

# THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1951.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

## Credit Restriction Means Depression

Writing in the Melbourne "Sun" of August 9, Canberra correspondent Mr. Frank Chamberlain, who is usually well informed on proposed Government policies and who advocates these policies, comments upon the secret banking conference held last week: "Tomorrow will be the first time that a Federal Government in a monetary crisis has been able to meet the bank leaders, knowing that it has strong power over the banking system through the Chifley banking legislation of 1945 . . . With the exception of the decision to appoint a Commonwealth Bank Board — personnel of which will be announced within the next three weeks — the present Government has adopted the Chifley banking policy."

Time has demonstrated the truth of what we warned about even when the fight on bank nationalisation was raging fiercely; that unless the 1945 banking legislation was also defeated, centralised Government control of the banking system would be achieved irrespective of what happened about the bank nationalisation proposals. No one can honestly deny the fact that the trading banks are now virtually nationalised; their policies are decided by the Commonwealth Bank. And the policies of the Commonwealth Bank are the policies of Socialist Dr. Coombs and his fellow planners. Mr. Frank Chamberlain also writes: "Limits to restrict speculation are likely on general overdraft policy. This may be done by charging higher rates for overdrafts and reducing existing limits by a substantial percentage. The Government's economic advisers have insisted for some time that these elements of secondary inflation can be met under the Commonwealth's existing financial powers."

It is clear that both Mr. Menzies and Sir Arthur Fadden are helpless in the hands of the Socialist "experts." Or are they willing partners in the mounting Socialist offensive against the Australian people? Perhaps Mr. Menzies and his Treasurer don't know very much about the credit system—we are being charitable—but Dr. Coombs knows as well as we do that any serious curtailment in the expansion of financial credit must soon result in economic disaster. In advocating a policy of general credit restriction, allegedly to deal with inflation, Dr. Coombs is therefore deliberately seeking to produce economic disaster. If it is pleaded that Dr. Coombs and his fellow "experts" have no such conscious intentions, then they are equally dangerous because they are ignorant men wielding enormous powers. No individual should possess such power over other individuals.

Why should the Socialist planners desire economic chaos and crisis? Because they

know that only in a crisis can they stampe the people and the politicians into accepting further totalitarian controls. A policy of credit restriction will, if persisted with, start to reproduce the conditions experienced during the Great Depression. The great danger is that the outcry from the people will be exploited to increase centralised control. Credit will be made available only for what the planners like to describe as "essentials." There will be no need for open direction of labour, because those

### Banking Policy

We have persistently claimed that the Menzies Government's banking policy is basically the same centralised policy as that pursued by the Labor Government. The following two statements by Labor Members during the parliamentary debate on the Commonwealth Bank Bill, 1951, make this clear:

"... the powers of the Commonwealth Bank as a central bank enable it to determine the credit policy of every trading bank."

—Dr. H. V. Evatt on July 3.

"Those who control the affairs of this country at the present time have changed their policy. This bill will maintain in operation many of the major reforms that were made by the Chifley Government in 1945. When those reforms were being discussed, the present Treasurer and other members of the Government parties condemned them throughout the length and breadth of Australia as the first step towards socialism and a police state, but, except in relation to a few matters, this measure is designed to maintain those reforms, which were so vigorously condemned by those who really formulate the policy of this Government. I refer to the private banking and other vested interests of this nation."

—Mr. Daly on July 3.

seeking employment will only be able to obtain it if it is in the "essential" industries, which will, of course, be developed at the location decided upon by the planners. We said at the time of the bank nationalisation fight, and we repeat it now, that the only effective answer to centralised control of credit policy is decentralised control in the hands of the individuals who are the community. The volume of credit in the community should be governed by the facts of production and consumption not by the arbitrary decisions of planners. If there is a deficiency which prevents

(Continued on page 5)

### OUR POLICY

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

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

WHITTIER.

# The Alternative to "Full Employment"

The essence of Douglas's view ... is that the monetary system should not be used as an instrument of policy at all, and particularly that it should not be used to enforce a policy of "full employment." The true nature of a monetary system should be that of an accounting system, and, as such, it should reflect the physical facts; and these are dominated by the fact that every harnessed horsepower of energy is capable of replacing ten man-hours of "employment." Now, if we consider a country starting industrialisation from scratch, the present monetary system, by removing from consumers (workers) all the money they receive, whether this is paid for work on capital, intermediate, or consumer goods, ensures that the workers must continue working, and, in particular, that they must continue working on capital production in order to ensure the distribution of consumer goods.

