

THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1951.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Financial Reform or Communism?

Although the Western politicians allege that they are concerned about menace of Communism, they must also dread the possibility of the Communist menace being abolished. If there were no Communist menace, and therefore no necessity for a gigantic armament programme, the Western countries, particularly the U.S.A., would be faced with the alternative of a depression even worse than that experienced before the last war, or a modification of financial rules which would permit the individual to obtain economic independence with very much reduced working hours.

One of the reasons why the Communists are so dangerous is the fact that their propaganda does contain some truth. For example, it is a fact too obvious to be denied, that what the Communists term the capitalist system can only operate without a major breakdown, while war preparations are taking place. Even the certified economists like Sir Douglas Copland have been forced to admit that it was only the outbreak of the last war, which prevented another major depression. During the war years the problem of "surplus" production was easily solved. It was "given" to the Germans and the Japanese in the form of shells, bombs, and other military missiles. Financial credit was expanded to ensure that all productive capacity was used to the utmost. The total result was staggering. It was demonstrated that the productive capacity of modern countries was so enormous that, with millions of men in the armed forces, producing nothing, but being fed, clothed, housed and paid, the production system was not only capable of producing a growing stream of tanks, aeroplanes, ships and other military necessities, but could also maintain adequate consumer production. There were some shortages in Australia and Great Britain, but in the U.S.A. the general standard of living of the people actually increased during the war years. The productive capacity of all countries has been still further increased since the war.

Even before the war finished, the economic "experts" were making it clear that they were worried about a post-war "slump". Thus the elaborate Socialist schemes for providing "full employment". But it was realised that there was a limit to what could be done with public works and other devices for averting the threatened "slump". The Marshall "Aid" programme for Europe was not only designed to bring pressure to bear upon the Europeans to accept various schemes for centralising power, but also prevented a collapse in the American economy. However, in spite of all this, just prior to the outbreak of the Korean incident, and the

launching of a full-scale rearmament programme, the old problem of "over-production" and "unemployment" was becoming serious, particularly in America. Consumer production in Australia and Great Britain was being retarded by various controls, but it was improving. Korea was openly regarded as having provided a solution to the growing internal economic problem of the Americans and other Western peoples. It permitted an expansion of rearmament and an increase in the money supply without an increase of consumer goods.

However, news items coming to hand over the past few weeks indicate that even with the rearmament programme, the basic financial problem is again causing grave concern. Following the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, it was announced from the U.S.A. that the Japanese had launched an "economic Pearl Harbour" which threatened American manufacturers. High quality production was flooding the American markets at half the prices of the American production. Australian manufacturers are also concerned now, while the British shipbuilding industry is alarmed about the growing competition from Japanese shipbuilders. At the same time the Germans are increasing their high quality exports enormously. While it must be agreed that certain countries like Japan must export in order to obtain certain imports, the basic cause of the feverish search for export markets is the fact that, under present financial rules, the American people, for example, have insufficient purchasing power to buy all they produce. In spite of the vast American rearmament programme, the following report from a staff correspondent appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of September 12: "Signs of a business recession also worry Washington economists . . . If business is not revived in the next few months, it is believed that President Truman will be obliged to open up a wider defence-spending throttle, pouring more money into trade channels, and, at the same time, lessening the production of civilian goods."

We ask those really concerned about defeating the Communists, to ponder over the above admission. It confirms our statement that the "capitalist" system can only function, even if rather falteringly, while the money supply is being increased by preparation for military war.

We strongly support, of course, an adequate rearmament programme to provide defence against any military aggression, but to try and prevent an economic breakdown by building armaments plays right into the hands of the Communist strategists. Until the Western countries modify their internal financial rules, they must surrender more and more to Communist policies.

OUR POLICY

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

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

TO THE POINT

Chiang Kai Shek

We note with interest a report from the U.S.A., which states that Chiang Kai Shek is strongly opposed to Zionism. If this is so, it helps explain why the Chinese Nationalist leader is so consistently smeared.

* * * *

Jews and American Defence

"The Jew Manly Fleischmann has been put in charge of all the policy-making and operations of the defence programme. He continues to hold this job and, as this letter goes to press, he is being named Defence Production Administrator. Summary: Anna M. Rosenberg, the Budapest Jewess in charge of all manpower; Fleischmann, the Jew, in charge of all machinery and production."

