

THE NEW TIMES

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SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Menzies' National Socialism The Defence Preparations Act

No matter what apologists may say about the good intentions of the politicians who supported, many of them rather reluctantly, the Menzies Government's Defence Preparations Act, the fact remains that this legislation concentrates in the hands of the Canberra planners the very powers sought by Dr. Evatt when he was the Federal Attorney-General. We are not impressed with the childish argument, which suggests that the legislation cannot be socialistic if Dr. Evatt is opposing it. The critical addresses by Dr. Evatt are similar to those, which Mr. Menzies made when he was in the Opposition. Politicians must be judged by their acts, not by their words.

The Defence Preparations Act proposes naked National Socialism as an alleged alternative to Communism. The Act furthers the Socialist principle of Government by regulation. Clause 4 (1) gives vast power to the bureaucratic planners, while Clause 5 (2) means that orders made by officials do not even have to be tabled in Parliament. Because of the great importance of this National Socialist legislation, we are publishing the full text of the Act, which is as follows: —

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS Australia, in common with the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other nations associated with Australia in the British Commonwealth of Nations and in the United Nations, is pledged to support collective action for resisting international aggression:

AND WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Parliament and of the Government of the Commonwealth, there exists a state of international emergency in which it is essential that preparations for defence should be immediately made to an extent, and with a degree of urgency, not hitherto necessary except in time of war:

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include, in the first place, the raising, equipping and provisioning of the armed forces of Australia in increasing numbers and the equipping and provisioning of armed forces of other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and of the United Nations:

DEFENCE PREPARATIONS

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include also measures to secure the maintenance and sustenance of the people of Australia in the event of war and to contribute towards the maintenance and sustenance of the people of countries associated with Australia in defence preparations:

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations of Australia will include also the

expansion of the capacity of Australia to produce and manufacture goods, and to provide services, for the purposes of the defence preparations mentioned in the last two preceding paragraphs and generally for the purpose of enabling the economy of Australia to meet the probable demands upon it in the event of war:

AND WHEREAS in present circumstances the defence preparations mentioned in the preceding paragraphs cannot be carried out without the diversion of certain of the resources of Australia (including money, materials, and facilities) for use in, or in connection with, defence preparations:

AND WHEREAS the defence preparations mentioned in the preceding paragraphs cannot be carried out to the necessary extent, and, in particular, the resources of Australia cannot be diverted to the extent necessary to fulfill the requirements of defence, unless at the same time measures are undertaken for adjusting the economy of Australia to meet the threat of war and for avoiding or reducing economic dislocation or instability caused by, or impending, defence preparations:

AND WHEREAS, having regard to the foregoing, the military and economic strength necessary for the defence of Australia cannot, in the opinion of the Parliament and of the Government of the Commonwealth, be built up and maintained with sufficient expedition and effectiveness unless the Government has authority to take such measures as are from time to time required in relation to any or all of the matters mentioned in the preceding paragraphs:

BE it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows: —

1. This Act may be cited as the Defence Preparations Act 1951.

2. This Act shall come into operation on

the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

This Act extends to the Territories of the Commonwealth not forming part of the Commonwealth and, in this Act, "Australia" includes those Territories.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

4. —(1) The Governor-General may make regulations for or in relation to defence preparations.

(2). The regulations which may be made under the last preceding sub-section include, without limiting the generality of the power to make regulations conferred

(Continued on page 5)

OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups, which attack that sovereignty.

2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.

3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.

4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.

5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.

6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.

7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies, which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is verging,
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

Political Trickery

According to the Melbourne "Sun's" Canberra correspondent, Mr. Frank Chamberlain, Mr. Menzies "dispelled many party fears (concerning the Defence Preparations Act) by promising that the defence preparations regulations would also attack economic problems . . ." The most pressing economic problem confronting the Australian people today is growing inflation. If Mr. Menzies and his supporters believe that bureaucrats passing regulations can remove the basic cause of inflation, they can believe anything. Mr. Menzies' political trickery is going to find him out—and in the not very far distant future, either.

* * * *

Direction of Labor Threatens

Although the Defence Preparations Act specifically states that direction of labor is not permitted, the Act makes this possible. In fact, Government spokesmen have virtually admitted that they seek conscription of labor when they say that officials must have the power, by issuing their own orders, to close down any section of industry, which they consider "unessential." The employees of these industries will thus be compelled to seek employment in industry, which the planners deem "essential."

