

THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1951,

SIXPENCE WEEKLY.

All Parties Support Increased Taxation Labor's Hypocrisy

We are not impressed with the Labor Party's attack upon the Federal Government's Budget. Labor Party speakers have merely sought to gain political advantage out of the Budget debates; they have offered no genuine alternative to the taxation policies of the Menzies Government for the very good reason that these policies are a continuation of those they imposed only a short time ago. If the Labor Party were in office at present, it would be doing exactly what the Liberal-Country Party is doing. And the Liberal and Country Party Members would be attacking high taxation like Sir Arthur Fadden used to attack it several years ago.

During his second reading speech on the Budget, it is true that Dr. Evatt said: "I entirely dispute — as a corollary to the principle that Governments should provide spending-power in times of depression — that in times of excessive demand and scarcity of labor Governments should draw away from the public in taxation and loans more than they spend for current purposes." Here was a repudiation of the theory of "balancing for a surplus" in order to check inflation. But this is the very policy, which Dr. Evatt and his colleagues supported when they were the Government. When the late Mr. Chifley was speaking on the 1950 Budget, he made it clear that he supported the policies now being imposed by the present Government. And he was echoed by one of his closest disciples, Mr. Kim Beazley, who said: "Any person who looks at a Budget from the standpoint of it being a device to arrest inflation recognises that in a boom-time it is sound governmental practice to budget for a large surplus. Such a procedure skims off spending-power and holds it in reserve so that it can be expended later." This is similar to what Sir Arthur Fadden is now saying, although it appears that the "surplus" spending-power he takes from the electors will not be expended "later" but immediately.

As far as we can discover, not one Member of the Labor Opposition at Canberra has put forward any suggestions for preventing taxation from increasing. All tacitly agree that taxation must increase, but merely suggest how more should be taken off the "wealthier" sections of the community and not so much off the wage earners. It is no doubt good party political tactics to claim that the Government's pension increases should be bigger. But again no specific suggestion has been made of how these increases can be financed without increasing taxation. In spite of their jeers about the present Government being "re-

actionary," Labor Party Members by their support of present financial rules condemn themselves as being also reactionary.

The performances of all Parties at Canberra over the past twenty years should prove to any reasonable person that there is no real difference in their major policies,

"COMMON PROPERTY"

There is a real and important sense in which natural resources are common property, but it is vital to recognise that this only applies to undeveloped natural resources.

If there was oil on Robinson Crusoe's island, it "belonged" to Crusoe and Man Friday because they developed the island, and without their presence it had no value. The core of that development was initiative and know-how, not labour. To say that the position of the Persians vis a vis crude indigenous oil is the same before its development and after the British have taken all the risks, provided all the plant and organisation, most of the skilled labour, is the same elemental fallacy as that of the Socialists everywhere. In fact, it is quite arguable that Persian oil would be more valuable if there were no Persians in its vicinity. The globe-alone, Collectivism of Mr. Attlee and his cohorts produce one of two results with the inevitability of a Greek tragedy. Either the controllers of initiative (at present, international finance) fight amongst themselves for the power accruing from exploitation initiative ("Point 4. Assistance to undeveloped nations") or, as they prefer, a subordinate nation is allowed to do the work and then expropriated, as the American-German-Jews are expropriating the British everywhere, even in "Britain". "War. or the threat of war." is essential to this policy, and as Bismarck recognised, Socialism is the peace aspect of a War State.

—"The Social Creditor," October 6

financial or otherwise. They have all progressively increased taxation, both direct and indirect, while in office, only protesting verbally against taxation increases when they are the Opposition. Although present Government Members are desperately suggesting that their taxation increases are emergency measures made necessary by inflation, and may be later modified, we can predict with certainty now that while present financial rules are continued, they are only forerunners of further taxation increases next year. There is no hope whatever of any relief from oppressive taxation until a more realistic approach is made to financial rules, which at present produce results, contrary to the desires of the majority of the people.

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

Credit Expansion

In the Commonwealth Bank's annual report, issued by Dr. Coombs last month, it is stated "Despite tighter restrictions on bank lending, advances by all banks rose £104 million last year". In other words, the total amount of credit in the community was expanded by the creation of over £100 millions of new credit. The present economic system, governed by orthodox financial rules, can only function at all by a continuous expansion of credit for various types of capital production which immediately increase the total wages paid in the community without increasing the supply of goods for sale. If the rate of expansion of credit is retarded, as it was during the depression years, there is disaster. But on the other hand, continuous expansion of credit under present financial rules is inflationary.

