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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1951.

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

Vote of No Confidence in Government The Referendum Defeat

The decisive No Vote at the Referendum was not only the result of electors' opposition to the proposed Constitutional amendment; many electors who feel that the vote they gave the present Government at the last two elections has been betrayed, took the opportunity of registering a protest. This journal has since its inception fought the Communist conspiracy. But it has always stressed the fact that this conspiracy cannot be defeated while present political, financial and economic policies are pursued. These policies produce such disastrous results that it is not surprising that a great number of people are more concerned about the problem of inflation than they are about Communism. This fact must be resolutely faced if the Communist challenge is to be halted.

The Menzies Government's approach to the Communist issue has been futile and disastrous. The referendum defeat has forced its leaders to admit that it is possible to deal with the Communists without a Constitutional amendment. We have consistently stated that the Federal Government has all the power necessary in order to deal with Communism. But we repeat that no real anti-Communist victory is possible while totalitarian financial and economic policies are imposed upon the people. Repressive measures against Communist trade union leaders will be disastrous if, at the same time, the Government including high taxation. And now they are furthers a credit policy, which, if continued, must inevitably result in a depression. Unfortunately, the Budget proposals, rank and file members of the present Govannounced last week, make it clear that the ernment are really concerned about staying Government's economic "advisers" are in office, they should face the fact that it determined to undermine still further the was Liberal Party voters who played an independence of the Australian people. important part in defeating the referendum. "Bread-and-butter" problems are now becoming so acute that electors are more against the Government, not because they concerned about living standards than they are about Communism. We believe that the referendum vote revealed that many electors blame the Government's policies for most of their economic problems, and not the Communists.

The last Federal elections, and two subsequent by-elections, revealed that the Menzies-Fadden Government had lost electoral support since the victory of December 1949. The referendum result indicates that another Federal election would probably result in the defeat of the Government. It is

certain that the Budget has alienated many who supported the present Government at the last two elections. If the referendum had been held after the Budget was announced, the No majority would have been even greater than it was.

Although Mr. Menzies says he accepts the electors' verdict at the referendum, he claims that they were victims of a campaign of lies. We suggest that Mr. Menzies and his colleagues should be the last people to talk about lies and fear campaigns. They promised, before December 1949, that they would attack and abolish Socialist controls, support Communism, but because they refused to accept the Government's proposition. They also felt that the Government was abusing the powers it already possessed, by implementing the "Defence" Preparations Act and similar Socialist legislation. Many woolgrowers cynically asked what was the difference between the Communists and a Government, which deprived them of their money allegedly because they were helping inflation? Many of those who played a leading role in opposing the referendum, men like Mr. J. T. Lang, have

been fighting Communism over a long period of time. If Mr. Menzies believes that these anti-Communists were the victims of lies and fear propaganda, it serves to confirm our view that, if the Liberals desire to survive the next elections, they should start rejecting Mr. Menzies, his policies and his "advisers" immediately. If Liberal Members persist in supporting present policies, they will have played a decisive role in having Dr. H. V. Evatt elected to the Prime Ministership. Anti-Socialist electors should point this out to them.

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.
- 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, WHITTIER

Silence is crime.

Another Successful "New Times" Dinner

Nearly 100 supporters attended the fifth annual dinner of "The New Times," held in Melbourne on Friday, September 21. Many more who had intended to be present were unable to do so because of influenza, which has been very bad in Melbourne in recent weeks. Many country supporters were present.

Mr. W. J. Carruthers, Chairman of the Board of Directors of New Times Ltd., welcomed those who had attended, and stressed the importance of an annual event which enabled "New Times" supporters to come together in a social atmosphere and discuss their activities in various spheres. Mr. Carruthers also proposed the Royal toast. After a most enjoyable dinner, Mr. Eric Butler gave a survey of various activities being undertaken to further Social Credit ideas. He related his personal contact with Members of Parliament at Canberra, stressing the point that the rank and file of the Government Parties had no control whatever over Government policy. He urged all supporters to do all in their power to ensure that rank and file Government Members were told during the Budget debates that if they wanted to continue their political careers, they must force their Government to honour pre-election promises not to increase taxation.

