

# THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY

## More Liberal-Socialism Ahead Back to War-Time Controls

By J.T.Lang

**The Menzies Government is retracing its steps back to the vicious centralisation of the economic life of this country through a system of government by regulations. Its Defence Preparations Act is to be just another National Security Act. It is an ominous cover for the seizure of arbitrary powers over the everyday life of the community. It is the economic Umbrella Act.**

On the plea that a regulation is essential to prepare the country's defence, the Government will be able to invade once again the entire area that was previously reserved for the remaining sovereign powers of the States. It can mean the re-imposition of such wartime expedients as Rationing, Capital Issues, Land Sales Controls, Manpower Controls, Material Supplies Controls, and all the complex machinery created during the war.

This time the operations will be under the control of the new Super Board, which has been created by the present Government — the National Security Resources Board. That Board will have dragnet powers that will enable it to rope in every form of activity. Already there are signs that it is seeking blanket powers that will provide the cover for some form of direction of labour. That will be on the grounds that its purpose is to provide for the stockpiling of strategic materials, and that there should be no undue competition for manpower, material, or finance from those industries that are to be protected by the Board.

In practice, that will mean that some of the major monopolies will enjoy preferential positions and will be guaranteed materials and manpower, while their business rivals will be out on the wrong end of the limb. The centralisation plan will not work without such controls. Unless the Board has power to direct labour, to divert materials, and to stop production of what it considers to be luxury goods, it will not function according to the usual blue prints.

Instead of War Organisation of Industry (W.O.I.), as established under Dedman, we are now to have D.O.I. (Defence Organisation of Industry). But the controls will be precisely the same.

Prime Minister Menzies does not apparently realise how his policy fits into the Socialisation objective. The truth, of course, is that, while governments have changed in this country during the past twelve

years, there has been a complete continuity in the bureaucratic autocracy that runs the governments. The governments change, but the professors, the experts, and the super bureaucrats just pass over smoothly from one Government to another. It was Menzies who ushered in the Golden Age of Bureaucracy in this country. He turned to Professor Copland and the experts. When Menzies was ousted and Curtin took over, the Canberra experts transferred in a body to the service of the allegedly Socialist Government.

For over eight years, they served the Labor Governments faithfully. Or was it that the Labor Governments served them faithfully? There was a complete continuity in policy. Then, when it came Chifley's turn to be defeated and for Menzies to go back in nominal charge of the government of the country, the machine switched over overnight

Dr. Roland Wilson is now Fadden's principal administrative adviser, where he used to function as Chief Economic Adviser to Chifley. Dr. Coombs is now a Fadden consultant, handing him precisely the same advice as he used to hand to Chifley and Dedman. Dr. E. R. Walker graduated from W.O.I. under Dedman through service in Paris, to become the new permanent head of the National Security Resources Board. When Menzies wants advice on such problems, he turns to Professor Trevor Swan, of the National University, who used to be Chief Economist, under Coombs and Walker, to Dedman in W.O.I. Professor Crisp, who succeeded Coombs as Director-General of Post-war Reconstruction, is also close at hand as Professor of Political Science at the Canberra University. A. S. Brown, another former Director-General of Post-war Reconstruction, is now Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department.

While in Opposition, Menzies was one of the most bitter critics of the Dedman machine. But he has taken it over almost en bloc. It now functions exclusively for him — while he remains in

office. When they gave advice to Dedman, it was branded by the then Menzies-Fadden Opposition as hurdling this country to Socialisation. Now they are giving precisely the same advice to Menzies. What is it now?

On November 10, 1949, Menzies delivered the Policy Speech of the Joint Liberal and Country Parties. He based his attack primarily on the descent into Socialisation. He kicked vigorously against government by regulation. He was against rationing. He was opposed to the Socialist State, with the subordination of the individual to the

(Continued on page 7)

### 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.

**In a public address, which the Australian press practically ignored, in Texas, U.S.A., on June 15, General MacArthur said: "Insidious forces created a basis for fear by spreading false propoganda 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 Communist aims, while reacting violently to suggestions that they did so."**

The Communists are well aware of the value of the newspapers in moulding public opinion. It is not surprising, therefore, that they have concentrated upon ensuring that the press, even though it calls itself anti-Communist, furthers their policies. Many newspapermen are secret sympathisers of the Communists, while others are so shallow that they do not realise how they are being used. For some years now, we have watched with dismay the manner in which the Australian press has invariably helped Communist policies. Sections of the British and American press have been equally guilty.