But the limit of industrialisation would be a system where all production was achieved by fully automatic and self-renewing machinery, with manpower completely displaced, and then there would be no mechanism for distributing purchasing power in return for employment. While this limiting condition is unlikely ever to be reached, we obviously lie somewhere between the two limits of no industry and fully automatic industry, and are moving towards the latter; and, if the true benefits of machine power are to be distributed, there must be a distribution of purchasing-power which does not depend on employment, and does not enter into, and inflate, prices. That is to say, once the basis of industrialisation is laid, the process of further industrialisation should be slowed down; otherwise, we are merely sacrificing this generation to some succeeding generation, which will reap the benefits when the rate of industrialisation is slowed down.

The most faithful reflection of this situation would be the steady increase in the

purchasing power of the unit of money, which could be achieved just as automatically as the depreciation of money is achieved under the present policy. Such an appreciation of the value of money would pass on to the consumer directly and smoothly the increasing benefits of improvement of process, and would bring about a transition to that age of leisure which machine-power replacing labour should make possible. It is this, as opposed to "full employment," which Douglas's proposals are designed to secure.

The existing monetary system delivers a relative trickle of consumer goods, and progressively diverts labour into an expanding programme of capital production, and production for export; and that is "full employment." . . . What is certain is that the general public considers it is pragmatically undesirable — hence the strikes for shorter hours and higher wages, and the social friction generally. There is an ever-growing discrepancy between the actual and the possible standard of living; and the real depressant of the standard of living is excessive capital production. . . .

—Bryan W. Monahan, in "The Australian Social Creditor," July 3, 1948.

## Does It Fit The Facts? 5/-

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

### 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.

## Menzies Ignores Communist Influence in A.B.C.

The following is from Federal "Hansard" of July 4, 1951:

Mr. MULLENS. —Did the Prime Minister hear the Australian Broadcasting Commission discussion group broadcast on Communist China, which was transmitted from the national stations on Monday, the 2nd July, 1951, at 8.40" p.m.? Is the right honorable gentleman aware that of the three speakers who participated in the discussion group, not one uttered any criticism of the policies of the Chinese Communist regime but that on the contrary each speaker was enthusiastically in favour of the regime and based his statements on the now exploded views that the Chinese Communists are simply agrarian reformers and that Communist Russia does not control the policies of the Chinese Communists? Does the Prime Minister also know that two of the three speakers were the notorious "party liners", Dr. Peter Russo, of the Melbourne "Argus," and Mr. C. P. Fitzgerald, of the School of Oriental Studies in the National University? Can the right

honorable gentleman explain why it is that persons who hold views of this kind can always find an outlet for their expression through the Australian Broadcasting Commission whilst the opposing viewpoint rarely, if ever, finds expression from the national stations? Incidentally, I offer myself as an exponent of this opposing view.

Mr. MENZIES. —I had the singular good fortune not to hear the broadcast in question, therefore I am quite unable to make any comment on it. As for the principle adopted by the Australian Broadcasting Commission in making its broadcasts, it is not for mere mortals like myself even to endeavour to understand it.

OUR COMMENT: Mr. Menzies' off-hand reply indicates just how superficial is his approach to the real Communist menace. He talks a great deal about opposing Communism, but apparently is not very concerned about the fact that the A.B.C. is being used regularly to influence public opinion to accept Socialist and Communist ideas.

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## Another Promise

"We still believe that the rates of taxation must be steadily reduced as national production and income rise, and as economies are effected in administration.

"We will review the incidence of indirect taxes (which are a huge, though sometimes unrecognised, item in Australia) upon basic wage and cost of living items and housing costs."

—R. G. Menzies, in his 1949

Policy Speech.

# A Critical Examination of Referendum Proposals

By L. G. DeGaris

**Under the heading, "A Layman Looks At the Referendum," Mr. L. G. DeGaris, of Geelong, a man who has made a deep study of constitutional matters, has issued a circular in which he poses some very important questions concerning the Federal Government's proposed Constitutional Amendment. Mr. DeGaris writes:**

The Referendum Bill proposes that the Constitution be altered by inserting after section fifty-one the following section:—

"51 A. —(1) The Parliament shall have power to make such laws for the peace, order and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to communists and communism as the Parliament considers to be necessary or expedient for the defence or security of the Commonwealth or for the execution or maintenance of this Constitution or of the laws of the Commonwealth.