—"The Letter," Washington, U.S.A.

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Appointment to Coal Board

On the recommendation of Development Minister Spooner, a new appointment is to be made to the Coal Board. The man is Professor Phillips, of the N.S.W. University of Technology, a Welsh gentleman formerly employed by the British Coal Board.

There is rather a row in the Liberal ranks about it. Some of the Libs reckon that Phillips is a Socialist, and as such, is an unwelcome appointment by a Liberal Government. Spooner and Co. deny this, and say that they had him checked with the British Coal Board, and that he is not.

However, as the British Coal Board is a Socialist show, run by enthusiastic Socialists, a lot of people feel that they mightn't be really good checkers.

—Frank Browne in "Things I Hear," September 11.

* * * *

Warning on Jewish Migration

"I was amazed at the records of some of the persons sponsored by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society for admission to Australia.

"This was stated in a report from the president of the Queensland branch (Mr. R. D. Huish) and adopted by the Federal executive of the Returned Servicemen's League. 'I feel the society cannot be aware of some of the types their people want brought here,' he said.

"Mr. Huish was nominated by the R.S.L. to investigate migration problems in Europe, and sent abroad by the Commonwealth Government.

"He recommended that all European migrants without exception be medically examined and personally interviewed, selected and security checked by all Australian teams before leaving for Australia.

"Concerning alleged discrimination against Jews, Mr. Huish said he was satisfied Australian selection officers desired applicants should be potentially good New Australians.

"Some permit holders sponsored from Australia had previously migrated to Israel, and had been returned to Europe. He was satisfied there was sound evidence for rejection, including a number on security grounds."

—Melbourne "Age," September 8.

Timely Advice

The people of Australia must become articulate before it is too late. Now is the time to serve notice on the Menzies administration that it has no charter to wage war on its own people. The Government must be halted. Every rank and file member of the Government parties must accept his share of responsibility. In the ultimate, the Budget is his financial responsibility. He has the vote. The people also have their opportunity to show the Government that this country will not tolerate the Horror Budget. The Government has telegraphed its punches. The people have the counter punch if they care to use it. In their own interests they must.

J. T. Lang in "Century," September 7.

ECONOMIC SLAVERY

"Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war, the power of chattel slavery destroyed. This my European friends and I are in favour of. For slavery is but the owning of labour and carries with it the care of the labourer, while the modern European plan is capital control of labour by controlling wages; this can be done by controlling money. The great debt which capitalists will see to it is made out of the war must be used as a measure to control the volume of money. To accomplish this, bonds must be used as a banking basis. It will not do to allow the 'Greenback,' as it is called, to circulate as money for any length of time. We cannot control them. But we can control the bonds, and through them the bank issue."

—From the "Hazard Circular," issued in the U.S.A. in 1862.

"Social Credit and Catholicism"

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

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

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

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Did "Washington" Encourage War in 1939?

When, fortunately for Great Britain, Neville Chamberlain prevented the outbreak of the Second World War in 1938, he was bitterly abused not only by the Communists, but also by the powerful Zionist groups dominating the Roosevelt regime in the U.S.A. These groups wanted war, and we have little doubt that they played a decisive role in manipulating Great Britain into a disastrous military struggle, which could be exploited to destroy British prestige and influence everywhere.

In his book, "America's Second Crusade," a diplomatic history of the Second World War, and events, which preceded it, the famous American writer, William H. Chamberlain, says:

"There is not sufficient evidence to establish with certainty how far Washington may be held directly responsible for the fateful British decision to challenge Hitler on the issue of Poland. Cordell Hull's testimony on America's pre-war policy is ambiguous if not contradictory: 'Though we had repeatedly sought to encourage the democracies of Europe, the arrival of war found us with no entangling agreements that would drag us in.' Obviously there were no formal treaty agreements or commitments; these would have been impossible under the American Constitution and in the prevalent state of American public opinion. But it would have been difficult to give encouragement without holding out hope of American aid and perhaps ultimate involvement. The vehement partisanship of high Administrative officials was calculated to arouse these hopes . . ."

"A well-known American statesman, not connected with the Roosevelt regime, visited Neville Chamberlain in March, 1938, and suggested to the British Prime Minister that it would be much better if Germany moved east, rather than west. It would be a disaster to civilization, the American remarked, if the western democracies were dragged down by a war, the end of which would be to save the cruel Russian despotism.

