of which was infested with aphids, it struck him as most unusual, as he could not recall having ever seen green fly attack this plant, and, on making a close inspection of the soil around the clump, discovered that the soil had recently been disturbed.

Wondering if this phenomenon might be a clue to better gardening, he decided in 1920 to plant about 2000 onions in relatively firm undug soil, and, to his surprise, he harvested better long-keeping and sounder bulbs than ever before. So pleased was he with the results that he has continued to practise this method ever since.

A few years later, he extended his experiments, particularly in relation to aphid control. In the case of *Lilium Henryii*, he not only obtained pest-free plants, but they grew from 8 to 9 feet high, and he has been getting these results for the past 25 years.

In another experiment, two adjoining "Victoria" plum trees were selected. These trees were regularly infested with green fly,

and bullfinches consistently destroyed the buds during February of each year. For many years after planting, the soil beneath the trees had been regularly dug in the autumn, so he decided that the soil beneath one tree should not in future be dug, and that a compost mulch be applied to the surface of the undug soil, whilst the soil beneath the other tree would be manured and dug in the orthodox manner as in previous years. At the end of five years, there were unmistakable signs that the tree growing in the undug soil was making far better progress, and, by this time, there were no signs of damage to the buds by bullfinches and little evidence of green fly. At the end of ten years, the difference was remarkable; the growth of the tree in the undug soil was vigorous, whilst the other was stunted; in fact, had both trees made equal growth, their branches would have become interwoven, and, despite the closeness of the branches, relatively little aphid affected one, whilst the other was smothered with fly. For the past seven years, the treatment has been the same for both trees, no digging has been undertaken, and hard, woody compost only has been applied to the undug surface. The once stunted tree has vastly improved, and the bullfinches ceased to destroy winter buds.

For the past eleven years, pears and apples have been similarly treated, with excellent results. In the case of apples, the purpose was to see if a control of woolly aphid could be found. Confirmation of the value of this treatment was soon in evidence, for the branches and trunks of the trees were quickly cleaned of their disfigurement. No spraying of any kind had taken place during the course of the experiment, and, in the case of the apple trees, the surrounding soil was left undug and a layer of raw-sawdust applied in the autumn of each year.

By the simple expedient of not disturbing the soil around the roots, he had rid the trees of some of the worst pests that affect fruit trees, and at the same time

considerably increased vigour and healthy growth generally.

During the summer of 1945, he carried out a most interesting experiment on tomatoes grown under glass. One hundred and eight plants were used, and all were planted in pure compost. All but 25 were planted in fresh compost, which, owing to its nature, could not be trodden down firm. The remainder were planted in a bed of old compost, which had grown two previous crops of tomatoes, and which had not been disturbed. A week after planting pot plants of other subjects, which at the time were covered with "white fly," were placed beneath those tomato plants growing in the firm old compost. By the end of April, white fly had spread throughout the greenhouse, but not a single fly could be found

(Continued on page 7)

A Selected List Of Books On Organic Farming And Gardening

"Our Friend the
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"Earthworms"
By T. J. Barrett. Their intensive
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Another book from the author of
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"Gardening without
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Organic Surface Cultivation

(Continued from page 6)

on the leaves of the plants growing in the firm, undug compost.

Mr. King reports of another very interesting experiment, carried out on wild strawberries, growing in the hedgerow at an agricultural research station. A plot of ground well stocked with native plants was marked off and divided into two equal parts; one half was left in its natural state, whilst the other half had the vegetation removed and was later dug and replanted with runners taken from the nearby plants. The soil in each case was physically and chemically similar. During the migratory period, all the runners planted in the dug plot were smothered with green fly, but the plants growing in the undisturbed soil remained immune.

These tests show that a firm, undisturbed soil has a marked influence on the immunity of the plants to sucking insects and, while he does not claim these trials to be conclusive, he considers they are worthy of wider application and more serious attention.

He attributes the phenomena is due to the unity of the microbial life which prevails in the soil whenever it remains undisturbed, and that soil fertility does not confer immunity to plants from pests and diseases.

He contends that, while digging may prove beneficial to the development of bacterial life, it probably disturbs the micro-fungi relationship, and, in consequence, the bacteria are called upon to undertake work that only fungi are fitted to perform, and he is of the opinion that no real unity in the soil can exist where there is too much bacterial life and too little fungi. He also states that, in digging, the surface soil is deprived of the organic skin provided by Nature, and the inversion of the only part of the soil, which is calculated to contain humus, is often replaced with a more or less sterile media.