"(2) In addition to all other powers conferred on the Parliament by this Constitution and without limiting any such power, the Parliament shall have power—

- (a) to make a law in the terms of the Communist Party Dissolution Act 1950—(i) without alteration; or (ii) with alterations, being alterations with respect to a matter dealt with by that Act or with respect to some other matter with respect to which Parliament has power to make laws;
- (b) to make laws amending the law made under the last preceding paragraph, but so that any such amendment is with respect to a matter dealt with by that law or with respect to some other matter with respect to which the Parliament has power to make laws; and
- (c) to repeal a law made under either of the last two preceding paragraphs.

"(3) In this section, 'the Communist Party Dissolution Act 1950' means the proposed law passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, and assented to by the Governor-General on the twentieth day of October, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, being the proposed law entitled 'An Act to provide for the Dissolution

of the Australian Communist Party and of other Communist Organisations, to disqualify Communists from holding certain Offices, and for purposes connected therewith'.

#### He sees:

- i. The 'powers' sought are 'red powers';
- ii. A yes vote is a red vote for revolutionary party-line legislation.
- iii. A no vote is a vote against 'powers' of party-line government by regulation.

A yes vote would put a proposed new section into the Constitution regardless of the form of the question on the ballot paper.

A no vote would call upon Parliament to seek and to find an alternative to the 1950 invalidated Act, within the present powers of Parliament, or within a referendum amendment that would keep the safeguards that now limit party-line legislation, and allow the States to function on a truly federal basis in the spirit of self-government.

Why is the saving phrase: 'SUBJECT TO THIS CONSTITUTION' which limits ALL present powers, omitted from the proposed new section 51A. If the omission is without significance, why make the omission? If the omission has significance, what is the impact on constitutional process?

If the proposed new section 51A is drafted to override the safeguards against party-line legislation which invalidated the Communist Party Dissolution Act 1950, what becomes of those safeguards against party-line legislation under the proposed new section 51A, if adopted into the Constitution?

Paragraph (1) of the proposed new section 51A is neither for nor against Communists or Communism. It seeks power 'with respect to Communists or Communism.' If one asks: "Is not that so with all powers of legislation?" the layman says: "No. Present powers are all subject to this Constitution, until altered by referendum, and the proposed new section omits that saving phrase."

Paragraph (2) of the proposed new section 51A seeks 3 'powers' (a) to re-enact the 1950 Act, with or without alterations; (b) to amend; (c) to repeal: invoking all present and new powers without limiting them.

If adopted, the proposed new section 51A would enable Parliament to ignore paragraph (2), and to rely on paragraph (1), or to use paragraph (2) to the extent of its 'powers' and then to rely on paragraph (1) which would remain an effective power fortified by the preamble in paragraph (2) and the implications of the (a), (b) and (c) clauses of that paragraph.

If the proposed new section 51A is

drafted to override limits to the powers of Parliament which invalidated the 1950 Act, its impact is intended to lift the limits as PARLIAMENT may consider necessary or expedient, not only for defence or security of the Commonwealth, but for execution or maintenance of THIS CONSTITUTION as if amended, or of the laws of the Commonwealth including the laws made, re-enacted, amended, or repealed, under the new limitless power if adopted WITH RESPECT TO communists or communism, either for or against undefined 'ists or 'isms; or WITH RESPECT TO some OTHER matter within the powers of Parliament sought to be brought into the Constitution or invoked by the proposed new section 51A.

The prevailing notion of regular elections rests on sections of the Constitution to which all present powers are subject: but, if adopted, the proposed new section 51A would override any section that Parliament considered to be a limit on its powers sought under the proposed new section 51A.

The invalidated 1950 Act is clear evidence of present safeguards against party-line legislation, but if the proposed new section 51A were to override these safeguards it is clearly a proposed new constitution within the framework of the old, but to which all the old Constitution would be subject, if the new proposed section 51A be adopted.

Such powers could, and if adopted into the Constitution, would be applied on party-line consideration of necessity or expediency.

Executive power and responsibility are now established for the execution and maintenance of the Constitution. Why a reference to those powers in the new proposed section 51A not subject to the safeguards so far prevailing?

The proposed new section 51A amounts to assailing limits to all the present powers of Parliament and adding those powers to new powers sought in the proposed new section 51A.

The layman sees, it is hoped not mistily, that the purport of the proposed new section 51A is to give sovereign powers to transitory federal parliaments on party-line legislation with respect to undefined 'ists and 'isms.

All State Constitutions, all State legislation, current and new, are subject to the Constitution.

The new proposed section 51A, if adopted, would be an overriding part of the Constitution.