"Chamberlain expressed agreement with

these views, and said they dominated his own policies. He was only concerned about the French alliance with Russia. This might induce Hitler to destroy the weaker link first. Had the views of the American visitor prevailed in the White House, Chamberlain might never have changed his policy by giving the guarantee to Poland which worked out so disastrously both for Poland and for Great Britain."

Another "Schuman" Plan

A plan is being quietly worked out in Geneva for what is tantamount to the internationalisation of the entire system of European transport. The United Nations Economic Committee for Europe calls this: "The most ambitious programme yet undertaken for the integration of transport in Europe."

That is no understatement! The usual Communist arguments are put forward by way of justification, the planners claiming that: "It is essential to organise transport at the European level in such a way as to provide the required services as economically and efficiently as possible."

This audacious scheme takes no notice of the failure of nationalisation in each of the countries concerned. The fact is that the needs of the sovereign nations are not to be considered, for, as the planners frankly state: "This is a major step towards the progressive creation of a single community among the many countries of Europe."

In this connection, it is interesting to note that American public opinion is being mobilised against Dr. Kurt Schumacher, for his persistent opposition to the original Schuman Plan. He is portrayed as a man who claims that the rest of Europe is out of step with him; as leader of an opposition, blind in its assumption that the only function of the opposition is to oppose.

Dr. Schumacher, whose Social Democratic party is probably nearer to Mr. Attlee's brand of Socialism than anything else on the Continent, has it in common with Mr. Attlee that he does not like the Schuman Plan. For this attitude, America says he is: "Marching in step with Communists and neo-Fascists."

The limited foreign policies of the big nations make such charges inevitable; it does not make them sound. What is shown up in the cold light of reason is that the nations are being asked to choose between the dictatorship of the Left and the dictatorship of the Right.

It could be that people will shortly show both Moscow and Washington that they will accept neither.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York,

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By Ralph Borsodi

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Hitler's Policy Was a Jewish Policy 1/3

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1951.

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Does Soviet Russia Threaten Military War?

At a time when the official propagandists were inferring that the Communist leaders might launch an immediate major military attack against the Western Powers, we stressed the fact that such a military challenge was contrary to Communist strategy. We also pointed out that Russia's industrial resources were hopelessly inadequate for a major military clash with the West. In recent months we have noted with some interest that it is now being admitted by Western spokesmen that a Russian military offensive is most unlikely at present.

While Mr. Menzies infers that the military position is so desperate that the entire Australian economy must be regimented by a number of controls, reports from America state that military production in the U.S.A. is now proceeding at the same rate as if America had been fighting a total war for over twelve months. Production has been so vast that already plans are being made to slacken off — unless, of course, as we point out in our front page article this week, increased rearmament is used to try and prevent the domestic economy from collapsing.

General Carl Spaatz, formerly American Air Force Chief of Staff, who has visited Europe every year for the past five years, states that the West would win any war started now, and that the Communist leaders share this view. Spaatz confirms our own viewpoint concerning Communist strategy when he says: "We shall probably be treated to a much more intensive peace offensive than anything yet undertaken by the Communists." Sir Christopher Courtney, R.A.F. Air Chief Marshal, said when he arrived from Great Britain last week, that "I do not believe Russia is planning a third world war. The Russians prefer cunning and bluff to open war to obtain their objectives. If war does not come within the next year, I do not think it will come at all."

We repeat what we have stressed on a number of occasions: Communism is an international conspiracy seeking to achieve its objectives primarily by revolution and subversion. It operates on the assumption that the "capitalist" system possesses the seeds of its own destruction. The conspirators seek to ensure that these seeds are encouraged to grow as rapidly as possible. But it is not the Communists who have created the basic causes of the economic problems, which threaten the internal stability of the "capitalist" countries. These causes are the direct result of the centralist political, economic and financial policies pursued by all Western Governments. These policies have been deliberately fostered by the Zionist conspirators who were also responsible for the Communist victory in Russia. They and their agents, most of them unconscious dupes who crave power without responsibility, have exploited "the threat of war" created by the Communists, to regiment the remaining free peoples of the world without the necessity of even firing a shot.

The Communist challenge is a real one; let no one make any mistake about that. But the tragedy is that so many are watching the enemy's feint, the threat of a military war, that they do not perceive how they are being destroyed by the real attack. All advocates of centralism are helping the totalitarian conquest of the Western Powers. They help the very Communist conspiracy they verbally denounce.