* * * *

Scientific Robbery

Mr. R. G. Casey's contribution to the Budget Debates: "The Government had increased both direct and indirect taxes not in a haphazard way but in a scientific way". We are prepared to concede that the progressive robbery of the individual by Governments leaves little to chance. All those who go in for robbery in a big way are most scientific in their methods.

* * * *

The Copland-Menzies-Fadden Government

The Menzies-Fadden Government, after being critical of the New Despotism while

in opposition, has now embraced the entire machine. Its Budget runs counter to everything it said while in Opposition. Is it that those responsible for Government have lost their self-reliance and are afraid to accept any responsibility? Is that why they hand over so submissively to the planners and to the bureaucrats? Why should the Fadden of government be an entirely different Fadden to the critic of the experts when in Opposition? I have already pointed out how the Menzies-Fadden Government has adopted the entire Dedman set-up of War Organisation of Industry. Now it has fallen entirely for the Copland 8-Point Plan. In the past twenty years we appear to have succeeded only in changing our politicians. We have not changed our government. It has remained the same. This Government seems determined to pass into political oblivion as the Copland-Menzies-Fadden Government.

—J. T. Lang in "Century;" October 5.

* * * *

Socialism and the Armament Industry

It was one of the favourite charges aimed at the villainy of Capitalism (not without some foundation) that the Armament Industry depended on it.

Since the Glorious Socialist Revolution in which we bask, the Armaments Ring has expanded tenfold. Without Socialism, it would be dead. "Russia" claims, or claimed, that her particular brand must conquer the Earth or else.

It would be interesting to know how much Sir Basil Zaharoff, Armaments King, directly and indirectly assisted Sir Ernest Cassel in his contribution to Socialist funds.

—"The Social Creditor" (England), October 6.

* * * *

Providing "Full Employment"

The "Persian" Government has confiscated, without compensation, the new £500,000,000 Power Station at Abadan.

This ensures further cuts by the British Electricity Authority, while we make plant for another to replace it, and justifies still more fully the claim of the Socialists to be the Party of Full Employment. Ground Nuts, Gambia Chickens, Indian Debts, Persian Oil—there's no end to it, either in Peace or War.

—"The Social Creditor" (England), October 6.

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Korean Tragedy

Just exactly what America hoped for in the talks on Korea is difficult to imagine. The Korean business cannot be settled without an expeditionary force upon a scale, which would make the Normandy D-Day look like a tactical exercise. Once established in Korea, the problem of holding against a permanently hostile China, reinforced by the whole might of the Soviet Union right on the backdoor step, would make the position of any occupying force almost untenable. All this was understood by the general staffs, both in London and Washington. But Mr. Truman gave the order to go in. Now we pay the price.

—"The London Newsletter." September.

1951.

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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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"Render Unto Caesar . . ."

By M. Beresford

"And they watched him and sent forth spies which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of His words, so that they might deliver Him unto the power and authority of the governor. And they asked him saying, 'Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly; neither acceptest thou the person of any but teachest the way of God truly.

"Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar or no?"

"But He perceived their craftiness, and said unto them 'Why tempt ye me?'

" 'Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it?' They answered and said 'Caesar's'.

"And he said unto them 'Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.'"

And they could not take hold of his words before the people, and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

—St. Luke xx, 20-26.

Before we commence our analysis of the preceding passage from the New Testament, it would be as well to get our definitions straight.

According to our Bible, the term or name 'Caesar' was used or assumed as a title by the emperors of Rome. In its modern application it is used to denote government, any government, anywhere.

'Tribute' can be in the form of taxation, personal service, or both.

All dictionaries are unanimous in describing taxes as a charge or 'burden' imposed by authority for the support of Government, etc. All burdens, except where voluntarily assumed, are evil.

Now the pith and core of our subject matter are the things that belong to God, and the things, which be Caesar's.

Not long ago a famous parson on a visit to this country in a broadcast on the eve of his departure made the following statement "Outside God there is only death".

Without going into further details, may we remark that this is a truth, and a great truth, with which we are in entire agreement.

Well, when you come to think this over it does not leave very much of any worth for Caesar to claim as his, does it, except of course... death. And that is the ultimate fate of Caesar and all he stands for.