The layman looks to the referendum ballot to reaffirm the faith professed in the preamble to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act: "Whereas the people . . . humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed . . ." to safeguard religious profession and practice; free trade, commerce and intercourse; trial by jury; rights of appeal; State Laws for liquor-traffic; peaceful international affairs; finance agreements; and especially to rely on the spiritual protection enshrined in the true function of the Commonwealth, under the Constitution, and under the Crown, of righteousness, against invasion.

## Flight From The City

By Ralph Borsodi

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

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## High Taxation and Inflation

*On September 16, 1946, Mr. Menzies, leader of the Federal Opposition, said: "The Government's third line of defence is that the present high rates of taxation are necessary to avoid inflation . . . They (taxes) not only can be reduced, but they must be reduced unless the extraordinary financial burden of war is to be made a permanent feature of peace. And it cannot be made a permanent feature of peace if we are to have any progress, any incentive to produce, any real national civic development . . . We advocate tax reduction because we believe it will be the greatest stimulant to production, and therefore a powerful protector against currency inflation".*

*As we have pointed out recently, Mr. Menzies had spoken in similar vein to the above on many occasions right up until prior to the 1949 Federal Elections. But immediately following his overseas trip last year, when he mingled in Washington with Mr. Bernard Baruch, Mr. Dean Acheson, and similar people, he became a changed man. It may, of course, have been merely coincidence that this change should take place after this trip. But the evidence all adds up to one conclusion, and that is that Mr. Menzies came back from the U.S.A. determined to follow "the line" being dictated in Washington by the Zionist-Communist planners. Mr. Menzies may not be conscious of the fact, but he has become corrupted by power. He now repudiates what he advocated only a short time ago.*

*If reduced taxation was necessary to curb inflation and to increase production prior to December 1949, it is even more necessary today. The tax plundering of the people is now greater than it was during the war years. Not only will the higher taxation now proposed by the Menzies Government increase the problems of the community; it will intensify the breakdown in moral standards. Free, frank and open methods of doing business will be replaced by the black market and all that it means. The individual will, in sheer desperation and self-defence, look for every possible avenue of avoiding the paying of taxation he does not believe necessary. The planners will respond with more controls, more controllers and snoopers, and thus we will proceed towards the Police State—the very thing the Government says it is fighting against.*

*It is very true that this country requires a defence programme. We must defend ourselves against all forms of aggression directed against the independence of the individual and his home. We cannot defeat Communism abroad unless we can first defeat Communist policies at home. Higher taxation is a Communist policy. It is not a genuine alternative to inflation. The planners know this. What every freedom-loving citizen must immediately do is to start action to create a public opinion directed against the individual Members of the Government Parties. Start letters of protest pouring into Canberra immediately, and get friends and associates to assist. There is no time to lose.*

## Another Laski Pupil

In a report from New York published in the Melbourne "Herald" of August 1, it is revealed that Frederick Vanderbilt Field, millionaire and ardent Communist, now serving gaol sentence, was educated at the London School of Economics, where he came under the influence of the late Professor Harold Laski. He became a Socialist, and on his return to America, turned Communist.

The case of Field provides further evidence proving that Communism does not recruit all its followers from the poor, and that the London School of Economics has been perhaps the most subversive organisation ever established in the British Empire. It has been a training ground for traitors.

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## A Warning on Forests

Mr. D. N. Cromer, Division of Forestry Services, Sydney, recently urged that more exploitation of Australia's forests must be resisted.

He said recent estimates disclosed the gross area of forest of sawmilling quality in Australia was 44 million acres, of which 28 million acres were under reservation. This represented only 2.3 percent, or 1.6 percent under reservation of the total land area.

The average percentage of forested land in the world was 27.6, which showed how badly Australia fared.

"It is indeed one of the most poorly forested countries in the world, and it is only our small population which has enabled us to meet part of our requirements to date," he said.

"The world is short of wood, and Australia cannot expect to import large quantities of timber from overseas in the future, so she must become self-supporting."

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## "NEW TIMES" ANNUAL DINNER

We draw our readers' attention to the fact that the "New Times" Annual Dinner for this year will be held on Friday, September 21, at the Victoria Palace, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. As the Dinner is being held during Show Week, we anticipate that our country friends who are down for the Show will avail themselves of the opportunity of meeting one another and their Melbourne colleagues. Last year's Dinner was an outstanding success, with "New Times" supporters from nearly all States present. We anticipate that this year's Dinner will be even better.

In order that catering and other important arrangements can be made well in advance, all those desirous of attending the Dinner are urged to communicate with Mr. R. H. Weller, c/o Box 1226L., immediately. Please help MS to make this important event a success by booking a seat early. If any supporters desire to sit together as a party at the Dinner, appropriate arrangements can be made.