A False Employment Picture

In Adelaide the Prime Minister has repeated the statement that Australian employment is out of balance and that of the nearly one million additional employees in Australia since 1939 (1,730,200 to 2,612,800) the great majority of these went into occupations of no importance to the country, the basic industries having now no more employees than before the war.

As has already been shown in these pages, official statistics show that the great preponderance of the additional wage and salary earners since 1939 have gone into the heavy industry sections (e.g. engineering, metal working, building materials) of Australian manufacturing; into rail, sea and air transport; building and construction work, and into Federal and State Government Authorities.

Employment in Governmental Authorities increased from 405,000 in 1939 to 680,100 in 1951. The present figure includes a record large number of employees engaged in Federal and State public works.

Total manufacturing employment has increased from 625,100 in 1939 to 964,700, mostly in the heavy industry classifications. The light industries producing consumer goods have gained but few additional employees, and in several sections have less hands than they had in 1939, notwithstanding the large increase in population and the increased demand for their products.

Employment in Commercial occupations have increased roughly in ratio with the population increase, namely from 314,000 to 421,150 in wholesale and retail trade and primary produce agencies. Banking and Insurance and Finance have increased from 60,600 in 1939 to 85,300 in 1951. Entertainment and Sport (perhaps unexpectedly) employs only 5,500 (21,400 to 26,900) more than in 1939, although population has increased by about 1½ million in the meantime.

Public statements about unbalanced employment are being repeated all over Australia by inspired "spokesmen," departmental and otherwise, with the intention apparently to discredit sections of manufacturing industry in particular and Australia's industrial progress in general. It is significant that a fortnight ago the Acting Secretary of the Department of Labour and National Service forecast a big transfer of labour.

This is where the Defence Preparations Act comes into the planners' strategy.

—Latham Withall in "Canberra Letter," September 5.

Wool Growers Want Money Back

The annual meeting of the Victorian Graziers' Association has decided that the Federal Government should immediately return to Australian woolgrowers the £45 millions taken from them in anticipation of the wool-marketing scheme being approved. We suggest that the Australian woolgrowers should take legal action against the Government unless their money is returned immediately. They should refuse any compromise with a Government, which has attempted to defraud them.

Great Britain Can Feed Herself

As it is often stated that the British people must migrate in large numbers because insufficient local food can be produced to feed the present British population, we have much pleasure in reprinting from "The Social Creditor" (England) an article which attacks this popular myth:

Many years ago I was fascinated by reading the classic "Fields, Workshops and Factories" written by the late Prince Kropotkin. It was a wonderful book for it showed that the British Isles could feed themselves. Over a span of years my memory may be at fault, but I am under the impression that we could support a population of 80,000,000! This figures included the whole of Ireland, for it was before "the troubles" that led to the separation of Southern Ireland into a separate country. Only a very few believed in the possibility, and the slick phrase that we live by our exports has had currency too long. The mad business of voiding wealth to the ends of the world in exchange for the imported food, vastly inferior to healthy home grown stuff (for it cannot be consumed in a fresh condition) won the day with the deplorable consequences we now endure.

The question of food is worrying the housewife throughout the land and ways and means of obtaining good wholesome supplies from our own land is of vital importance. It was therefore with particular satisfaction that I read "Feeding Ourselves" by Philip Oyler (published by Hodder and Stoughton), for not only does it show how we could feed ourselves but indicates a way of retreat from the spurious Industrial Civilisation in which we are enmeshed. While he is not a Social Creditor his outlook is towards the same light and there is so much he has to say which is sane and healthy that some extracts will be of interest.

Oyler points out that after the last war our continental neighbours turned all their energies to the production of food. "Our principal effort was and still is to earn dollars as if we could eat them!" Though over 100,000 men in the services wanted to go on to the land, not one-tenth of them go onto the land, not one-tenth of them had the desire fulfilled. "We spend money in importing raw materials to convert into articles for export, in order to buy foreign exchange in order to buy the food which we could grow." Yet "The Authorities' Exhortation is: 'Export, export, export.' But a time will come when our former purchasers will be able to say: 'Thank you, but we can now make things for ourselves.'" "With the advent of the Industrial Revolution—and its purely commercial spirit, the modern so-called 'economist' regarding everything primarily from the point of view of money, began to whisper in hearts that were becoming ever more lukewarm to their God—" so that "Time-honoured rules of conduct were discarded." The Golden Rule, "of treating others as one would like to be treated—in all phases of life—has waned to such an extent that it has become an exception. One no longer hears anything of 'The just price'—the price that is fair to both buyer and seller." Evidently he has read Douglas. For further proof he says: "Till gold, the life blood of the commercial body, circulates freely, trade can never and will never prosper."