In all his experience, and he claims he has done more than a fair share of digging, he has never found crops to grow better in dug soil than in that which has remained undisturbed for a number of years. But it is only the proper utilisation of finished compost that enables undisturbed soil to yield a full crop.

Mr. Guest, the author of "Gardening Without Digging," is a keen, practical gardener. For many years, as a true disciple of the deep-digging school, he religiously followed the orthodox methods of gardening, only to be dismayed with the pests and diseases that took constant toll of his crops, and the money he spent on sprays, dust, and other means necessary to keep them under reasonable control, was far more than the cost of the seeds. These continual setbacks, he considered, did not fit in with Nature, as it seemed to him that gardening had developed into a battle with Nature.

In his search for healthy plants, he turned his attention to soil cultivation by natural methods, and, after reading several articles on the matter, decided to test, with the aid of compost and sawdust, the truth of the "no-digging" policy. So pleased was he with the results that he decided to make comprehensive tests with a large variety of

vegetables, and, from the data collected, compiled his sowing guide, which gives full details and subsequent treatment for all main vegetables.

The awards and honours gained by him for vegetables grown by the methods described in his pamphlet are sufficient evidence of the efficacy of the system.

Mr. Gerard Smith, author of "Organic Surface Cultivation," tells us that Ed. Faulkner's book, "Ploughman's Folly," first opened his eyes to the possibility of gardening without the spade, and F. C. King's pamphlet, "Is Digging Necessary?" helped him on his way; and, without the lead given by these two pioneers, he doubts whether he would have had the pluck to try "no-digging," even had he thought of it. He also tells us that he has not adopted the discing-in of green crops as the major fertility-building operation as advised by Faulkner, nor the use of sawdust as advocated by King, because he believes that correctly made compost from green stuff and manures is the best obtainable, and they are both more easily obtained by him than anything else.

Compost, he claims, must be put on the surface of the soil as mulch and left there. Seeds must be sown in it; plants must be set out in it, and never again be disturbed, provided the soil is reasonably free from weeds and weed seed at the time of application.

To dig compost into the soil one spit deep, he contends, upsets Nature's intentions, as the busied compost ceases to be further processed, and the microorganisms buried with it are killed by the unsuitable environment. The plant may obtain the food stored up in the bodies of the dead microbes, but that is all, and he firmly believes that buried humus is wasted humus, even if the texture of the soil, together with frequent surface cultivations, permits air to penetrate down to the level of the compost. It will be insufficient for the continuation of the processes of decomposition, and to dig the compost in two spits deep, as is often advocated is more foolish still, for the same reasons.

He draws particular attention to the fallacy of digging heavy soil. Here, he says, if the compost is turned under, the spade brings up the soil in large clods, which require a lot of unnecessary hard work to reduce the surface to a fine tilth. Even if you do succeed the first heavy rain will batter it down, and probably, on drying out, leave a hard, clay surface. When compost has been spread as mulch, it will defy the rain to pack it down, and there will be no mineral surface exposed. The soil will warm up early in spring, and will not require attention at any time, and, if compost is applied regularly, this condition will improve every year.

He further states that, in digging, the soil capillarity is broken just as deep as the soil has been dug, and is only reconstituted when the soil becomes consolidated again by the effects of much rain over a long period. In an undug soil, the capillary water will come right up to the surface, and the plant does not have to send down its roots for it. The feeding roots stay near the surface, where the food is. If finished compost is spread on an undug soil, a light, fine,

damp, soft and warm cover is formed, and the soil below is firm and in capillary contact with the subsoil water, if not with the water table, and the compost, when applied, is weed and disease sterile.

He is also convinced that, once the land is broken, there is no reason for further digging, and he claims that his results so far have backed his reasoning to the utmost. (He, like Mr. Guest, is a very successful exhibitor at the horticultural shows in England.)

If you are not sufficiently sold to the "no-digging" policy, and you feel you must go on digging, he advises not to bury the organic matter too deep, but endeavour to mix it through the top-soil and follow up with a compost mulch later.

These are briefly the motives that prompted the early development of the "no-digging" policy, and on which the basic principles are founded. Mr. King, the pioneer, not only gives us the benefit of his observations and experiments, but also propounds a theory for this singular phenomena, whilst Mr. Guest provides "the answers to the application of the principles in a practical manner, and Mr. Gerard Smith combines both the theoretical with the practical.

My own observations and experience of surface cultivation carried out on my soil have led me to the following conclusions: I firmly believe that an undug soil, provided it is covered with a heavy mulch of decayable organic matter, is beneficial to plant life. This is the slow and sure way in which Nature works, but in these times when so much intensive cultivation is needed to feed and clothe the ever-increasing population of the world, it is doubtful whether it can always be applied practically and economically. I refer particularly to breaking virgin land.