Look over the world's historical record for the last two thousand years. It doesn't make very nice reading does it? But it all belongs to Caesar. Wars, slumps, man-made famines, slavery, deceit, all the means by which Caesar maintains himself in power, all these are "the things which be Caesar's". The rise and fall of empire after empire, with nothing but decay and death at the end of the road. New Caesars arise, but the paths they tread are always the same, the bloody roads to destruction and death. But why go on? You probably see as clearly as we do the subtlety of Christ's reply to the temple pimps who sought to trap Him.

What a different world this would be today had Christ's teachings been implemented then; what a different world we could create tomorrow if we started implementing His teachings NOW.

Of course, Christ and Caesar are incompatibles. There is no room for Christ in Caesar's kingdom, and (when it is established) there will be no room for

Caesar in Christ's Kingdom. Another perfectly obvious thing is the fact that Caesar's kingdom is founded on tribute. No tribute; no Caesar. As long as people pay tribute to Caesar, so long will they have Caesar riding on their backs.

Therefore all talk of a spiritual revival, entering unto the Kingdom of Christ, and other hi-faluting bunk, delivered by peripatetic parsons is so much eyewash while Caesar is in control.

As a matter of fact these silly people are trying to make the best of both worlds, by professing Christ, and enjoying benefits under Caesar. It just cannot be done. Christ stated quite categorically "Those who are not with us, are against us". You cannot profess Christ, toady to Caesar, and get away with it.

We do not suppose anybody will dispute the fact that Christ was the Godhead, tried under Judaic law, and crucified under Roman law. In other words He was God on trial by Men. Such being the case it will only need a little thought for us to realise that He had to be guilty of all the charges levelled against Him. He came to save the world, by the sacrifice of His life, from its iniquity.

"And the whole multitude of them arose and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse Him saying 'We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King'."

And Pilate asked him saying, "Art thou King of the Jews?" And He answered him and said, "Thou sayest it".

Was there any denial on the part of Christ? There was not. Was Christ King of the Jews? He was King of us all, including the Jews. Did He tell the people not to pay tribute to Caesar?

What do you think?

Let us see what one of Caesar's instrumentalities thinks about this matter. It is very interesting, and throws some light upon the mentality of the anti-Christ.

The time is just before World War II. The place is Paris. The Zionist-Socialist writer, Pierre van Paassen, is having an informal chat with Marshal Lyautey, hard-boiled ex-proconsul of the French Republic in Morocco, and one of the greatest "colonizers" of our time. They have been discussing Christ, and van Paassen ventures the suggestion "But Jesus also urged that the people give unto Caesar what was Caesar's." "Did he?" snorted the Marshal. "Did he now parbleu? Are you sure of that? I tell you I do not interpret that text, as do the theologians. Jesus asked to be shown a coin and pointing to the imperial effigy he said 'Whose likeness is that?' 'That is Caesar's likeness' they told him. 'Well then give it to him. Let Caesar have his coin. And be done with it.' A mon avis Jesus replied contemptuously to

that question as if He wanted to say 'Leave me alone with your bosh about Caesar No, you may be sure of it, in that Kingdom of which Christ dreamed and spoke, there was no room for Caesar or for Pilate, or for the princes and mighty ones. The whole Roman Empire was anathema to Him . . . Fortunately St. Paul came along later and effectively destroyed the revolutionary ferment in Christianity . . ."

If you want to pursue this matter further you can read it for yourself and a lot more beside, in "Days of Our Years," by P. van Paassen.

According to their lights (and their lights were evil) all these people were right Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, Lyautey, and a host of others. They levied tribute, even from their blood brothers, on behalf of their master, Caesar, ruthlessly and efficiently. Tribute in treasure and personal service, in savage slavery, bestial brutality blood and tears, but they all had one attribute in common, and that was a thorough understanding of the character, nature and philosophy of Christ who was their anti-thesis. That is the one thing that the professional Christian of today does not possess. The anti-Christ knows all about Christ, the professing Christian doesn't.

Shortly after Christ was crucified, the Jewish Sanhedrin sent the Jewish lawyer Saul of Tarsus to Rome, to preach the doctrine of non-violence to the Romans in an effort to undermine the Roman Empire by ideological means, and out of his teachings grew the most colossal perversion of the last two thousand years.

