

THE NEW TIMES

VOL. 18, No. 20.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1952.

ONE SHILLING & NINEPENCE FORTNIGHTLY

Menzies' Government Aids Communist Writers

S. Keon's Frightening Exposure

Several weeks ago Mr. W. C. Wentworth, Liberal Member, and Mr. S. Keon, Labor Member, made serious allegations about the use of the Commonwealth Literary Fund to subsidise Communist and pro-Communist writers. Mr. Menzies made a sneering attack upon Mr. Keon, but the Labor Member replied in the following speech, which effectively exposes the hypocrisy of the Menzies' Government on the Communist issue:

I protested against the manner in which a small clique of literary leftists — under cover and open Communists and "fellow travellers" - were exploiting the fund and the taxpayer by obtaining a percentage of fellowships out of all proportion to their literary merit and their numbers.

That clearly indicated to me that political bias was entering into the judgment of the advisory committee, and that the awards were not being made according to literary merit.

I suggest that the reaction to my charges of the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) was remarkable.

I was accused of needlessly sneering, witch-hunting, lying, and so forth.

After I had mentioned the matter, the Prime Minister replied to me and pouted like a pouter-pigeon because I dared to impugn his actions on the committee that makes the award of the Commonwealth Literary Fund fellowships. His attitude clearly indicated that, until action is forced upon this Committee, nothing would be done to investigate the method of awarding fellowships.

The Prime Minister accused me of wanting a political test applied to the persons who sought fellowships.

I say unhesitatingly that the direct opposite is the truth. I want the works of writers to be judged on literary merit, and not on political affiliation. I was protesting against political judgments.

It has been my complaint, since this Government took office, that political bias has been exercised by the committees appointed to award these literary fellowships.

Out of seven fellowships granted by this Government to persons who write novels, and I remind honorable members that the grants are not made on the works themselves, but to the persons in order that they may be free to write the works; of the seven fellowships granted since this Government assumed office, four have been

given to definite Communists, one to a man who may be a Communist, and can be described as a doubtful quantity, and one to a man who has associated with Communists in "fellow travellers" organisations.

That is not a bad record for the Communists.

We have been asked by the Prime Minister to accept the fact that the literary ability of the Australian people who do not accept the Communist doctrines falls far short of the literary ability of a small group of Communists.

Does the Prime Minister invite honorable members to believe that the awards were made under those circumstances purely on literary merit? If he does, then it is high time that he resigned from the advisory committee and allowed someone else to take his place that is prepared to thoroughly investigate this matter of the judgment of literary ability and the award of Commonwealth fellowships.

I say that a literary test is not being applied at present in awarding the Commonwealth fellowships. I believe that the test applied is to ascertain whether an applicant for a fellowship is within the charmed circle of Communists or literary

fellow-travellers. I am now speaking of those people who write novels and not of the writers of serious works, because quite obviously Communists have neither the intelligence nor the ability for the research necessary in the writing of serious and worth-while books.

The Government parties moved a motion of protest, quite unjustly, against the previous Labor Government's administration of this fund.

The reaction of the Communist party to my statements was the usual squeal and smear campaign, but this time the squeal was several notes higher and the smear was

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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,

DR. JOHN DALE

In reporting the tragic death of Dr. John Dale, killed in a car accident in Venice, the daily press studiously avoided any reference to Dr. Dale's keen interest in Social Credit financial principles. Dr. Dale was a courageous public advocate of monetary reform and was always willing to address public meetings on this subject. He helped to establish "The New Times", and was always a generous financial supporter of Social Credit activities. We extend our deepest sympathy to all members of Dr. Dale's family.

Communist Writers

(Continued from page 1)

many degrees wider, because finally the Communist's hands were being plucked out of the taxpayers' pockets.

I shall consider first Judah Waten. This man is a Russian, who has received two grants from the Commonwealth Literary Fund, one to write a book and one to publish it. Mr. Waten denied that he was at present a member of the Communist Party, but said that he had been a member of the Communist Party in 1930, and that I had wrongly charged him with writing a book, which included certain blasphemous matter. I did not say that Mr. Waten wrote the poem. I said that he was responsible for its publication. I have the publication here. It is a magazine called "Strife," and it is issued by the Communist Party. The name of J. L. Waten is shown on the first page as editor of the publication.

The issue that I refer honorable members to is dated the 13th October, 1930, and the poem is ascribed to a person who writes under the nom-de-plume of Impious IX. I understand that Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick is now claiming credit for it. Apparently, when this poem was published, he was more unwilling to admit his membership of the Communist Party than he is now. If honorable members have any doubts about Mr. Waten's Communist affiliations, let them read some of the articles in "Strife." This is a sample of Mr. Waten's own work: "With telling strokes and penetrating analysis, the central committee of the Communist Party set forth the fundamental character and dynamics of the economic and political situation of Australia." Here is another sample: — "Here is a booklet that goes far towards exploding the fallacious blather of the Professors and Labor Party apologists."

The whole magazine reeks of Communism, because, in fact, it is a Communist publication. Many of the articles in it were written by Mr. Waten himself, thus showing his Communist bias. I warned a little towards Mr. Waten when I read an article in relation to the daily press, in which he said: —

"The days and nights shriek and groan with the palpitating beat of the giant dope machines, foul, slimy, octopi that suck and suck and grow fat on the brains and hearts of men."