In our booklet, "The Truth About Communist China," we draw attention to the manner in which Sir Keith Murdoch, of the Melbourne "Herald," and other Australian dailies had, in a special series of articles early in 1951, advocated recognition of Communist China, the complete betrayal of the Chinese Nationalist Government, and the surrender of Formosa to the Chinese Communists. This influential newspaperman, whose papers often talk about the Communist menace, was allowing himself to be used to further important Communist policies.

In a featured article in his Australian newspapers on January 18 and 19, Sir Keith Murdoch, writing from the U.S.A., again supported Communist policy in the Far East. He agreed with the British Socialists' policy of recognising Communist China, even while young British lives were being lost in the fighting against the Chinese Communists in Korea. Needless to say, he strongly criticised General MacArthur. He says that President Truman would like to dismiss Chiang Kai-shek completely. Sir Keith Murdoch expresses the opinion that "the right Anglo-American union could be achieved on this basis." We are not inferring from this that Sir Keith Murdoch is either a secret Communist or a Communist sympathiser, but he is a classic example of an influential newspaperman being used to further policies advantageous to Communist strategy. We ask students of political affairs to note that the Melbourne "Herald" invariably supports Socialist policies of centralising power. It is of interest that Sir Keith Murdoch received part of his education at the notorious London School of Economics, a Socialist institution dominated by pro-Communists like the late Professor Harold Laski. In case some reader asks is it not a fact that the Melbourne "Herald" and associated papers featured the series of articles by the ex-Communist, Cecil Sharpley, we would like to express the opinion that (a) Sharpley's articles did not deal with the most dangerous and effective Communists, the secret supporters in influential positions in the

community; and that (b), "The Herald" was as much interested in the "scoop" it obtained, and the financial benefits resulting from it, as it was in exposing Communism. Our considered opinion is that far too many newspapermen have few firm convictions about fundamentals.

But there is no doubt that many are definitely secret Communists or Communist sympathisers. In our booklet, "The Real Communist Menace," we quote Douglas Reed, the famous British publicist, who has worked on every major British newspaper except the Communist "Daily Worker," as stating: "The mob is misled much more to the Left than to the Right. The reason for this is that news-distortion as a political science is deliberately taught and practised by the Communists, as part of their totalitarian creed, so that they are more skilled in it. The Socialists, being neighbours of the Communists, are infected by it; and the Communist technique of 'infiltration' enables undeclared Communists who are sub-editors, reporters or leader-writers on professedly Socialist, Liberal, or Conservative newspapers to work underground for their cause (this is the real explanation for the Communist twist that readers often find given to the news in what they have been brought up to regard as 'Conservative' or 'Liberal' papers)."

In his book, "I Believed," Douglas Hyde, former British Communist leader and news editor of the Communist daily, "The Daily Worker" until he created a sensation by renouncing Communism in 1948, reveals how the British Communist Party was assisted during the war years by influential members of the "capitalist" press. Hyde writes: "Particularly useful to us, of course, were the Communist Party members employed in the editorial departments of Fleet Street . . . We had members working on most of the well-known papers . . . We decided that it would be useful to have a meeting of all our important Fleet Street contacts in order to discuss how the Press might be used still more to aid the Party's campaigns. One by one our most 'hush-hush' people, using the blackout as their cover, came into our top-floor premises. The atmosphere was conspiratorial; the discussion was as brief as possible, since it was obviously indiscreet for them to remain there together for a minute more than was necessary. An air-raid alert sounded. It was the signal to go, for we had previously agreed that it would be necessary to disband at once in the event of a raid, for fear that, by some unlucky chance, we should find ourselves in any sort of 'incident' and so be discovered together.

"As the sirens wailed, we all crowded together into the little lift. But the lift, hopelessly overloaded, stopped midway between floors. We pressed the button furiously. We jumped on the floor. But all

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to no purpose. Stuck there between floors, with the gates jammed, we could hear the bombers buzzing overhead. At all costs we must not be 'rescued,' that was clear, for we included in our number the chief sub editor of a daily paper, the night news editor of another, a well-known financial journalist, a couple of leading columnists—all in the company of such notoriously 'red' characters as myself and Reg. Bishop, editor of 'Russia Today.'"