As Lyautey put the case for the anti-Christ, "fortunately St. Paul came along later, and effectively destroyed the revolutionary ferment in Christianity".

"Master is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar?"

What do you think?

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THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

It appears highly probable that the British electors have become so antagonistic to the Socialists and their restrictive policies that they will at the coming elections elect a Conservative Government led by Mr. Churchill. But if the British electors expect any improvement of their lot under a Conservative Government controlled by its present leaders, they are due for the same type of shock suffered by Australian electors who thought that the election of the Menzies-Fadden Government would mean the end of Socialist policies. The British Conservatives are making few definite promises. It is clear that there is no proposal to destroy the crippling Socialist structure erected by the Attlee Government. Food control is to continue. The best that can be offered is that the Conservatives will take the "sting" out of austerity.

Events in Persia and Egypt have been most embarrassing to the Socialist Government. But Mr. Churchill is the last man to criticise foreign policies, which have resulted in British assets being stolen, and British prestige lowered. His own efforts, along with those of his deputy, Anthony Eden, during the last war helped considerably in reducing the British Empire to its present sorry state. Both Churchill and Eden played a disgraceful role in the betrayal of Poland. Along with the Roosevelt Government, they did everything that Stalin required. The Communists were the victors at Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam.

In spite of the disastrous results of his past associations with Stalin, Mr. Churchill had the effrontery before the last British Elections, of promising that if he were elected, he would immediately seek a personal interview with Stalin to try and ease the tensions being created by the "Cold War". The same suggestion is now being put forward by the British Conservatives during the present elections. A report in the first edition of the Melbourne "Herald" of September 24 — it was deleted from all later editions — quoted Mr. Richard Stanley, Conservative M.P., as saying that if victorious at the coming elections, one of Mr. Churchill's first acts will be to meet Stalin again. Mr. Stanley said that Mr. Churchill would try to establish friendship between the top men of Great Britain and the Soviet. "Mr. Churchill had already made friends with Stalin," Mr. Stanley said.

We trust that we shall be spared any more of this type of "friendship". While claiming that they are upholders of the British Empire, the present British Conservative leaders have condoned every major policy, which has helped destroy the Empire. Most of the present troubles in the Middle East stem from the British withdrawal from Palestine and the subsequent Zionist victory. Mr. Churchill has been a life-long supporter of Zionist policies. He has raised no protest against the subordination of British sovereignty to Washington policies, has supported the "United" Nations, and in campaign for the policy of a Federated Europe, has openly associated himself with Socialist revolutionaries like Spaak, who joined with the Communists in forcing King Leopold off the Belgium throne. We have no faith that this man can lead the British peoples out of their present state.

Prediction Proved Correct

Sir, —At the declaration of the poll in Deakin at the last Federal elections, I predicted that if the Menzies-Fadden Government continued as it had during its first term of office, there would be disaster within six months. The six months are not up yet, but already disaster is upon us. It should be clear to all that the Budget proposals mean a lower standard of living for the majority of individuals. But, studied in conjunction with other policies being imposed by the present Government, they also reveal a comprehensive campaign to force the Australian people into a totalitarian society.

Apart from being a blatant repudiation of pre-election promises to reject Socialism, the "Defence" Preparations Act recently passed is designed to give Canberra planners, most of them declared Socialists, the power to decide which industry is "essential" and which is "non-essential". And then there is centralised control of credit policy, which is also being used to control production. Heavier taxation and a general policy of credit restrictions must, if persisted with, lead to a depression. Perhaps the politicians do not know what they are about, but the policies they are endorsing admirably suit the purposes of those who exploit disaster to further their objective of the completely centralised State. Every instrument of centralised control is being used to destroy the independence of the great majority of the people. Independent people are a menace to totalitarian planners. The record of the present Federal Government has been one betrayal after another of every major promise made before the last two Federal elections. I trust that this betrayal—and there is worse to come yet — serves to demonstrate the truth of what I said during the last election campaign: that while Party politics are continued in their present form, the elector has no effective control of his Member of Parliament. —Yours, etc., ERIC D. BUTLER, Runnymede, Alma Rd., Pantton Hill, in "The News," Heidelberg, October 5.

THE AGE OF LEISURE

This earth in one year pours a cornucopia of good things forth, enough to fill us all for many years in succession . . . a hundredth part of the labour and slavery now gone through will be sufficient, and in the course of time, even that will diminish.