Mr. Butler paid a warm tribute to the work being done by Mr. John Browne and Miss V. Wilde. He said that it would be impossible for the "New Times" and associated activities to continue without their very competent services. He also said that

"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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the voluntary workers played a vital role in the production and despatch of the "New Times" every week. These workers regularly sacrifice several hours of their time every week in working at the "New Times"

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Butler said that the "New Times" and associated activities were most difficult just at present, because of financial difficulties, although he felt that these would only be temporary. He wanted to make a special appeal to those present to make an immediate financial contribution to enable the "good work" to continue in the near future.

The toast to Major C. H. Douglas was proposed by Mr. W. J. Carruthers, who said that Douglas had made two great contributions to human thought. He had challenged the Socialist interpretation of history, which claims that man is solely a product of his environment. Not only did he claim that the individual can modify his environment by conscious design; he also showed how this could be done. His proposals would completely reverse the deadly policy of centralism, which had progressively undermined the independence of the individual and conditioned him to accept the Socialist idea that he was born to engage in a perpetual struggle. In asking those present to drink the toast to Major Douglas, Mr. Carruthers said that he would like them to know that Douglas had been a very sick man for some time.

The toast to the "New Times" was proposed by Mr. Bruce H. Brown, who gave one of his usual delightful talks. Those present were pleased to hear Mr. Brown say that he may be able, in the not-toodistant future, to start writing regularly again. He stressed the great value of the information made available by the "New Times," giving his own experiences of how he had at meetings been able to use this information. Mr. Brown appealed to all those present to write to their Members about the Budget. In recalling the names of those who, in the past, had been closely associated with the "New Times," Mr. Brown paid a special tribute to the late "O.B.H."—Mr. O. B. Heatley—who contributed regularly his "Notes On The News." "This man's work will be remembered when some of the 'big noises' forgotten." Mr. Brown made a strong appeal to all supporters to help financially to ensure that the "New Times" continued, in spite of rising costs.

In responding to the toast on behalf of the "New Times," Mr. John Browne made special mention of the various voluntary workers assisting him in his work. He said he would be very pleased if more Melbourne supporters could offer their services, in order to reduce the amount of work, which is done commercially.

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By A. W. Noakes. A vivid outline of conditions in the outback of Queensland, in which is- embodied the Reid and Dr. Bradfield water schemes.

A survey of the first ten years of the Albertan Social Credit Government.

OUR MONEY, THE WAY TO FREEDOM

By Peta......7/9

A remarkably well documented and indexed book showing the domination of humanity by those who manipulate the Money System. A "must" for every student.

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Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Mr. Ted Nelson provided his usual excel-

lent entertainment, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Mr. Brian Fitzgerald was again at the piano, and played a most important part in making the evening a great success.

Although the dinner finished officially at 11 o'clock, it was some time after when the last group of supporters finally broke off their discussions and went home. All present expressed the intention of being present again next year. We trust that they will be joined by many more "New Times" supporters at the 1952 annual dinner.

A Revealing Electoral Survey

Following the last Federal Elections, when Mr. Eric Butler contested the Federal Electorate of Deakin as an Independent candidate, a group of Melbourne University students conducted a comprehensive electoral survey in Deakin. This survey reveals just how difficult it is for an Independent with a realistic policy to win an electorate. However, it also indicates just what is necessary if the party machines are to be successfully challenged.

The following report on the survey has been prepared by Mr. John Moore, one of those who helped make the survey:

The main purpose of this survey was The influence of the press and of the radio is the opinions they expressed were an the candidates. accurate reflection of the political consciousness of the electorate as a whole. There are a number of reasons for this; firstly, the area covered embraced 75 percent of the voting strength of the electorate; secondly, we interviewed a very wide crosssection of the electorate — businessmen, workers, housewives, public servants, and so on; thirdly, the percentage of Labor, Liberal and Independent voters we interviewed corresponded closely enough to the actual percentage realised in the election to feel justified in drawing certain conclusions from our assorted data.

Ignorance, Apathy and Party **Politics**

The lack of interest shown was even worse than anticipated. The answer to the question: "Who won the seat in the recent election?" is probably the best example

78% knew that the Liberal candidate won.