—From the July issue of the Victorian League of Rights' "Intelligence Digest."

# Liberal Member Criticises Government

In his speech on the Address-in-Reply, Mr. A. Fairhall, N.S.W. Liberal M.H.R., raised the hopes of those electors who still hope that the rank and file Members of the Government Parties may yet successfully stem the drive towards Socialism, which their Party leaders are endorsing. The following are extracts from Mr. Fairhall's address:

"We are struggling with inflation and the present belief is that the withdrawal of purchasing power from the community is one of the great means of attack against inflation. I am concerned lest there should develop in the mind of the Government the idea that leaving more purchasing power than a bare minimum in the hands of the taxpayer is something of an evil . . .

"Eighteen months ago, this Government was elected to office through a great revulsion against Socialism. Making allowance for the difficulties, which have had to be faced by the Government in the last 18 months, that time has but given us the opportunity to reflect upon the ease with which Socialist ideas can take root in Liberal minds.

"Socialism does not happen as a result of an isolated act. It begins with Government intrusion into fields best left to individuals, and it ends when a thousand freedoms have been filched, one by one, from an unsuspecting democracy.

"I remind honourable members that those freedoms can be filched just as easily by a Liberal as by a Socialistic Government.

"The tremendous advances which have been made towards the Welfare State have already sapped the moral fibre of this nation, the best evidence of it being the general spirit of irresponsibility at present abroad in this country. That spirit will militate against any Government overcoming the difficulties with which we are now faced in the fields of economics and production.

"Government in business has brought increased burdens to the people, increased responsibility to members of the Cabinet, and dangerous delegation

of responsibility and control. I believe that if the process continues, it will ultimately undermine the foundations of the Parliamentary Institution.

"When the Government goes into business, it does so with capital taken from the pockets of its private enterprise competitors. Then the trend is for the Government to use its legislative powers to protect the business for which it has assumed responsibility. When that happens, we are in danger of seeing the end of impartial government. The record of the Australian National Airlines Commission offers conclusive evidence of that truth.

"During the last few years, there has been a steady growth in what we have been pleased to call orderly marketing. There are real doubts in my mind whether our many shortages and difficulties cannot be blamed on that same system of orderly marketing. The industries being controlled by Boards will ultimately pay for orderly marketing by surrendering complete control of their industry to the Government. The end result of that process is Govern-

merit to Government trading, which means that, ultimately, the right of the producer to his own produce will be lost. That is another very serious threat to democracy."

## "Social Credit and Catholicism"

By George-Henri Levesque, O.P. Professor of Economics, Laval and Montreal Universities, Dominican House of Studies, Ottawa.

Because of the rapid progress of Social Credit ideas in the French-Canadian Province of Quebec, which Major Douglas has described as having "probably the most genuine Catholic culture under the British flag," this booklet is particularly important. Mr. Eric Butler has written an excellent introduction. There is also an Appendix outlining the structure and methods of the non-Party Union of Electors in Quebec.

The author of *Social Credit and Catholicism* finishes his booklet with the following: "... if you want neither Socialism nor Communism, bring Social Credit in array against them. It will be in your hands a powerful weapon with which to fight these enemies."

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## Manufacturers Attack "Defence" Bill

The following comment by Mr. Latham Withall, Federal Director of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia, appeared in the "Canberra Letter" of July 6:

For some while, rumours had been current that Cabinet was considering re-enacting the main regimentation clauses of the wartime National Security Act. However, it was difficult to believe that a Liberal Government could seriously contemplate re-introducing measures that had become so completely discredited in the public mind, and which largely had brought about the defeat of the Chifley Government. Rank and file members of Parliament fully realised that they were substantially elected to combat the forces seeking to socialise the Australian economy under the pretext of the "defence powers."

Nonetheless, such a Bill has this week been brought down, and it contains the worst features of wartime regimentation. It provides for government by the bureaucrat instead of by Parliament. The constitutional legality of the legislation will, of course, be in grave doubt. Long and expensive litigation in the High Court is inevitable, as one section of producers after another resist the efforts of a newer and even bigger bureaucracy to interfere with, intimidate, harass and misdirect their efforts and business undertakings.