* * * *

"Apathy" In The U.S.A.

The Melbourne "Herald" of July 11 reports that President Truman, and Mr. Charles Wilson, head of the nation's mobilisation effort, are fighting hard to dispel public apathy, in the U.S.A. Having suffered heavy casualties in Korea without any definite victory against Communism, and seeing no constructive programme for ending the Communist menace, it is not surprising that the Americans are becoming "apathetic." What is probably nearer the truth is the fact that the Americans are not keen for any more of the centralised controls being imposed by President Truman and his advisers like Dean Acheson.

* * * *

Arrogance

I rarely go to Canberra, for obvious reasons, but I went down last week. As one who has seen a number of Governments come and go, I couldn't help but notice the arrogance of the Government.

Even in the days of 1943, when the Labor Government, in the middle of a war period, had an immense majority, members in question time received a great deal more courtesy, and more information in reply to their questions, than they do today.

This Government, whose members were full of reverence for Parliamentary government and the rights of Members, when in Opposition, seem to have forgotten all about them.

The two notable exceptions to the rule are Townley (Social Services) and Kent Hughes (Interior), both of whom gave their questioners courtesy.

The tempo of most of the other Ministers seems to be based on that of the

Prime Minister, whose refusal to answer a reasonable question by Eddie Ward, the week before last, and whose ruthless use of the gag in important debates, has indicated a desire to give the Parliament of the country as little say as possible.

This, combined with the obnoxious features of the Defence Preparations Act, and his attempt to set up a Police State after a referendum, which he will endeavour to have taken in an atmosphere of panic and hysteria, has some of his own supporters worried.

—Frank Browne, in "Things I Hear," July 10, 1951.

* * * *

Blind Faith

"Whatever personal or sectional feelings arise about the Defence Preparations Bill, it must be accepted that the Government is in the best position to decide whether the situation warrants it. Mr. Menzies has, or should have, full contact at the highest and deepest levels with the best sources of information as to how dangerous the world situation is and how near to war we may be. He must be trusted both to apply the new Act with a sparing discretion and to wipe it out as soon as the necessity for it passes. He must also be trusted not to use it for purposes of legislating permanently by regulation. Even if he is wrong in his assumptions about the necessity for immediate defence powers, his sincerity must be taken for granted."

—"The Sydney Bulletin," July 18.

The above is a typical example of the nauseating hypocrisy of so-called anti-Socialists who are desperately trying to prove that the Menzies Government's legislation for more centralised controls is not Socialism. "The Sydney Bulletin" is always talking about the decay of the independent spirit in Australia. But now it asks Australians to have blind faith in every thing Mr. Menzies does. Mr. Menzies is on record as having declared himself "a practical Socialist," and as having said that the electors would accept legislation from his Party, which they would not accept from the Labor Party.

* * * *

Jewish Influence In Russia

Press reports concerning the lavish wedding of Stalin's only daughter, Svetlana, to Colonel Mihail Kaganovich, neglected to point out that the groom's aunt, Rosa Kaganovich, was Stalin's third wife and that his father, Lazar Kaganovich, is a Ukrainian Jew and one of the most powerful men in Soviet Russia. The new marriage provides further evidence of Jewish influence in Soviet ruling circles.

CORRESPONDENTS, PLEASE NOTE

The recent increase in postage charges has immediately increased considerably the growing burden of costs, which "The New Times" has been struggling with for a long time. We therefore ask all correspondents to help lighten the burden by providing a stamped and addressed envelope when they write requesting any information or advice.

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"SCIENTIFIC" FOOD PRODUCTION

Writing in "Reynolds News" (England), Communist Professor J. B. Haldane says: "I picture a food factory in the future as something like this. At the top of a slowly moving stream of water, carefully tested algae are put up. The stream flows under glass, supplied with air enriched with carbon dioxide from a lime kiln. Every few yards sterilised sewage is added. At the end of a week's or month's flow, depending on the intensity of the sunlight, the algae are spun out of the water, cooked, and tinned, making a greenish, cheesy kind of food . . ."

"Scientific Progress"!