# Abdullah of Jordan

By Captain Arthur Rogers, O.B.E.

**British newspapers have been in agreement in referring to the assassination of King Abdullah as a tragedy, which deprives Great Britain of one of the oldest, and most faithful of her staunch allies. To say this may conform to the maxim "De mortuis nihil nisi bunkum." It hardly conforms to the facts.**

After negotiations, which threatened to become interminable, the Sharif Abdullah and his younger brother, the Sharif Faisal, took up arms against the Ottoman Empire in July 1916, under the nominal leadership of their father, the aged Sharif Hussain of Mecca. They, and the tribal leaders who joined them, were paid by Colonel T. E. Lawrence such huge sums of money in golden British sovereigns, in anticipation of what they might do, that for some years those coins could be bought in Arabia in exchange for Egyptian or Indian currency worth about fifteen shillings at the regular rate of exchange.

The chief military activities led by the Sharif Faisal, who had Lawrence as his adviser, were the "mopping up" of Turkish garrisons in western Arabia which had been isolated by the successes of British arms further north, in Palestine. The force, which operated in the desert on the right flank of Field Marshal Allenby's army, was comprised of Anzac and Indian (Bikanir) Camel Corps. During the final stages of the campaign, however, the force under Faisal had moved north and was with the other camel corps on the army's right flank when the greatest defeat was inflicted upon the Turks. After the war, there fell into the hands of the Entente Powers' officers in Constantinople, the original of a letter from the Sharif Faisal to the Turkish commander which treacherously predicted this British attack and said that, if it failed, he and his father's force would desert the British and join the Turks.

The success of the British attack caused the Turks to evacuate Damascus. Whereupon Faisal, with the connivance of Lawrence, who accompanied him, managed to reach Damascus first, where Faisal proclaimed himself King of Syria. This action was taken without the knowledge or consent of the British Commander in Chief and in violation of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, whereby Syria was recognised as a French sphere of influence.

When the French assumed control of Syria in 1919, they ordered Faisal to leave the country within twenty-four hours; but, before this, he had written to the British Government saying that he and his family accepted the Balfour Declaration concerning Palestine, which was an act of treachery to their fellow Arabs.

After his ejection from Syria, Faisal spent some time in London, at the Hyde Park Hotel, where he was visited by Lawrence and was often in conference with the representatives of oil-producing companies; but, for a time, he and his brother, the Sharif Abdullah—whose military activities had been of a minor character—were without financial support from H.M. Government.

In 1920 an armed insurrection broke out among the volatile tribesmen in Iraq and spread very rapidly until it became an

almost general rising—to no small extent through the incompetence of the British G.O.C. in C., General Sir Aylmer Haldane, who had been recently appointed by Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for War. Several isolated British garrisons were overrun, others were invested for many weeks, all railway communications were severed, and Baghdad was virtually besieged. After some months of heavy fighting and the arrival of considerable reinforcements of Indian troops, the insurrection was suppressed, but the British casualties were very heavy.

Even before any outbreak had occurred, the General Staff in Iraq had obtained irrefutable documentary evidence that an insurrection was being organised by the Sharif Abdullah.

In 1921, Winston Churchill, who had then become Colonial Secretary, summoned all the Commanders-in-Chief and Chief Political Officers in Arab countries to a conference in Cairo for consultation on future policy. He opened the proceedings by saying that he had brought with him Colonel T. E. Lawrence, because he was the greatest authority on Arab affairs—which was quite untrue and an insult to everyone else present—and whom he would therefore invite to speak first. Lawrence then advocated that Faisal be sent to Iraq and Abdullah to Trans-Jordan, with a view to their being "elected" the rulers of those countries. But for the views expressed by Miss Gertrude Bell, there was unanimous opposition to Lawrence's proposals, other policies being put forward. Mr. Churchill then thanked those present for stating their views, which (he said) would be very carefully considered by H.M. Government, and added that the Cabinet's decision would be communicated as soon as possible. Those attending the conference had barely returned to their posts, however, when they received cables telling them that the policy advocated by Colonel Lawrence had been adopted. The Chief Political Officer in Iraq, Colonel A. T. Wilson—later Sir Arnold Wilson, M.P.—promptly resigned and left for England on the same day.

There is no doubt at all that Abdullah and Faisal were made kings of Trans-Jordan and Iraq for two reasons. They had accepted the "Jewish national home" in Palestine. They had also proved themselves amenable to the plans worked out by British politicians and financiers regarding the control and disposal of Iraq oil. Neither British nor Arab interests had been considered.