That all the steps taken under this reactionary legislation will be highly inflationary in their end result goes without saying, as it is the lesson of experience that economic controls finish up in bottlenecks, shortages and black markets.

Long and bitter experience under W.O.I. had demonstrated to every intelligent Australian that the "organising of shortages" by Government departments bring greater shortages than ever, and that every bureaucratic interference with the producers acts as a brake upon them.

It is significant that this legislation was drawn up without any consultation whatever with National producers' organisations and neither was it approved by the Liberal and Country Parties as political bodies constituting the present Government.

The bringing down of this Bill to re-establish controls over industry will gravely prejudice the prospect of a "Yes" vote on the referendum on the Communist issue.

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## *The Defence Preparations Bill*

*The Melbourne "Herald" of, July 11 published the following report from Canberra: "Despite misgivings by many members, a joint meeting of the Government Parties agreed today to support the highly controversial Defence Preparations Bill . . . Strong opposition was withdrawn only after the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, gave undertakings that the Bill's wide arbitrary powers would be used sparingly by the Executive and only in cases of dire necessity"*

*If it is true that Government Members are prepared to support this Socialist and totalitarian legislation as the result of Mr. Menzies' assurances, they are political babes who possess neither the competency nor the integrity to protect the Australian people against a conspiracy, which seeks to enslave them and their descendants. In making his so-called assurances, Mr. Menzies reveals himself clearly as a political trickster, willing to exploit the Communist menace to betray in a most brazen manner promises, which he made only a short time ago. Mr. Menzies knows as well as we do that, once his legislation is implemented, there can be no effective check upon abuses of power by the economic planners and their army of bureaucrats. It is reported that Mr. Menzies has told Government Members that the powers would only be used as "reserve powers." Only a few short years ago, Mr. Menzies and his colleagues were vigorously attacking Dr. Evatt when he promised that the vast powers he sought would only be "reserve powers," that they might not even be used.*

*Government Members who are doubtful about the Defence Preparations Bill should bear in mind that, once the Government embarks upon the policy of centralism proposed by Mr. Menzies, it will inevitably produce such problems that will pave the way for the use of more and more powers. In his second reading speech on the Bill, Mr. Menzies intimated that even manpower controls may be necessary ultimately. It is true that he said that the Government hoped that the whole community would co-operate voluntarily in the programme it proposed. But he also made it clear that, if they did not co-operate voluntarily, straight out compulsion would be applied. We desire to go on the record now as predicting that, if Mr. Menzies' programme is imposed as suggested, and there is no effective opposition, he is going to be compelled to use progressively more and more compulsion to try and continue it. "Central planning" inevitably produces excuses for the planners to extend their powers.*

*We have no doubt that the Defence Preparations Bill is part of the worldwide conspiracy being directed against the English-speaking countries. The promoters of this conspiracy are deliberately using the Communist menace, which they have helped build up, to stampede the Western countries into accepting Communist policies under anti-Communist labels. Our views on the real purpose of the Defence Preparations Bill have been inadvertently supported by Frank Chamberlain, political writer for the Melbourne "Sun," who has travelled abroad with Mr. Menzies. In "The Sun" of July 10, Mr. Chamberlain writes: "Most of the ideas behind it (the Bill) were under general discussion in Washington last year, when Mr. Menzies and the advisers who will help to administer the Bill conferred with President Truman and his advisers." Mr. Truman's "advisers" are men like Dean Acheson, friend of Communist traitor Hiss. Surely no further comment is necessary!*

## DEFEATING INFLATION

The following letter, dated July 3, to the Melbourne "Herald" was not published:

"Sir, —The Victorian Chamber of Commerce's appeal for a 'national plan' to combat inflation is most opportune. But how can the upward rise in prices be stemmed while the major cause of inflation, centralist policies pursued by Canberra Governments, is continued?"

"However, it does appear that the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, has obtained a glimpse of what is necessary when, in his recent address to the State Premiers, he suggested that Australia was trying to do too much. Excessive capital expansion, mainly by Governments, and a migration programme (also a Government responsibility), which considerably increases the demand for food, housing and other basic essentials, inevitably means an immediate lower actual or potential standard of living.