The following extracts from Mr. Charles Morgan's book, "Liberties of the Mind," provide frightening evidence of possible techniques for controlling the human mind as predicted by Aldous Huxley in his famous "Brave New World":

"... , An unexpected visit to my house by an American physicist . . . was the occasion of [the essays] being gathered together. His conversation forced me to understand that power over the mind was being developed further, and was assuming a more concrete form, than I had supposed . . . "Great progress had already been made in 'the psychological field.' With what object? Well, in the first place, it might become possible to cut short the educational process. Instead of putting a child down to learn things for years and years, you'd recondition selected areas ('areas' was not the word) of his brain, so's he'd learn quicker what he wanted to learn.

"Or what others wanted him to learn? I asked.

"My visitor agreed briefly, without taking my point . . ."

In a footnote, Mr. Charles Morgan says he submitted his sentences about psychiatry to "a practising master of the Subject," who wrote, at the end of a statement of some length (which is cited) the following, which the novelist underlines: —

" 'But the other fact, to my mind a more alarming one, is that we are all being conditioned to accept a limitation of freedom, even of some of our mental freedom. Some are aware of it and try, consciously, to resist. But I fear that, unconsciously, even we are ready to accept this new infection, which would not have harmed us before 1939. There is no such immunity in the great mass of our people and no consciousness of danger. They lap up the virus as though it were milk. One can think of many ways in which the population as a whole is being conditioned or prepared for this mental change, this loss of individuality and identity.' I have underlined this passage because it is a re-statement by a man of science of the theme of this book."

Further report concerning the young American reads: —

"A French scientist, he said, was reported to have made an extremely interesting experiment with a frog's egg. . . . A frog's egg had outside it five areas or fields of energy which were electrically distinguishable and measurable . . . These fields had been found to correspond with the head and the four legs of the ultimately resulting frog. The Frenchman had found a means of neutralising (this is the word my friend used but he was probably making things easy for me)—of neutralising one of these fields. The egg was hatched. The tadpole appeared to be normal, but the resulting frog had but three legs.

"If, my visitor argued, you could neutralise a leg before hatching, why not afterwards? If a leg, why not the head? If the head, why not the brain? If the brain, why not a part of the brain?"

"And if, I asked, it is possible by electrical process to neutralise a selected part of the brain, to empty it of what it would otherwise have contained and to sweep and garnish it and, so to speak, recondition it?"

"Why, yes, that was the whole point. It was a long way off: To put the mind 'out' was one thing. Drugs and electric shock could do that. To put 'out' a selected part of the mind would be a great advance, but might well be within reach. To put a mind 'in' was an altogether different story and might be far away. But yes—that was the point ultimately. It was what he'd been thinking of when he spoke of education. A great deal might be done, for example, to correct mental deficiency, to counteract faults of heredity, or to 'effect a worthwhile substitution for criminal trends.'

"What it all boils down to," he added,

'is a long hope of turning bad citizens into good.'

"Interpreting my silence as doubt of the power of nuclear physics, he looked across the room and said: 'Ultimately, of course, I don't suppose I shall live to see it.'

"I said I feared that he might.

" 'Fear?' he exclaimed. 'Why do you fear it?'

" 'Because,' I answered, 'I don't want to put it into anyone's power to turn a child into a hyena.'

" 'Oh,' he said, with a smile, 'they're mostly that already,' but added: 'Of course, I agree: any progress is open to abuse. But you can't bar progress for that reason. If you do, you don't get any place.'"

"THE REAL COMMUNIST MENACE"

by Eric D. Butler

Price 1/9d, post-free.

In view of the widespread interest in the Canadian Royal Commission's Report on Communist espionage and other activities, this booklet, the main portion of which is the most important section of the Canadian Report, should be given the greatest possible circulation.

Only a limited edition of this booklet has been published, so readers desirous of obtaining copies should order immediately.

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Does It Fit The Facts? . . .

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

Socialism no Barrier to Communism

The following letter, by Mr. Eric D. Butler, Campaign Director of the Victorian League of Rights, has been sent to the Melbourne press and all papers in the Deakin electorate:

Delivering the Joint Liberal and Country Party policy speech on November 10, 1949, Mr. Menzies said: "Every extension of Government power and control means less freedom of choice for the citizen. Government activities are monopolist." As one of the first steps necessary for checking inflation, Mr. Menzies promised a "drastic reduction in the burden of Government." Mr. Menzies also promised "We will resist the return of oppressive Government control of all kinds." The central theme of Mr. Menzies' 1951 policy speech was a "fair go" to implement the 1949 policy.