Between 1916 and the day of his death, there was only a brief period, from 1919 to 1921, during which Abdullah was not receiving most substantial monetary, political and military support from the British public. He devoted that interval to the engineering of a widespread and bloody revolt against British authority, causing the death of great numbers of British and

Indian soldiers. For this effort he was rewarded at the hands of Winston Churchill.

Arab unity is, without doubt, an essential British interest. It would create a political barrier against disturbing influences from the north and could also provide, militarily, something in the nature of a shock absorber. This unity was made impossible when H.M. Government, through Winston Churchill's influence, decided to back Abdullah and Faisal. The most reliable and statesmanlike—if not very docile—of all Arab potentates is King of Saudi Arabia—Abd'ul Aziz ibn Abd'ul Rahman ibn Faisal as Sa'ud, who is usually known as Ibn Sa'ud. The writer of this obituary notice has seen many private letters in which Ibn Sa'ud has expressed his detestation of all for which the Sharifian family stands. A strict and devout Moslem, Ibn Sa'ud's first objection has always been that Abdullah and Faisal promoted a state of society which is neither Moslem nor Christian, Arab nor European, but one which embraces all that is bad, and little that is good, in those differing forms of civilization. Moreover, Ibn Sa'ud is uncompromisingly opposed to Zionism.

Apart from this important consideration, King Abdullah, in consequence of his support of Zionism where it concerns the national home in Palestine, persistently pursued policies at variance with those of other Arab States, thus making it impossible for the Arab League to organise an effective combination against the unprovoked aggression undertaken by the Zionists with the backing of the Soviet and American politicians.

It would be only too true to say that Abdullah supported the policy of leading British politicians. It would therefore be untrue to say that he supported British interests.

P.S.—The designation "Sharif" is used for persons believed to be descended from the prophet Muhammad through his grandson Hassan, "Saiyid" being used for those descended through the grandson Hussain.

----"The Social Creditor" (England), August 4.

## CREDIT RESTRICTION MEANS DEPRESSION

(Continued from page 1)

people from buying all that free enterprise can produce, it should be overcome, not by inflationary credit expansion through capital production of various types, but by the application of consumer subsidies. This does not mean that capital expansion is not necessary and desirable, but it should not be regarded, like public works, merely as a method of trying to overcome a deficiency in purchasing power. With credit policy effectively decentralised, the individual would be able to decide, under free, competitive enterprise, the rate and nature of capital development. This would mean the end of the planners and their policies of centralised control.

It is significant that the greatest opponents of our decentralised financial policy have been the Socialists and Communists. They clearly understood that they require centralised financial control to implement the centrally planned economy.

"New Times," August 17, 1951—Page 5





## Important Address to C.W.A. Convention

Mr. R. H. Weller, of the Victorian Compost Society, addressed 1,500 delegates to the 1951 Annual Convention of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, held at St. Kilda Town Hall on June 7th.

Mr. Weller referred to the following resolutions, which had been adopted at the International Conference of Associated Country Women of the World, held at Copenhagen in September, 1950: —

"That in view of the importance throughout the world of the health of the land and the conservation of its fertility, the member societies of the Associated Country Women of the World be urged to study the problems, so that the nutrition of all peoples, as affected by soil fertility, can be considered by country women, on a world basis."

"This meeting, realising the connection between diets and health, urges the need of a programme for the upgrading of diets, agricultural aid for certain commodities, and conservation of the fertility of the soil, and recommends further research into human nutrition, with special reference to the relationship between soil fertility and the nutritional value of foods, this nutritional research to be accompanied by an extended educational programme in the schools and elsewhere, and appropriate arrangements for the training of more teachers on the subject."

Mr. Weller stressed the importance to every man, woman and child in Australia of implementing the above resolutions.

"Man's primary need is food," he said, "and the main factor which affects the health of people is the quality and quantity of their food. Sufficient fresh vital food means a happy and contented people. Lack of it leads to ill health, both bodily and mental, and general unrest."

He pointed out that our food came from the soil—the fertile living topsoil—and that without fertility here can be no growth. Therefore the whole problem of man's well being, in fact his very existence, depends on the maintenance of the fertility of the soil.

Little regard, if any, is paid to this matter in our schools and colleges so that few adults are aware of the importance of the subject or understand the problem.

Referring to the question of sickness generally, he said that while through improved hygiene, we had eliminated the major plagues which had wiped out many of the population in earlier days, it was undisputed that bodily and mental sickness had assumed tremendous proportions among civilized people today. The amount spent on medical attention, hospitalisation, medicines, drugs, patent medicines, health foods and drinks, vitamin pills, etc., every year is staggering.