"If the Federal Government desires to give a lead to the rest of the community in tackling inflation, I suggest that it immediately stops all Governmental activities which have no immediate bearing upon defence, reduces the number of Federal employees, cuts the cost of Government, and applies the consequent savings to an extension of price subsidies on all food-stuffs.

"Mr. Latham Withall, Federal Director of the Associated Chamber of Manufacturers, indicated a realistic policy by pointing out on Monday that adequate price subsidies on foodstuffs would automatically prevent the basic wage from rising. Stabilised wage costs would help stabilise industrial costs.

Yours, etc.,

ERIC D. BUTLER,

Campaign Director, Victorian  
League of Rights.

## CORRESPONDENTS, PLEASE NOTE

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# How 'Inevitable' Was the Fate of Nationalist China?

By John Calhoun

I can remember the time in the '30's, when Freda Utley was a well-known Communist writer. Like a number of other Western "intellectuals," she has lived to see the light — after her Russian husband had disappeared in one of the numerous Soviet "purgues."

Miss Utley has an unrivalled first-hand knowledge of Chinese affairs, about which she has written two books of recent date.

In the first one, "Last Chance in China," published in '47, she gave a Cassandra's warning of the impending fall of the key country of the Far East to Communism: in this year's "China Story," she shows why the cause of freedom there was lost.

As I've said, we have here a person who really knows what she's talking about. What does she think of the official pretence that "the fate of China was inevitable"? Not much, it seems.

\*

She points — as others have done — to two decisive errors in America's China policy: First, the disgraceful secret "deal" over Yalta in '45, by which Roosevelt agreed to the revival of Russia's imperialist claims in Manchuria of the Czarist era; and, secondly, the Marshall mission of '46, when the General was so misguided as to try to force the National Government into a "popular front" coalition with its deadly enemies the Communists, who had been stabbing National China in the back all through the terrible struggle with Japan. There's always been a lot of talk about how much aid the U.S. "squandered" on the failing cause of Chiang Kai-shek. What did it really amount to?

Under Miss Utley's ruthless scrutiny, the two to four billion dollars claimed by State Department apologist dwindle like fairy gold. Her conclusion is that no more than 360 million dollars ever got to the Nationalists at all — and probably less; and a lot of it only arrived when the Reds were already masters of most of China.

It isn't to be compared with the vast aid — in the form of Japanese war material — handed over by the Russians to their Communist partners in order that they might continue the fight with the Chinese Government, to whom U.S.S.R. was bound by a formal agreement.

\*

The picture which readers of the Australian Press have received of the Kuomintang as preserving a "feudal reactionary" system is "entirely misleading," declares our author.

## 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.

She has no illusions about Chiang's regime (who has?), but she reviews the appalling political and economic problems by which it was faced — beside which those of the Western "liberated" countries, tremendous as they were, appear almost inconsiderable. One wonders what the British, or Australian, or American leaders would have been able to accomplish in such a situation, as rulers of a chaotic country, whose national political development was no more than embryonic, and whose administrative machinery and economy were in a state of hopeless collapse!

The myth of the "Agrarian reforms" of the Communists is dealt with decisively. "The Communist solution for rural overpopulation," says our author, "was simply expropriation and liquidation, terror and murder, and expulsion of the landowners and rich peasants, and the redivision of the land among the survivors. **No liberal government with any regard for justice or democratic practice could have emulated the Communists.**" (Bold mine.)

\*

Yet there are any number of "liberal" writers who are prepared to defend this sort of atrocity in the name of "social justice." They simply assume that the remedy for social ills — at least in Greece or China or Eastern Europe — is to "bump off" landlords and inconveniently wealthy people, and to grab what you need for "hand-outs." Anyone who hesitates about cutting the Gordian knot in this fashion is simply sneered at as "incapable" or "reactionary."

It would be interesting to see these people's reaction if this kind of "reform" were attempted in their own countries.

The truth is that the advocacy of "mass liquidation" remedies for backward peoples is only the latest phase in the development of the Western "race-superiority complex."

In spite of all their advertised zeal for the rights of Oriental social victims, these Leftists feel all the time that it doesn't really matter how many Asiatic "human weeds" are annihilated in the course of straightening things out.

Similarly, they think it perfectly natural — and very salutary — that contraception, abortion, and the like should be forced on these "lesser breeds" in order to arrest their disgusting and inconvenient fecundity.