17% didn't know.

5% thought the Labor candidate won. Other figures reflecting the general apathy

52% knew none of the candidates' names. 27% knew one of the candidates' names. 14% knew two of the candidates

10% read only their own candidates' cir-

7% knew all of the candidates' names. 55% read none of the candidates' cir-

culars. 33% read all of the candidates' circulars.

2% didn't receive any circulars.

Only 4.8% went to a meeting.

However, I think that we may draw one other important conclusion from these figures, apart from the existence of considerable apathy. It seems obvious that, no matter how good a politician a man may be, unless he represents a particular party, he has very little chance of winning a seat I think this is indicated by the large percentage of people who knew none of the candidates' names, and also by the fact that only 5% went to a meeting. Also voters obviously knew nothing of the candidates' personal attributes and abilities, or, if they did, they still voted for and along party lines. Actually, one or two admitted that one of the opposing candidates was a better man, but didn't vote for him because he didn't represent their party. The strength of this "party voting" was also shown by the fact that only about 8% knew the Independent's name, whilst about half thought that there were only two candidates standing.

to gauge the political interest of the elec- manifest in that most people rely on these torate. Although less than 1 percent of the sources for their political information, rather electors were interviewed, it is felt that than on any circulars or pamphlets issued by

The Floating Vote

"Lying between the two less fluid elements, the floating vote usually surges irresolutely to and fro in response to irrelevant issues or the fleeting excitements of the moment." (Crisp, p. 46.)

From the impression gained from this survey, we would entirely disagree with Crisp's statement. Of the voters we interviewed, 74% were "Floaters," but, far from being irresponsible or irresolute, they appeared to be the most responsible and the most intelligent. Practically all of them had good reasons for changing their voting alliances. Those who changed from Labor to Liberal did so mainly because they thought Labor was pursuing a policy too sympathetic to Communism; those who switched from Liberal to Labor thought that the latter would best deal with the menace of inflation; those who voted Independent were sick of party politics.

These reasons could not be said to show ignorance, confusion, or indifference. They seem to have been arrived at more by clear and intelligent thinking.

Reasons for Voting

Labor	
Class Interest	47.7%
Habit	18.3
Policy	18.3%
Chifley	2.8%
No reason	37%
Other reasons	9.2%
Liberal	
Policy	45.2%
Habit	20.3%
Class interest	11.4%
Menzies	6.3%
Labor irresponsible	5.1%
No opinion	5.7%
Other reasons	6.0%
Independent	
Sick of parties	60.0%
Policy	20.0%
Best candidate	10.0%
Other reasons	10.0%

It is when we come to study reasons for voting for a particular party or candidate that we see ignorance, apathy and selfishness.

Those who voted because of "class interest," or because they or their family had "always voted in the same way," appear to be completely irresponsible and selfish. They take no interest in politics, but vote simply because a certain party is supposed to represent their "class." Can our politicians claim that they have a mandate to implement their policies when a majority of voters know nothing of these policies?

The "Policy" voters form an interesting section. The following points seem note

(1) Of those who voted on policy, the majority (53%) knew little of their party's policy, but said that it was the best all-round policy."

(2) Of the Liberal "Policy" voters, quite a large number (36%) voted because of the Liberal policy towards the Communist Party; a further 18% voted Liberal because they believed that party to be defenders of free enterprise.

(3) Only 10% of Labor "policy" voters supported Labor's socialization plank.

Another point which I have already mentioned is the lack of interest taken in the individual candidates. Only one person in each group voted because they thought their candidate was personally the best man to represent them in Parliament.

Naturally, we struck some people who gave amusing reasons for voting as they did. Here are two of them: -

Labor Woman Voter: "I voted Labor because my b . . . y husband told me to."

Independent: "Labor had no chance, and "I didn't want the Liberals to get in, so I voted Independent."

Voters' Policy Association

This idea proved perplexing to some of those interviewed, who could not grasp it at all. The question was framed in the following way: —"Would you be in favour of forming a Voters' Policy Association which would attempt to formulate a common policy and bring pressure on the sitting member to have that policy put into operation?"