Governments are well aware of this and costly social service health schemes have been introduced to give easier access to drugs and medical attention, but no attempt has been made to get at the root cause of disease, which is based on deficiencies in our food and the soil on which it is grown.

The treatment of disease, not only for humans, but for plants and livestock has become an international vested interest.

Mr. Weller compared this sorry state of affairs with the abundant health and vitality enjoyed by a few scattered communities who were cut off from the "benefits" of civilisation. They lived under varying climatic conditions and ate different foods, but they all had certain things in common. Their food, whether meat, fish, grains, dairy products or fruit and vegetables, was all organically grown i.e., without the aid of artificial fertilisers or chemical insecticides, and they consumed their food fresh and as whole as possible. They did not support large food processing plants.

Taking one example, the Hunzas, who lived in Northern India, Mr. Weller pointed

(Continued on page 7)

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# Soil Fertility and National Health

(Continued from page 6)

out that they enjoyed marvellous physique and vitality to a ripe old age and such diseases so common to us, as cancer, duodenal ulcers and appendicitis were entirely unknown. He touched on Sir Robert McCarrison's experiments on feeding rats on the diets of the various Indian tribes, which showed that rats re-acted in the same way as humans and where the poorer diets were fed, suffered from the same diseases as the people whose diets they were fed on. Rats fed on the Hunza diet remained hearty and vigorous to the end of the experiment. Sir Herbert's conclusions after many years of experimenting as Director of Nutrition to the Indian Government was that "the primary cause of all disease is malnutrition."

In spite of continuous cropping, the Hunza soils are as fertile as in the past, because they follow the traditional agricultural practices of their forebears. They return all organic wastes; vegetable, animal and human to the land in order to replenish the humus taken out by the growing crops. "These people," he said, "are vital because their soil is vital."

China was mentioned as a land where in parts the soil is still being cropped after 4,000 years and as many as four crops are sometimes taken off in one year. Here again the Chinaman wastes nothing.

This is the lesson to be learnt, for in spite of the marvellous scientific mechanical and chemical aids which are available to the civilised world, we are faced with a diminishing food supply, deteriorating as to quality, caused by the disregard of the importance of soil fertility to man's existence, which has already brought about the downfall of previous proud civilisations.

Mr. Weller spoke of the large areas in Australia, as in other parts of the world, which have been eroded beyond reclamation. "Deserts are man made." He also pointed

out that large areas of land at present under cultivation are being steadily exhausted of humus. Chemical fertilisers are being used more and more to stimulate flagging production, he said, "They do not restore humus to the soil." Their effect is to accelerate the process of exhaustion. Humus is absolutely essential to healthy growth, and must be replenished!

He then referred to the Law of Return, the method employed by Nature to ensure the replenishment of humus by the decay of all vegetable and animal wastes. Not sufficient importance has been placed by civilised people on the part, which decay plays in the natural life cycle. The cycle of life has been continuous for millions of years—birth, growth, reproduction, death and decay—resulting in the constant replenishment and building up of the fertility of the earth's surface, until the original rock has been covered with fertile soil, capable of sustaining enormous forests and grassy plains, which provided food for an abundance of wild life.

Decay is brought about through the agency of countless soil organisms, which consume the dead animal and vegetable matter and transform it into fertile topsoil. The natural elements, rain and sunshine, also play their part. Thus Nature is continually adding to its reserves of humus, enabling more and more life to be sustained, for every tree that sends its roots deep into the subsoil rocks for the necessary minerals makes an annual contribution to the organic mineral plant nutrients in the top soil when its leaves fall and decay.

It is this reserve of fertility which man used when he first began clearing the forests and ploughing up the grassy plains for growing food. It is this reserve which is slowly being exhausted in our efforts to feed an ever-increasing population, because our agricultural and horticultural practices lead to exploitation. We must cease to exploit the soil and learn the lesson taught by the Hunzas and Chinese, to co-operate with Nature and waste nothing.

In order that the utmost nutritional value per acre can be produced all tillage operations and crop rotations should be directed to the building up of fertility. Emphasis must be placed on quality, not quantity. Individual farmers in many parts of the world have shown the way in temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical regions. All organic animal and vegetable wastes on our farms should be conserved and made into compost. Since most of the produce from our farms is exported to the towns and cities, all of it containing a proportion of the valuable soil fertility, this debt to the land must be repaid by the composting of all organic wastes in the shape of household refuse, sewage, residues from meat, fruit and vegetable markets, saleyards, the leaves and grass cuttings from streets, parks and gardens, and the wastes from our factories, and its return to the farms. Millions of tons of this valuable potential organic fertiliser are destroyed every year.