But now the Federal Government has rushed through the Federal Parliament its Defence Preparations Bill, which repudiates all pre-election promises to destroy Socialism. The Government attempts to defend this repudiation by claiming that the Communist menace has been responsible. But did not the Communist conspiracy exist when the anti-Socialist pro-

mises were made? So far from Socialist controls being a genuine defence against the Communist conspiracy, they help further the conspiracy.

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 book, "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 without, we transform our society imperceptibly into an apparatus of totalitarianism indistinguishable in essence from Soviet Russia. . . ."

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MORE CENTRALISM

Although Mr. Menzies seeks to create the impression that he and his fellow politicians are not going to allow the bureaucrats to abuse the great powers given them in the Defence Preparations Act, he cannot dispute the fact that the bureaucrats have, over the past eighteen months, destroyed his 1949 election promise that he would "reduce the burden of government." The bureaucrats have a vested interest in increasing wherever possible the power of the central Government. It will be impossible to prevent the bureaucratic army and its Socialist generals from becoming progressively bigger and more powerful while present policies of centralism are continued. Any politician who suggests the contrary is either a knave or a fool.

Instead of dealing with the problems resulting from centralism by disgorging power, Mr. Menzies merely furthers the programme of the destruction of responsible Government by creating a new Minister. Attacking the proposal in the Federal Parliament, Professor Bland, who had previously shown his courage and integrity by attacking the Defence Preparations Bill and by refusing to vote with his Party on the legislation, said: "This Bill is another attack upon the Federal system and another illustration of our readiness to take over the views of the Opposition and extend them when we have the opportunity of taking the reins of power. We should keep to our principles."

But it is now clear for all to see, that the present Federal Government has betrayed every major pre-election promise made, including the assurance that it could and would defeat inflation. We know that Professor Bland is worrying the Party leaders, and that, as time goes on, his stand on principles will cause increasing uneasiness among rank and file Government Members who are opposed to Government policies but who yet have not the courage to defy them. We suggest that our readers could play a vital role at present by writing to Federal Government Members, and getting friends and associates to do likewise, criticising the betrayal of anti-Socialist promises, and demanding that action be taken to force the Government to retrace its steps before complete totalitarianism becomes a grim reality.

Persia and the Kremlin

Among the books, which were given this year's Stalin Prize, there is one novel by Mirza Ibrahimov, with the title "The Day Will Come," which has as background the happenings of the last six years in Persia. The hero of the story, a young student, sympathises with the nationalist Tudeh Party, but cannot as yet bring himself to join their clandestine activities. "I am willing to co-operate with you," he tells them, "but can you prove to me that you are an independent group, and that you receive no orders from the Soviet embassy?" Needless to say, this proof is quickly forthcoming, and, in a happy ending, the young man joins the "Persian Forces of Tomorrow," with his conscience at ease.

The story is characteristic of the Kremlin's attitude to the nationalist movements in the near and Middle East. The Communist Tudeh party has now asked the Persian Government to give it official recognition, besides emphasising that the Persian people will not fight against the Soviet Union, and will not allow its sons to be sacrificed in the interests of the Anglo-American warmongers. These demands are part of an "Open Letter" addressed to the Persian premier, Dr. Moussadek, which has been given wide circulation by the Tass agency, by Moscow radio, and by the clandestine Azerbaijani radio, and it is not surprising that Dr. Moussadek lives in constant fear of assassination even behind the locked doors of the Majlis.

The extremist Moslem organisation, "Fidayan Islam," has also been active, and, although there have been splits among its leaders and the commanders of terrorist groups, this organisation, which is accused of the murder of the former Premier, Razmara, is doing much to stir up trouble against the weak Government. Syed Mojtaba Navab Safavi, its leader, declared when interviewed by a correspondent of "Le Monde":

"I have hundreds of thousands of followers, and if I give the order, five thousand men will at once give their lives for our cause. Whoever is against our ideas will be exterminated."