Quite a favourable response was given to the suggestion, 67% being in favour of a V.P.A. However, only 28% of this 67% said that they would take an active part.

Greatest Problem Facing Australia

Inflation	30.6%
Communism	17.8%
Housing	8.9%
Short production	7.2%
Unwillingness to work	6.5%
Defence and war	5.5%
(Cantinuad on page 5)	

(Continued on page 5)

"THE REAL COMMUNIST **MENACE**"

by Eric D. Butler

Price I/9d, post free.

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

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

Order from "New Times" Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

"New Times," October 5, 1951—Page 3

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COMMUNISM AND INFLATION

In a recent message to the 70th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, President Truman said that Americans were, not only threatened by Communism; "They are threatened by the danger of inflation, with its terrible burdens on the great body of our citizens." News reports to hand from Canada reveal that inflation in Canada is now even worse than it is in the U.S.A. In both these countries production has increased enormously in recent years. Both are highly mechanised, compared with Australia, and there is no suggestion that the people are not working hard enough.

Our main purpose in drawing attention to the above facts is to show that increased and efficient production cannot and does not automatically reduce prices. We never cease to be amazed at the number of local "authorities" on inflation who persistently claim that the basic cause of rising prices is inadequate production. We cannot understand how any honest person can reconcile facts with the parrot-cry that harder work and more production will solve inflation. Those who claim that the Communists are causing inflation are either knaves or victims of shallow reasoning. The Communists certainly help intensify the inflation when they can. But they are primarily concerned with exploiting a problem, which they certainly did not originate. They claim that inflation, like deflation, is one of the "inevitable" results of the "capitalist" system, and that it must produce crises, which will lead to the complete Socialist

A close study of Communist strategy leaves no doubt that the Communist conspirators believe that it is in the economic sphere that they can make the most effective progress with their evil campaign. And, unfortunately for the Western Powers, the Communists must ultimately win, unless they and their Socialist colleagues are successfully challenged on basic economic issues. If the West cannot adjust its financial rules to prevent inflation without totalitarianism — which would be a surrender to Communist strategy anyhow — it certainly cannot survive. This is a hard fact, which every genuine patriot should be asked to honestly face. The repetition of nonsense about greater production, harder work, etc., merely serves the Communists.

THE BRITISH CROWN

We join with all loyal subjects of His Majesty the King in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery from his lung operation. At a time when the internationalists are seeking to undermine all local institutions and traditions, as a necessary preliminary to the creation of a World State, it is encouraging to note how the peoples of the British Empire have revealed such a deep and widespread concern about their King's health. The British Crown is an integral part of our Constitution. That Constitution may be no longer as effective as it once was, but, while genuine loyalty to the Crown continues, the British peoples may yet save themselves from the totalitarian abyss.

"DOLLAR-GRIN" IN AUSTRIA

There may be some connection between the post-war craze for travel and the offially-sponsored schemes to make people travel at other would-be travellers' expense (students, teachers, food-talkers). "It's an ill wind . . ." and certainly more eye opening among the Once Great seems to have been done this summer than for a long time past. It may, of course, find its officially provided safety valve. "As in Germany, so in Austria; there are no obvious shortages of anything. As much fresh butter as you like! Petrol here is restricted to this extent, that you cannot buy it for cash from the petrol-pump, but must buy vouchers for it in centres such as Innsbruck or Zell (unrationed and ad lib. in Germany). It is inferior to the German. This village... was almost unknown up to a year ago. Now you cannot get a bed anywhere for love or money. A couple of fair-sized hotels have gone up, and the district is being 'developed' - with Marshall Aid. It is curious that last year similar conditions were found at . . ., which, this year, is half empty, despite the plethora of foreign holiday-makers in Austria — Dutch, Swedish, French, Belgian, Italian, and German, with G.B. name plates most infrequent of all! What riles me is to see the number of big American 'dollar-grin' cars owned by Germans and Austrians—not that I grudge the Germans and Austrians their cars, but what but an international anti-British conspiracy can explain how the citizens of the countries we are supposed to have defeated in war are able to buy cars denied to us because of 'the dollar shortage.' Prosperity is being dealt out to the Belgians and Italians . . . " (The letter waxes uncomplimentary; but we appreciate a point about the human material required by the Sanhedrin to populate the World Slave

—"The Social Crediter" (England), September 1.