He goes on to ask why we import BO

many things, besides food, which we can perfectly well produce ourselves. "For example, why import from Holland rushes for mats and rush-seat chairs, when we have acres of these rushes on the Broads?" "Why import willow for basket making from the Argentine, when willow will grow by any stream or in any damp place in Britain?" Why import blackberries—flax and hemp and silk? One is tempted to exclaim "The eyes of the fools-----"

"Money in itself is, of course, neither good nor bad." "It is the worship of it and the perversion of its use that is evil and does evil, especially when it is treated as a commodity and made scarce or plentiful at the will of the bankers." He goes on to say that we must seek 'the Kingdom of Heaven within' and that no policy, no planning or external reforms can bring about any permanent improvement unless each one of us is given the necessary light to see which way we are taking.

"I am aware," he says, that plenty of people hold the view that farming can be treated as a purely commercial undertaking. Anyone with sufficient cunning can make money out of the land, but that is not farming." If the soil is mined instead of husbanded cash crops can be raised, but unless we return to it all the organic wastes to maintain its humus disaster will follow. For example, "When there is a dry spring, we can see the wind carry away the top soil of many fields in the eastern counties, with their young crops and depositing the lot in the nearest ditches and filling them up to the brim." We fell more trees than we plant, we are exhausting by borings our underground water supplies to supply great towns "which are not returning their wastes to the land in return for what they receive but are emptying them into the sea."

According to Oyler we should encourage smallholdings owned by the farmer. "No man, unless he is a saint, can be expected to give the land the same care (the care it needs) if he is a tenant or an employee as he would as an owner." Small farms so owned and properly husbanded give a much higher yield per acre than the larger units. He is also against huge industrial units of every kind and would like to see a return to craftsmanship. "A man should be free to design and build his own home, without asking anyone's permission. When he uses local materials, he will not be able to spoil the landscape—Hundreds of the lovely little old cottages that grace our villages knew no architect or contractor—" "We ought, of course, to restore and repair the mills, wind and water, and grind (with power that costs nothing) our own cereals on the spot." "There were, by the way, once upon a time over 20,000 mills in operation in Great Britain."

Children should be encouraged to use their hands. "Let them all have the liberty, boys and girls alike, the opportunity, the encouragement to learn in the home, in the workshop, in the fields and woods, and each to find out for himself or herself some special aptitude." "Under a system

(Continued on page 8)

UNDERMINING THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A question which was put to Admiral Sherman by the Senate Committee must give Britons occasion for profound thought. "Is it not the case," he was asked, "that perhaps the most significant development in international relations in the last decade has been the recognition by the British that the control of the seas must be passed on to the United States?" The Admiral expressed his substantial agreement with this thesis, not the least important part of which was contained in the four words "in the last decade." As the decade witnessed the smashing of Germany and Japan, and the establishment of the Communist Empire from the River Elbe to the China Sea, it would be foolish to take no account of what to our American friends seems its most significant feature.

As events have been allowed to develop, it is impossible to controvert Admiral Sherman's statement that Britain's economy cannot "support a navy the size of ours." The paradox of her plight he did not mention. It is that the greater the effort she is called upon to make in the "integrated" rearmament programme, the weaker will her military and economic power become. That is because the industrial role assigned to her is mainly the manufacture of small defensive naval craft and fighter planes, and many even of these are being produced for use in an international pool. It is a sombre thought that the sacrifices we have all to make on behalf of rearmament, instead of strengthening us, will place us in a position of inferiority to our allies, who are supplanting us in world power, even more marked than it is today. An acceptance of this inferiority will entail our being taken by the scruff of the neck and bundled out of history.

—"Truth" (England), June 8.

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ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL CREDIT

9/6
An introductory course of lectures published with the authority of the Social Credit Secretariat.