The poor correspondent was then dismissed with these words:

"Why the hell do you wear a tie? That is the practice of corrupt imperialists. Are you in such a hurry to have a rope round your neck? The moment has not yet come . . ."

It is against this background of terrorisation that the nationalisation question must be seen. It can no longer be discussed in legal terms, or in terms of social improvements by nationalisation or non-nationalisation; nor will it do to exact declarations for the West, like those made by the students of Teheran university, when all the time there is this certainty of a different political reality. An analysis of Soviet propaganda to the pro-Communist Persian elements shows that, even though Moscow may do nothing to bring matters to a head, Persia is considered by them a ripe fruit, which sooner or later will fall inevitably into their hands.

Menzies' National Socialism

(Continued from page 1)
by that sub-section regulations for or in relation to—

- (a) the expansion of the capacity of Australia to produce or manufacture goods, or to provide services, for the purposes of defence preparations or for the purpose of enabling the economy of Australia to meet the probable demands upon it in the event of war;
 - (b) the diversion and control of resources (including money, materials and facilities) for the purposes of defence preparations;
 - (c) the adjustment of the economy of Australia to meet the threat of war or the avoidance or reduction of economic dislocation or instability caused by, or impending, defence preparations; and
 - (d) measures to secure the maintenance and sustenance of the people of Australia in the event of war or to contribute towards the maintenance and sustenance of the people of countries associated with Australia in defence preparations.
- (3). Nothing in this section authorises the making of regulations—
- (a) imposing taxation;
 - (b) with respect to the borrowing of money on the public credit of the Commonwealth;
 - (c) for or in relation to the compulsory direction of labor; or
 - (d) imposing any form of, or extending any existing obligation to render, compulsory naval, military or air force service.

ORDERS

5.—(1). The regulations may empower a person to make orders providing for any matter, which may be provided for by the regulations.

(2). Orders made under the regulations shall not be deemed to be Statutory Rules within the meaning of the Rules Publication Act 1903-1939.

(3). The provisions of section forty-eight (except paragraphs (a) and (b) of sub-section (1), and sub-section (2),) and of section forty-nine of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1950 apply, by force of this section, to orders made under the regulations which are of a legislative character in like manner as those provisions apply to regulations.

(4). The Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1950 applies, by force of this section, to the interpretation of orders made under the regulations in like manner as it applies to the interpretation of regulations, and,

for the purposes of section forty-six of that Act, orders so made shall be deemed to be regulations.

(5). Where the regulations confer power to make orders, that power includes, unless the contrary intention appears, power, exercisable in the like manner and subject to the like conditions (if any), to repeal, revoke, amend or vary an order so made.

6. An order made under the regulations shall take effect—

- (a) in the case of an order required by the regulations to be published in the "Gazette"—on the date of publication; and
- (b) in any other case—on the date on which the order is made, or on such later date as is specified in the order.

7.—(1). A document purporting to be an instrument made or issued by a Minister or by any other authority or person in pursuance of a provision contained in, or having effect under, the regulations, and to be signed by or on behalf of the Minister, authority or person, shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be an instrument made or issued by the Minister, authority or person.

(2). Evidence of such an instrument may, in any legal proceedings (including arbitrations), be given by the production of a document purporting to be certified to be a true copy of the instrument by, or on behalf of the Minister, authority or person having power to make or issue the instrument.

OFFENCES

8.—(1). A person who contravenes, or fails to comply with, a provision of the regulations or of an order made under the regulations is guilty of an offence against this Act.

(2) An offence against this Act may be prosecuted either summarily or upon indictment but an offender is not liable to be punished more than once for the same offence.

(3). The penalty for an offence against this Act is—

- (a) if the offence is prosecuted summarily—a fine not exceeding Two hundred and fifty pounds or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both; or
- (b) if the offence is prosecuted upon indictment—a fine not exceeding Five thousand pounds or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

(4). An offence against this Act shall not be prosecuted summarily without the written consent of the Attorney-General or of a person authorised in writing by the Attorney-General to grant consent and an offence against this Act shall not be prosecuted upon indictment except in the name of the Attorney-General.

(5). In addition to any other punishment the court may, if it thinks fit, order the forfeiture of any money or goods in respect of which an offence against this Act has been committed.