After we have taken steps to ensure that our food is grown on healthy soil, our next step is to consider ways and means whereby people may have access to it.

Nutrition is playing an increasing part in the treatment of illness, and there is

no doubt that much has been done to guide people into saner methods of feeding, but the fact remains that however balanced the diet, the vitality and full health enjoyed by the Hunzas cannot be given to our people unless the food is fresh and wholesome. Such is far from the case. The basic foods, such as bread, dairy products, meat, sugar, vegetables and fruit, are all treated in some way before they reach the consumer, and, in consequence, their nutritional value have been very much impaired. Our present marketing systems, too, will have to be drastically overhauled.

The work required to be done to improve the health of the people by proper nutrition is immense, but if all delegates to this convention are seized with its importance, and are determined to do something about it when they return home to their branches, the collective effort of all members of the C.W.A. will be considerable.

Mr. Weller suggested that members learn all they can of the relationship between soil and health, and advised them to grow organically as much food as possible themselves. This would provide a portion of their families' requirements of fresh, wholesome food.

Further steps to implement the resolutions adopted at the international convention could be taken after the matter had been discussed by the Executive, who could make recommendations to branches.

In summing up, Mr. Weller said there would be tremendous opposition from vested interests, which are profiting from the present situation, but nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of reforms which would lead to the betterment of public health. This is of paramount importance if we are to survive as a nation.

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# Ley Farming Lifts Soil Fertility

Although we do not subscribe to the view that the application of superphosphate is the best or only way to ensure adequate phosphate for pastures, we feel that the following report from "The Leader," Melbourne, of July 25, indicates how soil fertility can, and is, being built up by the technique of ley farming:

Although there is evidence from all parts of Australia of changing levels of soil nitrogen and of declining fertility, there is evidence, too, of a build-up under clover pastures top-dressed with superphosphate.

This was stated by Professor L. J. H. Teakle, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Queensland, Farrer medallist for 1951, in the Farrer Oration at the conference of the New South Wales Agricultural Bureau, at Hawkesbury College, last week.

He said that millions of acres of land in southern Australia were now vastly richer than they were 50 years ago as the result of clovers and suitable fertilisers.

It had been found that subterranean clover, lupins and trefoil maintained soil fertility, built up crop yields and improved the composition of the crops. Legumes were important in any system of farm management.

Nitrogen content, he said, would decrease under a wheat-fallow system, but would stabilise at a high figure when clover pasture was introduced, the figure probably being higher than for virgin soil.

There was no more exploitive a system of farming than good fallow. He did not condemn a good fallow, but said that it must be combined with a farming system that balanced fertility.

On such good soils as those of the Wimmera and the Darling Downs the loss of fertility would be slow but inevitable.

Some farmers had proved that a change in methods from wheat-fallow-wheat to soil building crops, such as subterranean clover, could convert an impoverished farm into a profitable proposition.

It must be remembered that a 20-bushel

crop of wheat took 20 lb. of nitrogen per acre from the soil. A cow yielding 500 gallons of milk took a lot more, and a steer of 100 lb. live weight took 3 lb. Those losses must be replenished.

## ALARMING DECLINE

"There is the alarming evidence of declining soil fertility on millions of acres of arable land—chiefly land under wheat," he said. "Research work on soils from many parts of the Australian wheat belt points irrefutably to substantial loss of nitrogen after a few decades of cultivation.

"Losses as high as 50 percent have been recorded, but many range between 10 and 30 per cent. With this loss of nitrogen is deterioration in the structure of the soil, lowered capacity to absorb water and, frequently, disastrous soil erosion.

"Soil fertility is a very complex phenomenon," Professor Teakle added. "It is dependent on the supply of nitrogen, which is affected by the system of land use, by the climate, by the plant cover and soil micro-organisms, and by the amount of readily decomposable carbonaceous material.

"Its value to the plant in turn is dependent upon adequate supplies of other elements, such as molybdenum and manganese, as well as others such as sulphur and phosphorus.

"The best known method of maintaining soil fertility in general agricultural systems is the ley system in which crops, pasture and stock are integrated into a permanent and profitable agricultural practice.

## CLOVER LEYS PART

"As a result of investigation on the effect

of clover pastures on soil nitrogen at the Rutherglen Research Station in Victoria, Penman concluded that a good, vigorous sward of subterranean clover could add as much as 200 lb. of nitrogen per acre per annum. Taking good and bad years into account, an annual increase of at least 50 lb. per acre could be expected under clover ley," said Professor Teakle.

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