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Chemicals and Food Supplies

We continue this week Lord Douglas's brilliant speech given in the British House of Lords on July 4:

Then, in addition to the kinds of chemicals I have mentioned, there are whole classes of sweetening agents used as substitutes for sugar, flavouring agents, colouring matter or dyes. Of the sweeteners, I may mention P.4000 and dulcin. These have been found to be definitely toxic, although dulcin at least was in common use for many years. Among the substances, which have been used as colouring matter, were a class of Azo dyes, which are known now to be toxic and to be a cause of liver tumors in test animals. One of these dyes was long used under the pleasant name of "butter-yellow," but is now known to be carcinogenic. Mineral oils have been used in the preparation of food-stuffs. Not only do they have no nutritive value, but, because of their capacity for absorbing and immobilising certain vitamins, they actually deprive the body of essential elements in the diet.

Lord Hawke: When the noble Lord speaks about their being toxic and depriving the body, and so on and so forth, is he referring to the human body or an animal body?

Lord Douglas of Barloch: I am referring to the human body. If your vitamins are absorbed by a mineral oil and taken out of your food and rendered useless to you, that is injurious to the whole body. Let me give one illustration of a drink, as distinguished from a foodstuff. Drinks are perhaps not expected to be very nutritious, but we do not expect them to be poisonous. Among the most popular drinks in the United States (and I notice that they are beginning to gain a market here), are the cola drinks. They are composed of phosphoric acid, sugar, caffeine, colouring, and flavouring matter. Although the amount of phosphoric acid may appear to the uninitiated to be small, this acid is so powerful that it rapidly affects the teeth and dissolves the enamel. At the United States Naval Medical Research Institute, human teeth were put into a cola beverage, and, within a very short time, they softened and started to dissolve. They became very soft in forty-eight hours. Experiments upon living teeth in animals showed that the drinking of cola beverages immediately began to erode the teeth, and ultimately they eroded down to the gums.

I will not multiply examples, of which I could give your Lordships many, but let me draw attention to the fact that one article of food may at different stages have

chemicals injected into it for various purposes. The wheat or flour may have been affected by D.D.T. used as an insecticide; it has probably been treated with agene or other bleaching agents or improvers. The baker may add to it fat-extenders, emulsifiers or anti-staling agents. A cake-mix may also have added to it, in addition, flavouring or colouring matter. The sum total becomes rather alarming. Moreover, other articles of food consumed by the same person may contain still more chemicals. The manufacturers of these chemicals will say, and, no doubt, honestly, that they have no evidence that the things they are selling are harmful to human beings. We know now that this is not true in the case of many chemical additives to food, which have been used for many years, and we have no right to assume, without the most stringent proof, that it is true of the others.

The fact is that man, having a relatively much longer life than animals used in medical research, may in the end suffer serious injury by the continued ingestion of relatively small quantities of these alien substances; and such effects are very difficult to detect. It is, however, significant that there has been an increase in recent years in the incidence of diseases having a neurological component, and dis-duodenal ulcers, schizophrenia, and disseminated sclerosis. It will be remembered that agene, for example, has a neurological effect upon test animals. Some may believe that men have become less able to cope with strain and worry, but it seems to me reasonable to assume that there are more definite and specific reasons for the increase in such diseases. Another significant fact is that the number of yearly deaths from cancer in this country is more than three times as great as it was fifty years ago. It has been definitely established that certain chemicals which have been widely used in food give rise to cancer of the liver and other organs in animals. In human beings, it is very difficult to establish the actual cause of cancer, but the rise in the number of deaths from this disease in a period in which the use of chemicals in food has increased so rapidly gives ground for reflection if not for anxiety about the future trend of events.

Let me proceed to draw some conclusions. The first is that the law relating to the sale of food is defective in that, as a general rule, the onus of proving that something injurious has been added is thrown on to the consumer or on to the authorities responsible for food inspection. I have pointed out to your Lordships the difficulties of

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proving this, and the long time which may elapse before such proof is forthcoming; in the interval, the poisonous article is put on the market with impunity. I would go further, and say that, with few, if any, exceptions, the use of chemicals in the preparation of foodstuffs should be prohibited. This principle is well stated in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Flour with Chemical Substances, published in 1927. The Committee said:—

"The object of maintaining inviolate the purity of the flour supply we regard as inspired by sound instinct, and we think that the responsibility for relaxing the principle is a very grave one, particularly at a time when research is beginning to throw new light upon the existence and properties of the more subtle constituents of foodstuffs."