9. Where a person is obliged to answer questions orally by virtue of a regulation or order in force by virtue of this Act, or

by virtue of a requirement made under such a regulation or order, he shall not refuse to answer a question on the ground that the answer may tend to incriminate him or to make him liable to a penalty, but the answers given by him are not admissible in evidence in proceedings against him other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of the answers or in respect of a refusal or failure to answer a question.

10. A power given by or in pursuance of this Act or the regulations, or by or in pursuance of an order or other instrument made or issued in pursuance of this Act or the regulations, is in addition to, and does not derogate from, any other power.

DELEGATION OF POWERS

11.—(1). A Minister may, in relation to a matter or class of matters, or in relation to a particular part of Australia, by writing under his hand, delegate all or any of his powers and functions under the regulations, so that the delegated powers or functions may be exercised by the delegate with respect to the matter or class of matters or the part of Australia, specified in the instrument of delegation.

(2). A delegation under this section is revocable at will and no delegation prevents the exercise of a power or function by the Minister.

PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO COURTS

12. Regulations under section four of this Act may—

- (a) confer original jurisdiction on the High Court in any matter arising under the regulations;
- (b) define the jurisdiction of any federal court, other than the High Court, with respect to any matter arising under the regulations;
- (c) invest any court of a State with federal jurisdiction, or confer jurisdiction on a court of a Territory of the Commonwealth, with respect to any matter arising under the regulations; and
- (d) prescribe the number of Judges by which the federal jurisdiction of any court with respect to any matter arising under the regulations may be exercised.

13.—(1). This Act shall continue in operation until the thirty-first day of December, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three, or until such earlier date as is fixed by Proclamation, and no longer.

(2). When this Act ceases to be in operation it shall be deemed to have been repealed and the provisions of section eight of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1950 shall have effect accordingly.

SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF SUEZ

By DOUGLAS REED—14/5

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 Mysterious Protocols. 2/9

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

The International Jew. . 2/9

By Eric D. Butler.

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



Can the British Empire Feed Itself?

In an article in its June issue, 1951, "Housewives Today," the British Housewives' outspoken journal, deals with a question asking whether the British Empire can be self-supporting. The article is as follows:

This is a subject on which we did a great deal of work in 1949. The figures of a potential production do not exist, and care is taken that no reliable estimates shall be widely published.

In our own country, for instance, there is not the least doubt that productive capacity increased tremendously during the war. On April 19 last, Mr. Granville, M.P., asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would consider the setting up of a judicial enquiry into the assessed value of the real credit of this country, in the form of productive capacity and production, in order to see how this information could be used to lower prices, costs, rates, taxes and Death and Estate duties.

Mr. Douglas Jay: No, Sir.

Readers may consult any reliable textbook of Geography, and discover that the area of Canada is nearly three and a quarter million square miles. The population is rising above thirteen million. Almost the whole area is a temperate forest or grassland.

According to a Canadian Government graph, published in 1948, and of which we possess a copy, the total income from sales of farm products in Canada in 1928 was 1,000 million dollars. Of this, more than half was grain. At the beginning of the 1930's, there was a world slump, deliberately brought about by the money interests.

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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Canadian farmers were almost drowned in their own products, and many became entirely bankrupt. Receipts fell to under 400 million dollars, and receipts for grain to only just over 100 million dollars. Things improved very little until the war was in sight. In 1939, the total receipts were 800 million dollars. In a spectacular increase, which appears like a miracle in the graph, production more than doubled itself by the year 1943, topping 1,800 million dollars. From that time, there was a steady decline. In a determination to get to the bottom of this matter, the Scottish Housewives' Association addressed a letter to the Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, Canadian Minister of Agriculture. The reply received we have always considered of the first importance. For reasons of space only, the opening paragraph is omitted here: —

"... The war came in 1939. Our constitution gives the central Government authority to take absolute control during wartime. We therefore had the authority to enter into agreements with Britain to deliver any particular quantity of food and the authority to go and get it wherever it happened to be and deliver it. The result was that we entered into agreements from 1939 until 1944, under which we increased annually the deliveries of bacon from about 170 million pounds prior to the war to over 700 million pounds in the middle of the war; we increased our cheese deliveries from about 76 million pounds before the war to double that amount in the middle of the war; we increased our egg deliveries from one million dozen before the war to 86 million dozen: we increased our cattle deliveries from about 40 thousand head to over 500 thousand head to Europe, between three to four hundred thousand head of which went to Britain. We were supplying, and still are, about 60 percent of Britain's wheat requirements, whereas shortly before the war we were probably supplying about 40 percent.