Is ideal man then to be idle?

I answer that if so, I see no wrong, but a great good. I hope that succeeding generations will be able to be idle.

I hope that nine-tenths of their time will be leisure time; that they will enjoy their days, the earth and beauty.

They shall not work for bread but for their souls, and lift their souls to be with the more than immortal now.

There is no limit to the things that may be yet in material and tangible shape besides the immaterial perceptions of the soul.

—Richard Jeffries, of Swindon, born 1848.

Behind Events in the Middle East

I have sympathy for the man who confesses that he can make neither head nor tail of happenings in the Middle East. He cannot see rhyme or reason in the Persian antics, and harbours a secret longing for Palmerstonian diplomacy—"Why don't we send a gunboat!"

Of course, we did just that. There she lay idly at anchor, waiting for orders from London that never came. Instead, England sent Mr. Stokes. Tough, rough Mr. Stokes who was going to stand no nonsense. Mr. Harriman was in attendance, too; presumably saying the erudite things Mr. Walter J. Levy wished him to say.

Now there is a man you ought to meet. Evidently Mr. Levy is a man of letters, for he was undergraduate of no less than six universities. A long talk with Mr. Levy would clear up many of the puzzling features of Mid-Eastern policy. Since it is doubtful if Mr. Levy would consent to an interview, or would talk even if he did, we must watch the outcome of events in case they follow the course suggested in these pages long ago.

We made the preposterous suggestion to you, that America had her eye on Persian oil—at least I was told that it was a preposterous suggestion. That was before Mr. Harriman was ordered to intervene in what was purely a private fight. Was his intervention because England is no longer competent to manage her own affairs, or is there someone of greater depth behind Mr. Harriman?

Those of you who know Mr. Harriman may feel as I do, that he is an agent rather than a principal. Be that the case, identify his principals and you will be nearer than you imagine to a solution to the Persian riddle.

Perhaps Mr. Levy gives us a clue. Perhaps other trails lead round to his front door. Our correspondent, now in Haifa, believes that there are such trails and that he has crossed and re-crossed them many times during his investigations in the Middle East. Here are points from his reports.

The fourth largest refinery in the Middle East is at Haifa. It is working at only 30 percent of its present capacity. That

capacity is 80,000 barrels a day and could quickly be enlarged to handle 200,000 barrels a day. Our correspondent believes that those behind the Haifa refinery are, shall we say, not disinterested in any difficulties, which the British are experiencing in Abadan.

One of the obstacles to the development of Haifa was the clash between Israel and the Arab State. The Kirkut-Haifa pipeline, which was cut during the local war, has not been restored despite the 1949 armistice. A year ago the Kingdom of Jordan put a stop to a second pipeline, whilst Egyptian interference with tankers using the Suez Canal prevented oil supplies reaching Haifa through the only alternative route.

In this extremity Israel desperately needs allies. The conclusion to be drawn is that any interruption in Abadan might be calculated to force England, and other interested Powers, to think in terms of Haifa, tending to force perhaps a political alliance to the undoubted commercial advantage of Israel. Though this may strike you as far fetched as the earlier suggestion, that America had an eye on Persian oil, our correspondent makes two more little points. Important little points they are.

Look beyond the Middle East for a moment. You will have noticed how the American Atlantic defence system bulged until it embraced the whole Mediterranean and overlapped into the Near East. There is no strategic reason for this. It is just a fact.

You will have noticed, too, that a new American defence bloc is being formed for the near and Middle East, on the pattern of N.A.T.O. This bloc includes the United States, Great Britain, France, Turkey and Greece.

Now the function of this alliance is to plan strategy making the most effective use of the land, air and sea forces of all concerned. It would cover trouble in Egypt, Turkey, Palestine, Persia and Arabia. The objects of the alliance are to restore stability in a part of the world "where intense nationalism is having an unsettling effect," and to safeguard the oil upon which the whole American strategy depends.

It might be thought, in view of the essentially British interests which centre hereabouts, that we would at least have been invited to play a big part in this new set up; but our correspondent assures that command of the armies will go to Turkey. This is all worth remembering.