HOW COMMUNISM IS WINNING

"... Private monopolies can be destroyed by government, but government monopolies grow and spread in power until nothing less drastic than a revolt can destroy them. An all-powerful government may depend in the early stages on a free voting majority, and gather such a majority out of a coalition of favoured minorities. Then we have a tyranny of majorities. But soon, fortified by the increasing dependence of large blocks of voters upon political favour, and protected by increasing legal restraints upon the freedom of any opposition, a political hierarchy will be able to compel a multitude of dissenters to support it in fear of individual losses or reprisals. Then there is an end to even the pretence of following the will of the people . . .'

— From article, "How Communism Is Winning," by Donald R. Richberg, in "Human Events," Washington, D.C., U.S.A., August 29, 1951.

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The Economic "Experts"

The economists would have us believe that they are experts on financial policy. The daily press assists them by featuring every pronouncement they make, no matter how stupid it may be. But after twenty years of passive acceptance of the advice of the economic "experts," if is surely high time that the Australian people started to de-mesmerise themselves a little by asking a few simple, commonsense questions about the views which the economists express.

As a classic example of what can only be described as gibberish, let us consider the reported statements of Professor G. L. Wood, Professor of Commerce at the Melbourne University, in addressing the Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce on September 24. Professor Wood says that "There is too much spending money about, and profits are too high." He predicts that there will be a big drop in prices soon, "with bargains at half-price in every basement." These bargain prices will "act as a sort of blood-letting to get rid of excess spending capacity. Afterwards, goods and wages must balance again at a new and higher level."

We have little doubt that Professor Wood will readily agree that he does not possess "too much spending money." And we can assure him that we have not met any who feel that they have any "surplus spending power." Who, then, does possess "too much spending money"? We have found it impossible to get any of the "experts" to state specifically just who has too much purchasing power. The truth of the matter is, of course, that they talk in generalities to try and camouflage the fact that they are advocating that the purchasing power of every individual in the community be reduced — for "the common good." But "the common good" is an abstraction. The only reality is the individual good. And this is just what the "experts" are attacking.

If orthodox economics were the exact science which its exponents claim it is, it is indeed a remarkable thing that the

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"New Times," October 5, 1951—Page 5

"expert" economists have never been able to produce any genuine stability in the community. There is no realistic relationship between the production of goods and the issue of financial credit to enable the goods to be sold. Thus, the fantastic spectacle of either inflation or deflation, "boom" and slump. We agree that, if the present restrictive credit policy is continued, prices of many goods must fall as retailers struggle desperately to reduce overdrafts. But just how this will reduce "excess spending capacity," Professor Wood has not explained. If the consumers have "too much" — whatever that means purchasing power now, then, surely a fall in prices will not correct the position.

We were particularly interested in Professor Wood's observation that, after the consumers' "surplus" purchasing power has been taken off them, "goods and wages must balance at a new and higher level.' It is astonishing to find the term "balance' being used by an expert," who points out that, after what he apparently believes will be only a temporary slump in prices, there will be a further increase in prices. There can be no genuine balance while present financial rules are followed. Irrespective of what the "experts" have to say, we desire to go on the record as saying that, if "sound finance" is continued, no permanent general price reductions are possible without credit restriction and depression.

As it is probable that even the tamest of politicians might revolt against the political consequences of a depression, it is, we believe, more likely that the threat of a depression is being used to help force the community further along the totalitarian road. However, this threat can only be removed by a policy of credit expansion. And credit expansion, under the financial

CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM

It may not be generally noticed that there are two ways of taking the remark attributed to the eighteenth-century modernizer of Judaism, Moses Mendelssohn, when he was pressed to receive Christian baptism (That the foundations of his house were not giving way, but that, if they were, he would not seek refuge on the first floor). However that may be, we dissent strongly from Mr. Montgomery Belgion's reiteration of "the fact that Christianity is built on Judaism." For elucidation and validation, we refer Mr. Belgion again to Mr. Mendelssohn's 'first floor.' "And Jesus said to them, Believe me, before ever Abraham came to be, I am."