"This all came about while you had a Coalition Government in Britain prosecuting the war, and with Government to Government trade.

"About 1943 or 1944, the British Government, which was then the Coalition Government with Lord Woolton as the Minister, sent representatives to this country to indicate that we could not expect to have this market in Great Britain at the end of the war. I was personally told by a Minister of the British Government that the arrangements which had been entered into with

(Continued on page 7)

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Can the British Empire Feed Itself?

(Continued from page 6)

European and other countries following the 1932 Ottawa Agreements would be carried out if possible at the end of the war. It was suggested that Canada would have to make arrangements to fall back into the position where our quota would be sent from year to year, and would depend upon hard and fast agreements to deliver certain quantities. We naturally raised objection to this line of policy, but got nowhere, and were forced to shift our production to meet the situation, which was developing from time to time. Up until this change came about, we were able to make agreements with Britain, which called for the production of greater and greater quantities of different food products and then urged our farmers to produce to meet the requirements of the agreement. When the policy changed, we were compelled to try to work out the amount, which we could absolutely guarantee that we would ship, and then say to the farmers, 'You had better not exceed it or you may find difficulty in marketing your product.'

"I think you will realise that a change in policy of that kind was bound to affect the amount which we would have to supply. It is therefore scarcely correct to say that our quantities were cut down because Canada could not produce. Our quantities were cut down partly because we were led to believe that there would not be a market for the full quantity of certain commodities and, therefore, we had better start to reduce the production. At the same time as we reduced the production of those commodities and increased the production of something else which we could sell some other place, the purchasing power of our own people was so improved that they could take up the surplus. We naturally agreed to reduce the figure in the contract, and sometimes we were unable to meet it because our people were being encouraged to reduce

rather than increase production of those certain lines.

"My own opinion is that, if we started out to do so, with every encouragement from the United Kingdom to attempt it, we could produce 350 million pounds a year of bacon for Britain. Our contract calls for about half that amount, and we will not be able to fill it. We could be supplying Britain with 80 million dozen of eggs a year; we are not supplying her with any fresh eggs. Our fresh eggs are all going to the United States, and Britain would prefer that we were not supplying her with any eggs.

"The fact is that, almost two years ago, representatives came from Britain to this country and said that they did not wish to take delivery of any of our farm products excepting wheat. We said that, under those circumstances, it would be necessary for us to charge the full world price for our wheat. It was then suggested that the dollar position required that we get our supplies to Britain provided for in the contract, down to the lowest point at which our position could be satisfied through increasing sales to the United States or elsewhere. We worked out a plan, based upon this idea. A year ago, Mr. Cripps himself came and suggested that they were only prepared to buy wheat and cheese, and indicated that it would suit their purpose best if we could cancel all other contracts. We insisted upon having contracts on some other commodities, and agreed to reduce the quantities as low as possible. We have not been delivering much bacon, partly because every effort has been made not to embarrass the British by supplying more than they can find dollars to pay, and partly because we are finding markets for our meat elsewhere, either in Canada or the United States. We will, however, have supplied all the cheese, which our contract calls for by the end of next week, and Britain refuses to take any more cheese, in spite of the fact that we could supply probably twenty million pounds more.

"We have been trying to co-operate with the British Government, both as previously constituted and as now constituted, to meet a difficult situation. I do not think it is proper to suggest that Britain is buying all the food products from us, which we can supply, nor do I think it would be proper for us to say that Britain has created any hardship for Canada up to the present, because she has not been prepared to accept more of our products.

"I trust, however, that, as time goes by some satisfactory trade formula will be found which makes it possible for Canada to sell all the surplus food that she can produce, other than wheat, in our natural market, the United Kingdom. We could only supply a portion of the United Kingdom requirements, but we can never supply the

THE GENTRY

"Despite their faults, the landed gentry had great virtues. Bright among these was the strong sense of public duty, even though it might not always extend to popular education."

—Paul Sears, in "Deserts on the March,"

proportion that we ought to supply if we must go to our producers in advance and suggest that 'if you produce more than a certain quantity for the British market, and thus have a surplus remaining on your own market, you are going to be asked to take less than your cost of production for your products.'