To tie all this up with present events in the Middle East, only one item is needed to complete the circle. Here it is. At the 23rd World Zionist Conference held in Palestine, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, called by the London "Jewish Chronicle" the "stormy petrel of the Zionist Movement," complained that Israel, working through her

Embassy in Washington, was bypassing the American Zionist leaders who, he said, were still capable of exerting a decisive influence on American foreign policy!

Looking back over the many anomalies of American foreign policy since the end of the war, and counting the cost of the tremendous commitments which have been made in the name of her people, there seems incontrovertible evidence that her politicians, like ours, have been striving to serve two masters. The outcome of this dual policy can be seen in the dangerous situation, which is building up throughout the oil world.

—"The London Newsletter," September 1951.

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

We have received the following information from the Dispossessed Home and Property Owners' Association:

The main object of the Association is to urge immediate repeal of unjust clauses of the Landlord and Tenant Act, which deny to homeowners occupation of their own homes.

The Association has already held largely attended meetings in Melbourne, and more recently a successful meeting in the Prahran Town Hall, which, in addition to the principal resolution of protest, carried a resolution of opposition to the Greater Melbourne Council proposal.

A preliminary meeting of the Northcote local committee is announced for Friday, October 12 at 8 p.m. in the lodge room of the Town Hall, Northcote, and all willing to assist are invited to attend.

The Northcote meeting will be followed by meetings at Hawthorn Town Hall, October 22; Geelong City Hall, October 26, and at the Star Theatre, Shepparton, on November 2.

DOUGLAS REED AGAIN

We have received information that another book by Douglas Reed will be available shortly. This book covers the American scene, and deals with the Zionist-Communist conspiracy seeking to destroy the American Republic from within. All those who desire to obtain this book should let us know immediately in order that we can order adequate supplies. We are unable at present to quote the exact price of the book.

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Top-Heavy Economy Means Food Shortages

As the Australian economy is being forced in the same disastrous direction as the British economy, we feel that the following article by Mr. Jorian Jenks in the March issue of "Rural Economy" (England) might profitably be studied carefully by all thinking Australians who are concerned with the problem of maintaining adequate food supplies:

At long last it is coming to be realised that we must grow at home, not only more food, but all the food our soil can produce. The imperative needs of defence, added to a steady worsening of world food prospects and of our own terms of trade, rule out any other policy as unrealistic. But this is no counsel of despair. As anyone who studies the progress Report just issued by the R.R.A. Research Committee will agree, there is nothing physically impossible about a high degree of self-sufficiency, provided the necessary effort is made.

But that effort cannot be left to a small body of agriculturists, whose numbers are again dwindling. Last June's returns showed an exodus of 14,000 farm workers in a twelve-month period in England and Wales alone; December's figures were even worse; and it is tolerably certain that economic difficulties will put many market growers and poultry men out of business. The Minister of Agriculture's recent statement that farmers and farm workers now represent "roughly 5 percent of the population, gainfully employed" is quite as disquieting as the present disparity between Western and Communist armies.

No one has yet disputed Napoleon's famous dictum that an army marches on its stomach. It is equally true, as Mr. P. R. Griggs points out in our correspondence columns this month, that civilisation stands on the shoulders of its husbandmen. Throughout Europe, agricultural producers comprise 20 percent or more (in some cases much more) of national populations. Even in the heavily industrialised U.S. they amount to 12 per cent.

By any standard of comparison, Britain's economy is dangerously top-heavy. In fact, the crucial economic question of the day is . . . how can a Welfare State engaged overwhelmingly in secondary activities maintain its standard of living in the face of rising world prices for primary products? Put another way—as our overseas food suppliers are putting it with increasing impatience—does our industrial community expect to be subsidised indefinitely by those who feed it?

Apparently our rulers think so. Mr. Isaacs, when Minister of Labour, expressed the view that there is no longer an "agricultural man-power problem" and his suc-

cessor, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, has shown his agreement by abolishing the deferment of military service hitherto granted without question to farm employees. The National Union of Agricultural Workers knows better spokesmen have always stressed, in their demands for better wages and conditions, the need to attract men back to the land.