—"The Social Crediter" (England), September 22. rules supported by the "experts," means more inflation. Inflation also means totalitarianism. Present financial policy is like the party system; it only offers the individual false alternatives. The only hope for the individual is that he shall free his mind from the mumbo-jumbo of the economic witch doctors and apply to political and economic matters the same common sense, which he uses in dealing with other subjects.

A REVEALING ELECTORAL SURVEY

(Continued from page 3)

Industrial unrest	3.2%
Bad types of immigrants.	2.4%
Religious apathy	1.6%
Friendship with the East.	1.6%
No problems	1.6%
No opinions	4.0%
Other problems	9.1%

This question was asked more out of curiosity than out of any desire to test the pulse of the electorate. The results show that the people are keenly aware of the shortages and high prices.

Once again, some of the answers were amusing. For instance, one man, who lived in a dry area, said the greatest problem was "to get a pub in the district." Another was prepossessed with problem of immoral women.

Liberals' Reduced Majority

The main contribution to the Liberals reduced majority came from people who had come into the electorate since December 1949. Of these, 65% voted Labor, and most of these came from the new Housing Commission areas.

Conclusion

I think we can sum up our conclusions in the following points: —

- (1) Strength of party politics a man with his own programme stands no chance against the party machine.
- (2) Apathy of voters can politicians really claim to have a mandate for their policies?
- (3) Floating voter much more intelligent and clear-minded than generally supposed.

On Planning the Earth

BY Dr. GEOFFREY DOBBS

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

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Including Postage.



Humus Affects Freezing Qualities of Soil

Although the following article by Mr. J. Rodale in "Organic Gardening" deals with American conditions, where the winters are much more severe than they are in Australia, the information provided is of special interest to Australian farmers and gardeners interested in how soils rich in humus behave under various weather conditions:

A terrific line of research was done a its organic matter requirements. few years ago that should convince those who are hovering on the borderline of decision that there is more to the organic method than meets the eve. It was summarized in a paper entitled "Vegetation and Frozen Soils," by Leon Lassen and E. N. Munns, at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C., in April, 1947. The whole theme of the paper is that the more humus that is in the soil, the softer is the ice that forms in the wintertime. In view of the magnitude of recent floods all over the country, this is a point of tremendous significance. There can be no question that if a large amount of organic matter is applied to the soil all over the country, let us say if all the organic matter that is now wasted were to be used as a fertiliser, the soil would become so spongy and would hold so much of the rain waters that there would be a tremendous reduction in the amount of floods, and that they would cease to be a problem. It is just plain common sense. It can be seen on hundreds of farms where the organic method is practised. Yet in the consideration of the question of floods and in the spending of billions of dollars for control projects, this point seems to be completely overlooked.

The whole flood problem changes with the seasons. Entirely different factors are involved in the summer and in the winter.

When it rains in spring or summer and the soil is spongy, there will be little trouble about absorbing most of the water. But where chemical fertilizers have been used and the soil is impoverished of organic matter, much of the rainwater will wash off the land into the creeks and rivers and you then have floods. We have found, and many other organic farmers as well, that we can take care of all the summer rains. This is especially true also when contour farming practices are followed. But in the winter, when the ground freezes, we do lose some water when there are rains or when the snow melts.

Now comes the work of Lassen and Munns, which proves that the organic farmer loses much less water in the winter than those who neglect to give the soil

most interesting observation.

It has been found that different kinds of ice form in the soil, depending on the state of the soil insofar as its structure is concerned.

Let me quote from the paper mentioned

'Frost structure is the real determinant of the winter infiltration capacity of a soil. Post and Dreibelbis, reporting on frost studies made from 1939 to 1942; describe three types of frost structure. Where the soil had more than 3 inches of frost, they found that the structure was characterized by an extremely dense complex formation of a great many thin ice lenses—'small crystals.' This type they called 'concrete.' This structure was prevalent in bare soils or in those with a sparse vegetal cover. It usually occurred in soils previously frozen and thawed or in soil settled by a heavy rain. They stated, 'It can be assumed that the imperviousness of a deep, frozen soil is not due entirely to depth of freezing, but it may be partially ascribed to its concrete type of structure.