They also said:—

"Our view is that flour should be the product of milling wheat without the addition of any foreign substance."

These seem to me to be wise words, and applicable to all foodstuffs.

As a corollary, it should be made an offence — if it is not so already by Statute or by Common Law — to use any kind of chemical (such for example as fat-extenders) as a substitute for a natural foodstuff. Secondly, all food should be labelled with a precise and clear statement of what it contains, and stating the quantity or proportions of each constituent. This is doubly important, if the addition of any chemicals is permitted. The third conclusion to be drawn is that this matter should be under the supervision of one strong, well-staffed and well-equipped central department, free from association with any trade influences. It should not be left to the uncoordinated efforts of sanitary inspectors, medical officers of health, and public

analysts to try to detect the use of chemicals and their potential dangers. Local authorities have insufficient resources for discharging such complicated and difficult functions. Even if they had adequate resources, to leave such matters to their unaided efforts would result in a wasteful multiplication of effort.

The toxicity or otherwise of these articles can be discovered only by prolonged and expensive experiments, because, among the questions to be answered are these: What is the cumulative effect over years, or over a lifetime? Does the cumulative effect reproduce capacity? Is it a racial poison? It is beyond the wit of any private organisation or of local health departments to keep pace with the ingenuity of the chemist and the food manufacturer. Many associations of food producers have research organisations, often assisted by Government grants, constantly engaged upon devising new methods of treating foodstuffs for the purpose of increasing the sales and the profits therefrom. What is needed is a central department, free from all dependence upon commercial research bodies. The proper Ministry appears to me to be the Ministry of Health. The Ministries of Food and of Agriculture are in a sense concerned but neither of them deals with the whole field, and both of them have associations which could conceivably be a handicap in undertaking this new task. I am therefore suggesting that the Government should take energetic and immediate steps to set up such an organisation, and to pass legislation prohibiting, or at least severely restricting, the use of chemicals in the preparation and as ingredients, of food, and requiring a full and accurate disclosure of the substances contained in all articles sold as food which do not literally and completely conform to the description by which they are sold. I beg to move for Papers.

Adelaide a few weeks ago that unless food production increased, Australia would have to import food within a few years. He did not say where food could be imported from. Neither did he enunciate any policy, which would encourage adequate food production in Australia. While present Government policies are pursued, we are of the opinion that the problem of food is going to become progressively worse. This is, no doubt, essential for the implementation of the regimented economy.

FARMERS OPPOSE "PLANNED ECONOMY"

At the recent annual conference of the N.S.W. Farmers and Settlers in Sydney, a motion that the executive oppose strongly any attempt the Government might make for a "planned economy" and any direction to farmers to produce certain crops was agreed to unanimously and amidst applause.

It is encouraging that at least one section of the Australian primary producers are aware of the dangers of the present Government attempting to apply its Socialist policies to the rural industries.

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENTISTS

"Someone has observed, rather impatiently, that it is rather a pity that there is not a British Association for the Retardment of Science . . . Science has undoubtedly done a great deal to make us more comfortable, but there is no doubt at all that it has not made us less fretful or less discontented.

"Science, unfortunately, seems to increase the complexity of life, and to pose more problems than it solves. Perhaps the trouble is that we treat science far too seriously . . . Scientists . . . form a kind of hieratic caste in the brave new world. We do not remind ourselves enough that scientists, sub specie aeternitatis, are very nearly as ignorant as the rest of us. Compared with the terra incognita which they have still to explore the extent of their knowledge is pitiful. They haven't the faintest conception of how this ridiculous little globe began or to what destination it is headed, although they can tell us a lot about its history, its speed, its historical phases, and its relationship with other lumps of matter. They can't tell us why we are here, and they know infinitely less about us than a motor mechanic knows about the internal combustion engine. The number of things they haven't found out far exceeds the number of things they have found out. They can't, if it comes to the point, even tell us how to eliminate such a trivial irritation as the common cold. We all like scientists and admire them, we are all willing to profit from their discoveries, but it would do us all a power of good to remind ourselves that they, like us, have still got an enormous amount to learn."

—"The Scotsman," August 15.