Labour backbenchers representing rural constituencies have been equally outspoken. Particularly to the point were some observations made by Mr. Edward Moeran, M.P. South Bedfordshire, in the Commons debate on Meat Supplies last month:

We are in the position (said Mr. Moeran) that we are producing today approaching 50 percent of our food supplies. Before the war the proportion was one-third. It is now higher than it has been during this century, and by 1952 we shall be producing rather more than half of our total food supplies; but we have to increase that amount still more. Today, only five per cent of the whole working population is producing our food, and the proportion of workers who are concerned in food production is lower in this country than anywhere else in the world. This is a terrific achievement, but it is a precarious state of disproportionate production of food against the production of manufactured articles, which, in a long-term policy, if the international situation allows us a long term, we must redress. We can only ignore that disproportion at our peril . . .

"Disproportion" is the right word. Food comes first: without it we cannot live, work or defend ourselves. To put food production last in the category of essential occupations is to invite disaster.

A HOARY LEGEND

What lies behind official complacency on this subject? It derives, we suspect, from the outmoded idea that land work is menial employment and that the fewer people there are engaged in it the higher will be the standard of living. Of recent years this hoary legend has been given the colour of modernism by a naive belief that "scientific methods" and "technical efficiency" can solve all agricultural problems — even an insufficiency of agriculturists. The scientist and technician are, in effect, the medicine men of our times. They are expected to

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Top-Heavy Economy Means Food Shortage

(Continued from page 6)

propitiate—or, if need be, defy—the forces of nature.

Agriculturists themselves have few such illusions. When commanded to make bricks without straw, as has been the case this last twelve years, they have perforce to resort to such technical aids as are available; and so long as the mounting cost of these is recoverable through the official price-structure, most of them will no doubt continue to do so, despite growing uneasiness. But anyone who knows the countryside realises that the first requirement of intensive mixed farming, which alone can ensure that we are decently fed, is more people on the land.

"Mechanisation" is the great catchword of the moment. Apparently it is expected to solve, not only our own food problems, but those of the "backward" countries as well. Yet brief reflection reveals that machinery, however useful as an aid, itself produces nothing, being infertile. Moreover, it does not even "save labour"—the chief virtue claimed for it.

In our May, 1950, issue we drew attention to some figures relating to East Anglian farms over a period of ten years, which were cited by a Cambridge economist, Mr. F. G. Sturrock, in support of his conclusion that "in spite of a very considerable increase in expenditure on machinery, productivity per man is not increasing." This verdict is in keeping with the findings of other agricultural economists and, it seems, of agricultural engineers themselves; for last November Mr. W. H. Cashmore, Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, began a paper read to the Farmers' Club by saying:

Britain has made rapid strides in mechanisation since 1939. The arable acreage has been increased from 11,870,000 to 17,400,000 and the horse population reduced by over 200,000 from the 1939 total of 648,000, but the tractor population has risen from about 55,000 to over 300,000. Even assuming that a tractor is equivalent

to no more than four horses, the available power per acre now appears to be double that of pre-war.

This high level of mechanisation can only be justified economically if it results in a reduction in unit costs. Although it is almost impossible to compare present costs with those before 1939, there are many instances where corresponding production costs have actually risen through the use of machinery, but its use is justified on the grounds of easier working conditions, and the fact that the necessary labour is not available.

It seems a fair conclusion that, beyond a certain point, machinery becomes simply an expensive substitute for men whom the land needs but can't get.

Experience with other substitutes is similar. For lack of sufficient labour to make, turn and spread honest muck, farmers have been driven to rely more and more on artificial fertilisers. But though work may be saved at one point, it is increased at others. Tillage becomes more difficult for lack of humus to keep the soil friable. Corn crops are laid flat because concentrated chemicals cannot provide plants with a balanced, natural diet. It may be more than a coincidence, too, that crop pests and diseases have increased as rapidly as the use of "artificial".

MODERN FARM A BATTLEFIELD

Be that as it may, recent years have seen the rapid development of a third branch of "agricultural technology"—the "protection" of plants and animals from the innumerable diseases, parasites and deficiencies to which they now seem subject. What with sprays, dusts, seed dressings, inoculations and tests for this and that, the modern farm is coming to resemble a battlefield on which man is engaged in a desperate struggle with nature, often with lethal weapons. Indeed, the latest development — the use of powerful weed killers because the labour is no longer available to keep land clean by cultivation — has already resulted in several human deaths.