"Post and Dreibelbis also recognized another type, the 'honeycomb.'. This was common under shallow freezing conditions. The 'honeycomb' type had a loose porous structure that was easily broken into pieces. It existed under shallow freezing conditions, such as are usually found in early winter. It is the common type found in pasture and meadow soils, full of grass roots, where soils are highly aggregated.

"Somewhat similar observations on frost structure are reported by Belotelkin from the Gale River Experimental Forest in northern New Hampshire during the winters of 1938, 1939, and 1940. It was noted that 'moisture present in litter, humus and upper layers of mineral soil formed snow-like crystals.' Soils in open fields, on the other hand, began freezing solidly for several days at a time early in the freezing season.

"MacKinney (1929) investigated frost penetration under red and white pine plantations in eastern Connecticut during the winter of 1926-27. It was observed 'the soil on bare plots froze solidly and the air spaces were practically filled with ice. On the other hand, the frozen soil beneath

(Continued on page 7)

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Humus Affects Freezing Quality of Soil

(Continued from page 6)

the pine litter was porous and loose, at no time being too frozen to allow the insertion of a shovel. In the litter-covered soil the ice formed around the soil particles, leaving the space between the particles open. "In early February, 1947, studies of frost in soils were made by H. F. Morey and Sidney Weitzman, of the Forest Service near Ithaca, N.Y., and later by L. Lassen and H. F. Morey, near Coshocton, Ohio. Particular attention was paid to the type of frost structure formed in compacted soils and as affected by the humus contained in the soils. When humus was incorporated in the soil the frost structure was usually the honeycomb type."

A large number of observations on the structure of frost were made during January and February of 1946, in open areas of New England. The concrete type occurred in cultivated fields and the loose type in meadows where abundant humus occurred. Compacted soils have a solid or concrete type of frost. In the winter observations of the past three years, all soils from which the humus was largely depleted contained the concrete type of frost. So also did all compacted soils with humus such as were found in heavily grazed pastures, meadows and woodlots, or in hay lands in which tractors had been used. Concrete type frost was also found in old roadways, footpaths, in skidways and in logging roads. This observation is also borne out by other investigators.

Post and Dreibelbis reported that frost penetration in the open areas was greatest under wheat and least under pasture. Only traces of frost were found in a woodland soil under second growth oak and hickory.

The preliminary analysis of the 1947 Forest Service data indicated the beneficial influence of humus on frost penetration. Frost penetration was consistently less where the soils had a deep layer of humus.

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In every case where the humus exceeded 3 to 4 inches in depth, the frost penetration was less than the humus depth. The data also indicate that, with similar cover types, frost penetration is considerably greater in compacted than in undisturbed soils.

The presence of soil frost in the snow melt period helps determine run off. If a concrete type of frost structure continues through the melt period, it will prevent all infiltration. If such frost melts downward from the surface, the storage capacity of the soil is limited to the depth free of ice. Thus practically 100 percent of the available water is at hand for run-off. In any event, surface flow will occur whenever the rate, and volume of snow melt and rainfall exceed the limited soil storage capacity and rate of lateral outflow through the unfrozen soil.

A relation between the humus content of the soil and frost persistence is believed to

Vegetation plays an important role in determining soil-frost characteristics. The authors have believed that possibly the greatest influence is that exerted by the decomposing organic matter, but a recent study by Anderson (1947) suggests that the cover itself is exceedingly important in delaying frost. Thus he found that freezing in bare soil began at 31..3 degrees, and under a light grass 29-degrees. Freezing did not take place within a dense brush cover.

In 1929, MacKinney reported that during winter rain and thaws, the water soaked into the litter-covered forest soil. From the bare areas the water ran off, due to the non-porous character of the frozen soil.