I haven't space to say much more here about Freda Utley's book, but I want to mention one criticism of hers — that of Dean Acheson — in which she exposes the myth that "the remedy for Communism is social betterment" considered in materialistic terms.

"Mr. Acheson," she says, "evidently believes that the Communist menace will disappear, given 'a chicken in every pot' or a full rice bowl." (This is also the view of many on both sides of our Federal House!)

"He takes no account of the fact that there are precious few Communists in Ireland, which is one of the poorest countries in Europe; whereas prosperous

Czechoslovakia had enough of them to enable Stalin to win power."

In the U.S. Secretary of State she sees "a leading example of a particular species of American that has flourished since the early 1930's. They think of themselves as 'liberal idealists,' but they are in fact protagonists of the Marxian materialistic philosophy."

By which, of course, the lady does not mean that they are secret Communists, but that they share with the Communists the view that nothing really counts but the economic factor. They believe, in spite of the gospel, that man does live "by bread alone," especially in the Far East.

This draws them inevitably to the conclusion that the Communists are "realistic" and progressive, and to the hankering after some form of the revolution with which they can "do a deal."

Hence all the "wishful thinking" about Chinese "Titoism" and the rest of the nonsense which has prevented the adoption of the Asiatic policy based on genuine realism. — "News-Weekly."

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by Eric D. Butler

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The "don't dig" school, to say nothing of the "keep-the-soil-warm-in-winter" school, would have regarded a cottager in my native village as an apostle of sound doctrine in the days when benighted folk still followed traditional methods.

Old John's ways were looked upon as daft, yet it was universally conceded that he had the earliest radishes and lettuces, was eating peas when his neighbours were merely watching pods swell, and cut cabbages when other people's were just hearting up. Weeds, with the exception of perennials such as nettles and dandelions, did not disturb his equable mind. Crops were kept clean till they neared maturity, and then weeds were allowed to grow as they pleased. He never left soil vacant. The annual weeds, which smothered those spaces clear of crops repaid his tolerance by shielding the ground from drying winds and the parching rays of the sun. When he wanted the space, he hoed off the weeds, which he added to his muckheap. This heap took a year to build. On it he emptied, as occasion required, the contents of the earth closet, covering with a layer of soil. In May, when he began a new heap, he planted on top of the old one a marrow, which produced the gargantuan fruits so much admired in those days, and the huge foliage effectively shielded the heap, both from drying out and excessive moisture, and prevented weeds from growing.

When his dwarf beans were over, he left the haulms till he wanted the space, in August, for sowing lettuce to stand the winter. Then he cut them off at soil level (he never took roots out of the ground),

drew two drills and, after sowing the lettuce, placed the haulms and a little brushwood in a single layer over them. The young plants, thus protected through the winter in the firm soil essential for lettuce, came on early, and in spring he spread a dressing from the heap along the rows. Pea haulms remained untouched till the space was required for spring cabbages; when he removed the pea sticks, he laid haulms and brushwood along one side of the bed. With a dibber he planted his cabbages first along the centre of the row and then on either side, arranging the haulms in a tangle round the plants for protection. In March, he shovelled on top of the haulms a generous allowance of soil from the heap, and, behold, in late spring and early summer, the first and best bed of cabbages in the village, grown with next to no trouble. He sowed broad beans in rows between the cabbage stumps in October, and these afforded excellent protection to the young plants through the cold weather. When the beans started growing in earnest, he cut the stumps at soil level, chopped them into small bits, and strewed them round the plants, before smothering the whole site with a dressing from the heap.

John took special care with his onions. He used to wrap each seed separately in a tiny scrap of paper, and dropped the pellets at half-inch intervals along the drills. A practical man, he took no interest in onions of exhibition size; he wanted them for kitchen use, so thinned to only two or three inches apart, and the thinning came in handy from early spring onwards. His motto in regard to this crop was "never transplant." For edgings, polyanthuses were his choice, and he grew them magnificently, sowing the seed as soon as it was ripe.