This increasing resort to technical sub-

stitutes for the human element in good husbandry is a cumulative process. For while a machine or a chemical or a drug may solve the problem immediately in view, a series of fresh problems is usually created thereby. Quite apart from the cumulative, though as yet incalculable, effect on the health and fertility of the soil, plants and animals, each "problem" and its "treatment" adds to the cost of food production by involving the services of yet more experts, more laboratory and factory equipment, more labour and materials. It is, in fact, highly probable that the amount of manpower thus indirectly employed in agriculture already exceeds that which would be required on the land itself to maintain good husbandry.

Can we afford to intensify home food production on this high-cost basis? Can we afford these ever-increasing demands by agriculture on our engineering and chemical industries, both of which will soon be fully extended on re-armament? Can we afford to spend dollars on scarce materials like sulphur, which is extensively used in fertiliser manufacture, so long as natural agencies for increasing fertility remain under-developed? Would it not be wiser to admit that the amount of wealth we can get out of the soil depends upon the amount of human effort, skill and devotion we put into it?

Are You An Organic Farmer or Gardener?

If so, the Editor of *Rural Review* would be pleased to hear from you at any time. All over Australia increasing numbers of people are applying organic farming and gardening methods. Readers who have any interesting information concerning the results they are achieving are requested to write in so that other readers can obtain the benefit of their experiences.

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Mr. F. C. King, author of "Is Digging Necessary" and originator of surface cultivation in England, who is also an Executive Member of The Albert Howard Foundation of Organic Husbandry, last year won the Crabtree Cup at the Westmoreland County Horticultural Show in Kendal, England, for the third year in succession. The award was given for twelve dishes of hardy fruit — apples, pears and plums. At the same show he set up a trade stand exhibiting 70 dishes of hardy fruit—apples, pears, plums, peaches and figs—all grown out of doors. Also another stand of fruit trees, including two-year-old trees bearing fruit.

Mr. F. C. King, who has had forty-five years' experience, is 100 percent organic and a great believer in growing vegetables and fruit for their nutritive value, more than for their size and shape. Mr. King has succeeded in controlling weeds at Levens Hall, Westmoreland, where he is Head Gardener, not by poisonous chemicals, but by mulching with sawdust.

—"Victorian Compost News," August,

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Communist, Mr. Eden actively supported policy of appeasing the Communists. He fell in with every major demand by Stalin during the war years. He summarised his views in the following statement in 1941:

"I was in Moscow in 1930, talking to Mr. Stalin. I believed then, as I believe now that there was no real conflict of interest between the Soviet Union and this country . . . I believed then, as I believe now, that despite the many obvious differences, our overriding purpose was the same. We both wished to maintain peace . . . What matters in foreign affairs is not the form of internal government of any nation, but its international behaviour . . ."

Social Engineering in Palestine

The following extract from an article in "The Australian Jewish News" of September 28, indicates the cold-blooded attitude of the Zionists towards the hundreds of thousands of Arabs they drove from their homes in Palestine:

The fact is that the vacuum created by the Arab exodus has been largely filled.

The population deficit has been made good.

There are no empty, unused Arab Houses left. Very many of them were demolished during the war in Palestine or afterwards for either health or security reasons. The remainder were all occupied by August 1950, either by new immigrants or by demobilised Israeli soldiers. Not only have the Arabs lost their homes, but, even more fundamentally, the whole basis of Arab economy has been almost totally uprooted — though not as much as many Israelis think.

Jaffa has lost its Arab character. Large areas of the familiar port slum area have been demolished to make way for a modern garden city. The Haifa Sukh, with its closely packed Arab quarter, has similarly disappeared. So have scores of Arab villages, where only mounds of mud and remnants of rubble indicate their onetime site. But we must turn back to the Jewish side.

The close connections between Arab emigration and Jewish immigration becomes still more noteworthy when we consider how the new immigrants were housed . . .

Two facts have, therefore, to be considered as fundamental at the outset of the consideration of both the Arab refugee problem and Israel's immigration problem.

First that, however involuntarily, a considerable part of the cost of the ingathering of the exiles has been paid by the Arab refugees; and, secondly, that both physically and economically, the new immigrants have filled the vacuum created by the Arab departure. And even where the immigrants have not yet filled it, Nature has done her work.

Mr. Anthony Eden

As it is being predicted that in the event of the British Conservatives winning the coming British Elections, Mr. Churchill will after a period as leader relinquish his position to Mr. Anthony Eden, it is essential to recall Mr. Eden's role in appeasing the Communist conspirators. Until it has recently become politically wise to be anti-

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