Pioneering work so far has only been carried out on land that has been previously cultivated some time or other, and presents a more ready adoption of the "No Digging" policy, than the virgin land as we find it in this country.

To attempt to grow a root crop by these methods on virgin land, with only a thin

(Continued on page 8)

On Planning the Earth

BY Dr. GEOFFREY DOBBS

This brilliant work not only exposes completely the falsity of the propaganda issued by the advocates of the Tennessee Valley Authority and similar large-scale land planning and hydroelectric schemes, but reveals them as part of a worldwide conspiracy designed to drive the individual down the scale of human existence. Foreword by Major C. H. Douglas.

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Organic Surface Cultivation

(Continued from page 7)

layer of fertile topsoil, is to court failure, no doubt by the constant and regular application of organic matter to the surface soil, a deep fertile soil will eventuate. This is Nature's method, but, since it takes anything from 500 to 1000 years for Nature to form an inch of fertile topsoil, I consider it more advisable to first concentrate on an intensive building up of a deep fertile soil before attempting the "No Digging" policy, just as the pioneers did before they developed the new system. It will only take a few years if only finished compost, or readily decayable organic matter, is frequently added and incorporated with the topsoil.

Mr. King's conclusions that the unity of the microbial life which prevails in an undug soil influences pest and disease immunity seems sound and good reasoning, but I do not agree that soil fertility plays no part; in fact, I contend that a fertile soil plays a big contribution. The fertility of a soil is a measure of its organic content, and, since the organic matter is the natural food of the soil organisms, the soil fertility is also a direct measure of microbial activity. And when this organic matter is provided in the way of finished compost, this good, wholesome food enables the microbes to complete the processes of decomposition in a more efficient and effective manner, and so releases high quality nutrients which, on being absorbed and synthesised by the plants, give them full health and thereby a greater resistance to pest and disease attack. Infertile soils produce stunted growth, and stunted plants invariably fall to the attack of pests and diseases.

Regarding the tests on tomatoes. I am of the opinion that the freshness of the compost had a marked influence on the results other than compactness; in all probability, the micro-life in the new compost, particularly the micro-fungi, had not sufficient time to establish their full relationship. This is a natural process and takes some time. Even Mr. King states his best crops were grown in soil that had not been disturbed for several years.

The control of "Woolly Aphis" on the apple trees does not check up with my

experience. At present I have only one fully-grown apple tree—a seedling on its own roots. The soil beneath the tree is grass covered and is regularly cut, and the clippings are allowed to remain and rot. This year the tree bore plenty of sound, good keeping fruit, and it is still in full green leaf. The black spot, which affected every apple two seasons ago, is only in evidence on the lower apples, growing largely on the south side of the tree. More than 50 percent, of the crop bore not the slightest signs of the disease, and most of the others except those growing low down and on the under side of the branches, showed little infection, but the "Woolly Aphis" is much worse than last year or the year before. A few days ago I noticed that a young crab apple tree has a mild infestation of "Woolly Aphis." The soil around this tree has never been dug, and last autumn a mulch of gum leaves was spread over the bare soil beneath the tree. Both trees are in firm undug soil, yet "Woolly Aphis" is spreading.

The use of raw-sawdust as a mulch to bare surface soil, as is sometimes advised by both Mr. King and Mr. Guest, is, I consider, inadvisable, particularly where sawdust from evergreen trees is used. It is far better to first give a light dressing of finished compost and then cover with the sawdust. This method reduces the risk of nitrogen starvation. Both these men are aware of this, as they both draw attention to it in their text. The method of first allowing raw-sawdust to mature before using as mulch, as advocated by Mr. King, is to be recommended.

I don't agree entirely with Mr. Gerard Smith regarding the digging of compost into the soil. In heavy clay soils, or where it is buried too deep, there is always such a risk, but, if shallow digging is adopted, and the soil is well drained, there will always be a plentiful supply of air to permit of full bacterial activity.

The preservation of soil capillarity, as mentioned by Mr. Gerard Smith, is probably one of the main features in favour of "No Digging." To maintain this condition, especially in the surface soil, a heavy mulch of organic matter is essential, especially during the summer; in fact, to effectively

carry out the "No Digging" policy, the soil should be completely covered all the year round, and the deepest blanket applied during the autumn before the cold winter weather sets in. Another example set by Nature.

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 information concerning the results they are achieving are requested to write in so that other readers can obtain the benefit of their experiences.

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