"I trust that this answers satisfactorily the questions which are in your mind."

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JAMES G. GARDINER,
Canadian Minister of
Agriculture.

September 1949.

ONE RESULT OF MYXOMATOSIS

Regular readers of these pages will recall that we have expressed doubts about the use of the virus myxomatosis in an attempt to destroy rabbits. We pointed out that experience teaches that the use of disease to kill animals is liable to have far-reaching and unforeseen effects. We were particularly interested, therefore, to read reports that where myxomatosis was used extensively on the Lower Darling, "ravenously hungry" foxes, unable to get any rabbits to eat, are relentlessly attacking new season's lambs. One pastoral inspector expresses the opinion that approximately 75 percent of lambs will be destroyed in the Lower Darling areas. Foxes are also attacking sheep, which are in any way weak. This news provides further confirmation of our contention that, once man destroys the balance of nature, disaster is the inevitable result. We have not the slightest doubt that the rabbit problem could be seriously reduced if approached with realism. It has been pointed out to us that the smaller farmer who is working his property intensively is much more successful in dealing with rabbits. He regards the few rabbits that he has as good food for his dogs. Or he may eat them himself.

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"New Times," July 27, 1951 — Page 7

Figures Show Trend to Centralisation

The rapid growth of centralisation was emphasised in the figures supplied at Canberra in answer to a question by Labor M. H.R., Stan. Keon.

The number of houses completed and under construction at 30th April 1951, in each of the States was as

	(a) Capital Cities	(b) Provincial Cities	(c) Other Areas	Total
State New South Wales	14,873	2,676	3,129	20,678
Victoria	9,783	2,166	3,957	15,906
Queensland	3,144	840	306	4,260
Western Australia	4,174	714	881	5,769
Tasmania.....	947	591	176	1,714
Total.	32,891	6,987	8,449	48,327

Urban areas taken as "provincial cities" are: Newcastle, Pt. Kembla - Wollongong, Cessnock, Maitland, Lismore, Grafton, Bathurst, Lithgow, Orange, Goulburn, Tamworth, Wagga, Albury, Broken Hill in New South Wales; Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Horsham, Maryborough, Ararat, Hamilton, Warrnambool, Sheppar-ton, Wangaratta, Sale, in Victoria; Ipswich, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, in Queensland; Albany, Boulder, Bunbury, Northam, Geraldton, Collie, in Western Australia; Launceston, Devonport, Burnie in Tasmania.

"ROOTLESS PERSONS"

Dr. Martin-Leake's letter on an agrarian policy is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the fundamental causes of unrest, which is found wherever there exists a mass of rootless persons, owning nothing, with no stake in their country and consequently nothing to lose. These are simply "Communist fodder."

Unfortunately, an enlightened agrarian policy which would be the antidote to this state of affairs is—with the best intentions in the world—a supremely difficult thing to evolve for a country like our own, which has industrialism in its bones. That overworked and unfortunate example — the groundnuts scheme — illustrates this.

The illusion that in big industry is to be found the salvation of all peoples has infiltrated, too, into the minds of the new leaders of newly emancipated races; Gandhi feared this for India, and his forebodings were justified.

It is not only in the territories mentioned by Dr. Martin-Leake that the evils of an unbalanced industrialism (for mass-methods in agriculture are akin to industrialism) are to be found. Our own country is suffering from a preponderance of the very sort of people whose status Dr. Martin-Leake deplors as being a menace to any nation's well-being: "dependent only upon their wages, standing to lose little by striking but being in a position to hold the whole territory to economic ransom." An agrarian policy would seem to be needed in this country, too.

It is a constant source of wonder how France, with its erratic form of government, weathers the storms without national disaster. May it not be because in France 40 percent of the population work on, and largely own, the land? Politicians and agitators may do their worst in the towns, but the stabilising effects of this agricultural population going steadily about

their business of producing real wealth keep the country on an even keel by keeping it from want.

This country has only 5 percent of its population producing real, primary wealth from that source of all wealth—the soil. It seems plain where the weakness of our position—and the poverty of our diet-lies.

—Miss Winifred Walshe, in "The Daily Telegraph" (England), March 29, 1951.

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