Unpublished data of the Conservation Service from Cohocton, New York, lend further evidence on the contribution of frozen soil to 1941, runoff. Ιn runoff from cultivated watersheds was directly related to the extent of the frost in the soil. This in one drainage where only 25 percent of the area contained frost during the melt period, the runoff amounted to only 12 percent of the available water. Where the frost was found on 93 percent, of the area, the run-off was 53 per cent. Thus the presence of frost over extensive areas in a small drainage increased the run-off from 3 to 4 times.

These findings also suggest that certain assertions and beliefs so frequently encountered are highly erroneous. For example, we often hear that heavy rains on deep snow on frozen ground are the common cause of floods. Some reason that, because soil may be frozen, all ground is frozen when thaws come; others believe that all frozen soil inhibits the entrance of water. Such ideas in wide circulation today indicate how willingly many are misled when their experience is limited to casual observations.

Very little comment is needed, as the report shows conclusively that the nature and extent of ice and frost in the ground depend upon the amount of organic matter, which it contains. The organic gardener and farmer, therefore, are very well situated in regard to having a soil that contains enough humus to retard formation of hard ice. Thus they have less run-off water, and their land thaws out

much earlier in the spring, both features being a tremendous edge over their chemical fertilizing neighbours, especially over the long-pull. Studies now should be made on the effect of chemical fertilizers used in the soil on freezing and ice formation.

An important observation that can be made is that land should not be plowed in the fall and left bare over the winter It will tend to form ice deeper and more concrete. Keep a vegetative cover over the soil in this period. This also prevents some killing of earthworms due to freezing.

POISONING FOOD

From British "Hansard" of June 30: — Dr. Stross asked the Minister of Food to what extent lithium chloride is used in Britain as a substitute for salt or in baking bread or confectionery.

Mr. Willey: From the inquiries I have made, I have no reason to believe that any lithium chloride is used in Britain as a substitute for salt in food products, or in bread baking or confectionery manufacture.

Dr. Stross: In view of the fact that it has been used in other countries, with a very bad result, including some deaths, will my hon. friend keep his eye on this substance and forbid its introduction if he sees any signs of its being introduced?

Mr. Willey: Yes, sir.

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"New Times," October 5, 1951—Page 7

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LET SUPERPHOSPHATE DO IT

Are you serving superphosphate for breakfast this season?

Even after the drastic sugar famine, we are still "bee minded." Everybody with a backyard has tried raising bees. Now it seems there aren't enough of them left for the pollination of the alfalfa. No bees, no seed, no alfalfa. For bees have curled up their stingers and starved to death. Starved to death, with acres of alfalfa in full bloom all around them.

The beekeepers report that there is no honey in the flowers. Shades of Jacob Huffman! Who has ever heard the like? All right, say the beekeepers, watch the alfalfa blooms. Ever see a bee buzzing around? The answer is no. Those fields look like a bee's dream of heaven, but the bees turn cold shoulders on them.

Now, why did they black list the alfalfa? For the past few years, the neighbours have been putting superphosphate on their fields. They get bumper crops of hay, and they aren't trying to raise seed anyway, so the operation was a success — but the patient died. At least the bees did.

So I shall not write my congressman after all about concentration camps for bees. I'll let superphosphate do the dirty work.

—"Organic Gardening" (U.S.A.).

STRANGLING THE STATES

"I find it a matter for some concern when I reflect on the real nature of our Federal system of Government in Australia, that the Commonwealth apparently neither seeks nor desires effective co-operation with the States.

"The Commonwealth seems to be beset with the notion that the States as such are subject bodies, to be disciplined and controlled, and that, if this is done, then, by some magical touch, our problems will be solved.

"I think it would be appropriate in this year, when we celebrate the centenary of responsible government in Victoria, and the jubilee of the Federation of the Australian States, for some thought to be given to the desirable role of Governments, Commonwealth and State, in the Federal system.

"The States are charged with great responsibilities, yet they have inadequate financial resources. The developments of many years point clearly to the confusion that must follow unless the position is rectified.... the problem goes beyond finance."

—Mr. J. B. McDonald, Victorian Premier, in Budget Speech on September 18.

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Page 8—"New Times," October 5, 1951

Are You An Organic Former or Gardener?

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