But the star turn was the blackberry hedge, consisting of two bushes, planted ten feet apart, at the bottom of his garden. The hedge measured about thirty feet across, and was supported by stout eight-foot posts, two yards apart, to which were fastened the main stems, the size of walking sticks. Laterals and sub-laterals were cut back, so that the bushes were kept to about five feet through; otherwise they would have grown to such lengths that the fruit would have been inaccessible. The laterals required no support, but stood out in bristling splendour. That hedge was a lovely sight, continually thronged by bees from the time it first came into flower until

(Continued on page 8)

## A Selected List Of Books On Organic Farming And Gardening

- "The Minerals in Plant and Animal Nutrition" .. 3/8
- "Soil & Health" ..... 7/10  
Howard Memorial Issue. A number of writers deal with the effects of Sir Albert Howard's work on agricultural practice, and its relationship to health and disease.
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# Guard Against Excess Nitrogen

By Ruth Rodale

**Nitrogen is a peculiar element. Every plant needs some, but we are becoming more and more suspicious of its side effects on crops. It is not an element that can be absorbed in goodly amounts without immediate reactions. Let me mention just a few important reasons for being exceptionally careful about applying nitrogen-high materials.**

Adding nitrogen as chemical fertiliser often causes an increase in yields on poor soils. But this increase is at the expense of the plant mineral content. High nitrogen does not help the plant pick up more minerals; on the contrary, the same amount of minerals must be distributed through a greater amount of plant tissue. People who eat the food actually lose out because they do not get enough minerals. Check with any doctor about the large number of anemia (pernicious or borderline) cases he treats.

Apply chemical fertiliser to gladiolus with caution, say Dr. W. D. McClellan and Dr. N. W. Stuart, plant scientists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Heavy doses of nitrogen are associated with both leaf spot and bulb rot disease. The North Carolina Annual Report has more to say about nitrogen. According to Herbert and Middleton, powdery mildew on wheat is directly related to the amount of nitrogen used as a top-dressing in the spring. Even virus diseases can be traced to use of large quantities of nitrogen. Researchers noticed 100 percent infection of lettuce with mosaic virus when the crop had access to a great deal of nitrogen and a medium amount of phosphorus. Only about 12 percent infection occurred on lettuce with a diet of low nitrogen and phosphorus. Now how do plants with supposed deficiencies in minerals stave off disease, while the chemically well-fed plants don't have the same resistance?

A sturdy plant with thick walls has natural protection from disease fungi, which have a great deal more trouble hammering

their way through the tough covering. But a plant fed with a "normal" supply of nitrogen in chemical fertiliser language is a very vulnerable target. Its walls become so thin that all kinds of fungi find it an easy prey.

One of the most dangerous results of high chemical nitrogen is the reduction in vitamin content. Citrus fruits, in particular, suffer from a loss in Vitamin C, or ascorbic acid. Trees fed practically no nitrogen contained by far the most vitamin over the high-nitrogen trees. Turnip greens were troubled with the same loss of Vitamin C when tested with high-nitrogen.

It is really surprising the number of ways that large amounts of nitrogen can harm a crop. For example, the foliage may grow so dense that very little sunlight can reach the fruit. The fruits then do not colour well and are often of low grade. Peaches are especially susceptible.

Nitrogen seems to excite the plant. Its pulse rate jumps and it takes in oxygen at a tremendous rate. General metabolism is much faster, as is the respiration rate. The enzymes are then working at top speed.

The plant comes off a poor second in this nonsensical speed-up. As mentioned in the December issue of "Organic Gardening," cabbage plants actually began to decay while still growing when large amounts of chemical nitrogen fertilisers were used, probably because the enzymes were forced to be extra active.

Another big problem, particularly for fruit-growers, is the decay of fruit while in storage. Their troubles really begin when the trees are over-stimulated by urea nitrate of soda, or cyanamide. Again the enzymes are busy, causing very quick decay as soon as the fruit is picked. Davis and Hill report that the disease known as internal cork varies from 0 to 100 percent in proportion to the amount of nitrogen applied.

If you want sweet fruit, be careful of the nitrogen fertiliser that you try. Whether sugar formation is slowed up or whether the normal supply is burned up as the tree is over-stimulated, we don't quite know. But we do know that, not only is the sugar missing, but also the fruit is very acid. Possibly the sugars were broken down into acid by-products by the high amounts of oxygen that the trees breathe in.

Lastly, we would like to say something about nitrogen versus the insect population. All kinds of insects have a field day with the soft-super-luxuriant growth of high nitrogen plants. Aphids, in particular, are attracted to such plants dusted with the poison spray, calcium arsenate.