"New Times," September 21, 1951—Page 7

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"PRESERVING" FOOD

Recently in the Dandenong Court a Melbourne cream company was fined for having used peroxide in cream to destroy the taste and smell of putrefaction. The cream appeared to be fresh. We feel that the modern practice of treating food with various "preservatives" should be discouraged. There is a school of thought, which believes that there is a connection between the food people eat and how they think and act. The decline in the quality of food over the last half century certainly coincides with the decline in the ability to see reality clearly.

FURTHER DECLINE IN WHEAT PRODUCTION

Mr. Chapman, South Australian representative on the Australia Wheat Board, has recently drawn attention to the growing decline of wheat production in Australia. This season's sowings showed a decrease of a million acres on last season. The decline in certain primary industries is one of the most serious problems threatening Australians today. Even Mr. Menzies has apparently realised this, He said in

Great Britain Can Feed Herself

(Continued from page 5)

of forced instruction—the very antithesis of education—the best that can be expected is a nice sort of girl and a decent type of youth, but none or few individuals or characters." "No one can possibly enjoy working on a conveyor belt, for example, and no Christian would want his fellow men to do it."

The Fenland farmers are cited as outstanding examples in Britain of Commercial Farmers who are able to wax rich in money. They use all modern "improvements," tractors, artificials and the good earth is eaten away. "As near as can be calculated the level of the land in many of these farms has been lowered by nine feet during this century." In some places this rich alluvial soil has been used up and some have given up their farms and have "re-commenced to rape the earth in Romney Marsh, the only rich land still unexploited by commercial farming." "Not content with doping the soil, spraying the crops, fumigating the weeds, farmers deliberately kill the green haulm of early potatoes so that they can be lifted more easily by mechanical means." This treatment, he points out, destroys the beneficial bacteria in the soil but allows the survival of the eelworm so that now, on thousands of acres, potatoes can no longer be grown.

In the latter part of his book Oyler tells us a good deal about the peasant farmers in the Dordogne valley and feels that their methods adapted to this country would solve our food problem. He says: "I have lived with, worked with, these peasants, and have learnt more from them than from anyone else—not merely about husbandry but about cookery, craftsmanship and culture, the art of living." It is most interesting to note that many of these peasants are of British stock, having British names and surnames, as well as their livestock! This arises from the fact that Aquitaine was actually a part of the English crown lands for some 300 years. (Read Oyler's former book, "The Generous Earth," which gives a vivid description of this lovely country.)

"The motto of these peasants is Un peu de tout—the complete reverse of ours, which

has descended into specialisation of all kinds and made itself in the process as vulnerable as possible in every way."

I am not going to tell you how the peasants farm, that would take many pages and you must read the book, but it is interesting to learn a typical output of say a few of these little farms of about 15 acres each. On eight such farms (150 acres) "there will be an annual output of 60 acres of wheat for a start. There will be at least 32 adult cattle, 16 to 18 yearlings or 2-year-olds, 8 to 10 calves, 12 to 16 pigs, 20 to 30 sheep, 8 to 10 goats, 100 to 150 chickens, 50 to 60 ducks, 20 to 30 geese and about the same number of turkeys and dozens of rabbits." Both the farmers' families and their stock will be fed entirely on this produce. There will be a surplus for sale of walnuts, tobacco, plums and vegetables, fat poultry, eggs, and from eight to ten fat calves! In addition, they make all their wines, liqueurs and brandy! How many of us could enjoy such a variety of wholesome food in England now?

Summing up, Oyler says that our grass is misused and wasted; marginal land is not used; the roadsides are not grazed with cattle, horses, pigs, geese, sheep and goats. There is failure to plant fruit trees, walnuts, almonds, etc., along our roads and above bush fruit, which he suggests should be planted on the lines of all hedges excepting those on the road. There is lack of terracing and irrigation on hillsides and there are dirty rivers.

A word on dirty rivers. "Records show that 60 or 70 years ago an average catch of salmon in a year in the Tyne amounted to about 120,000 in nets and 2,000 to 3,000 with rod and line. Now the average catch in nets is 700—"

Perhaps I have said enough to indicate what the author of this valuable little book can tell us, but I would like to add that not long ago he was told to concentrate on milk and rear no calves. That was an order, which he ignored and gave the officials the choice of taking on his job and confining him to gaol or allowing him to continue to use his own judgment. The officials retreated and not long afterwards reversed

the order, but many farmers were so frightened by the threats that they carried out what he terms "this crazy edict."

Thank you, Mr. Oyler, and I hope other farmers will follow your lead. —R.G.

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