We are beginning to clarify our stand on nitrogen fertilisers. But is organic and chemical nitrogen exactly the same? Should we be as critical with dried blood, soybeans, and alfalfa as with nitrate of soda?

Since organic nitrogen does not force a plant as does chemical nitrogen, it would have much less chance to be "in excess."

Generally, the diet of the organically grown plant is balanced between the many necessary elements, and no element can be easily "in excess" when composts (or mulches) and the rock fertilisers are provided for. Although experiment stations rarely if even compare both the organic and chemical nitrogen forms in matters of excess, we can safely say that the organic gardener would hardly ever run into the problem of too much nitrogen.

—"Organic Gardening."

## More Liberal-Socialism Ahead

(Continued from page 1)

universal officialdom of government. This is what he had to say on the subject:

"We must choose our road. Upon our decision will depend the future and fate of this nation. Every extension of Government power and control means less freedom of choice for the citizen. Government activities are monopolist. No choice for the producer. No choice for the employee. No choice for the customer. The abolition of choice is the death of freedom. Having chosen the Socialist Road, to what journey's end do we come? To the Master State, the one employer, the one planner. The one controller."

Well, it seems that Menzies is now well back on the same road. What will be his journey's end? We are going back again to the Master State. The only difference will be that the figurehead will not be Dedman. It will be Menzies.

—"Century," July 6, 1951.

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"New Times," July 20, 1951 — Page 7

## NO DIGGING AND ALL THAT

(Continued from page 6)

it was loaded with huge luscious berries. Judging from his indifference to weeds elsewhere, you might imagine that John left the blackberry roots smothered in them. Not he. The wise old man kept the space scrupulously clean the whole length of the hedge, and about six feet across, so that moisture could percolate unhindered to the deep, far-reaching roots. As soon as grass cuttings became available in late spring, he collected them from anyone foolish enough to part with such treasure, and spread them six to eight inches deep the entire length and breadth of the hedge. From this hedge John picked every year thirty to forty lbs. of fruit. To reach the high branches he had to use the short steps and, though he stood on these with rock-like firmness, it was at this juncture that his wife, accompanied by her cat, usually came out to help him in her own fashion. She was a fragile-looking little woman, but in reality as tough and wiry as her husband. Picturesque in a cotton dress and sun-bonnet, both faded to an indeterminate hue, she would stand with one hand merely resting on the steps and gaze placidly at their little estate, which, at this season of the year, was well stocked with potatoes and greens for the winter. Occasionally she would glance upwards to make sure that John was not missing the best berries. Their favourite use for the fruit was a flat round tart, filled with blackberries and breadcrumbs, liberally smothered in the very dark brown Barbados sugar, and with a lid of pastry slightly thicker than the undercrust. Delicious!

—"The Countryman."

Mr. F. C. King's remarkable book, " **IS DIGGING NECESSARY**," is available from **New Times Ltd.**, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne, at 1/6 post free. Write now for your copy.

## Defence Possible Without Controls

Australia should be able to mobilise her resources to meet the threat of Communist aggression without recourse to Socialist controls.

This is the conclusion reached by the Bank of New South Wales in its May review, after an examination of the effects of rearmament upon the economy.

Dealing with problems of manpower, the bank points out that in three years' time the total strength of the armed services will be 183,000, or about five percent of the total work force, and only one-third of these will be on duty at any one time.

The loss of production due to strikes, absenteeism and power failures would easily dwarf any loss caused by these relatively small manpower demands of the Services.

Whereas during the war 39 percent of our total economic activity was being diverted, the current defence estimates of £200m. for 1951/52 will represent only 4.5 percent of our economic activity.

The real cost, therefore, is well within Australia's capacity, provided the production of basic materials, such as coal, steel and power is regular and adequate. The increased burden could readily be met by improvement in the productivity of the men and plants already available, without restrictive controls."

—"Canberra Letter," July 6.

## LEAGUE OF RIGHTS OPPOSES DEFENCE BILL

On Tuesday, July 10, the Victorian League of Rights sent the following telegram to the leaders and members of the Government Parties: —

"Strongly opposed to totalitarian Defence Preparations Bill. Will campaign publicly against legislation if Government persists. Genuine defence against real Communist conspiracy requires genuinely free society, not socialist controls."

## 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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