I know that his answer is that he has since resigned from the Communist Party, and has not had anything further to do with it. Now let us consider that statement. Mr. Waten is named in Mr. Justice Lowe's report as a member of the Communist Party. All my sources of information are freely available to the public, but I have carefully read Communist publications and have taken a note of whatever has interested me. The Melbourne "Guardian" of the 12th January 1943 reported that Mr. Waten was in charge of the northwest Communist Party news. In 1949, the same paper reported that he was a patron of the Youth Action for Peace Congress, together with D. N. Pritt, the Dean of Canterbury, Stanistreet, K. S. Pritchard, and Wilfred Burchett. On the 3rd December 1950, he was reported to be on the Hardy Defence Committee, together with Fitzpatrick, John Morrison and Lambert Marshall. Marshall

and Morrison have also received grants from the Commonwealth Literary Fund.

Dozens of instances of Mr. Waten's activities are outlined in the Communist Party newspapers. There cannot be the slightest doubt in the mind of any reasonable person concerning the true position of this gentleman.

Most people know who Mr. Hardy is and have heard about the book that he wrote. He went to London and wrote an article about the Realist Writers' Group that was published in the "Daily Worker" of that city last December. He stated that the group had been formed in 1944 and that most of its members were also members of the Communist Party. The aim of the group was to study literature from the Marxist viewpoint. He commented: —

"One sure sign of political maturity of a working class movement is that it produces a group of writers who work as part of the struggle for peace and socialism. The Australian revolutionary movement has produced such a group."

That referred to the Realist Writers' Group. I have the names of some of its members. According to Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick's publication of February 1952, in an article by Mr. Eric Lambert, who enjoys a government bounty in the form of a literary fellowship, the list includes, in addition to Frank Hardy, John Morrison, who has received two grants from the Commonwealth Literary Fund.

If I had sufficient time at my disposal, I should relate the Communist activities of Mr. Morrison, as reported in the "Guardian." According to Mr. Hardy, whose aim is to give the revolutionary viewpoint to literature, the Realist Writers' Group was helped at its readings, talks and discussions by Vance and Nettie Palmer. This is a most significant fact.

Mr. Palmer is the chairman of the Commonwealth Literary Fund Advisory Board, and his advice on the granting of awards is undoubtedly accepted by the other members of the board and by the members of the committee.

Another helper was Frank Dalby Davison, a member of the Communist Party, whose activities, as reported in the Communist press week by week would fill half a page. Davison is in receipt of a Commonwealth Literary Fund grant for the production of a book of short stories. I have that book here, but the information printed at the front of the volume states that thirteen of the stories had been published previously, and paid for, by the "Bulletin" and other journals.

Thus he was given £250 to enable him to produce two additional short stories in order to complete the volume. But, of course, leftist influence had nothing to do with that! That was purely coincidental, like the budget leakages!

I refer now to the chairman of the Commonwealth Literary Fund Advisory Board. The Prime Minister said in this chamber on the 28th August, after I had mentioned the matter that he thought Mr. Palmer was a most estimable gentleman, who had no leftist leanings and that I apparently was suffering from delusions.

I have uncovered some extremely interesting information about Mr. Palmer in the course of a brief examination of the Com-

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munist Party's publications. "Youth Voice," the official organ of the Eureka Youth League, reported that in June 1946, Mr. Vance Palmer was a patron of the league. No doubt, he was accustomed to dine and talk at that time with the present Prime Minister, who was then the Leader of the Opposition.

In August 1946, Mr. Palmer backed the Eureka Youth League's New Deal finance appeal. In August 1947, he formally opened an art sale for the benefit of the Eureka Youth League delegates to a conference at Prague. On the 6th March 1951, he was acting in the Hardy Defence League. All these facts have been reported in the "Guardian" and "Youth Voice." On the 10th August 1945, according to the "Guardian," he was a speaker at the Communist Club, 218 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. On the 26th July 1946, he wrote a letter to protest against the fact that the Soviet flag was not displayed on public buildings. On the 6th August, 1948, he was the chairman of a committee that organised a fund to send Mr. Counihan abroad. Mr. Counihan was found by the Victorian royal commission on Communism to be a Communist.

On the 27th August 1948, he issued a further appeal in the "Guardian" for donations for Mr. Counihan to be sent to Europe on Communist Party affairs.

He is reported to have spoken on the 11th August, 1950, to a Readers and Writers' Peace Committee, and was active in organising such a committee. I do not know whether Mr. Palmer is a Communist or not, but that is a brief statement of his activities.

"New Times" Dinner An Outstanding Success

This year's "New Times" Dinner, held in Melbourne on September 19 was an outstanding success. Although growing inflation made the price of the Dinner too high for many who were keen to attend, approximately 80 were present. While ensuring that the spirit of this important annual event is not lost, the Directors of "New Times" Ltd. are planning that the evening next year shall be much cheaper financially. This will enable a much bigger number of supporters to be present.

In welcoming the guests, Mr. R. H. Weller apologised for the absence of the Chairman of Directors of "New Times" Ltd., Mr. W. J. Carruthers, who was unfortunately too ill to attend. Mr. Weller extended a special welcome to Miss Jean Kennedy, a personal friend of Major and Mrs. Douglas, Major Fred Fort, a Canadian visitor, and Mr. George Miller, who is the endorsed Labor candidate opposing Mr. Menzies at the next Federal elections. Mr. Miller has been a supporter of "The New Times" for many years. He is a member of the Musicians' Union, and, during the evening, helped entertain the guests.

Before enjoying a very excellent dinner, the Royal Toast was proposed. The second toast of the evening was the toast to Major Douglas, which was suitably moved by Mr. Weller. Miss Kennedy said afterwards that Major Douglas would be cheered immensely to hear of how so many Melbourne citizens were continuing the fight, which he had started many years ago.

In his special annual address, Mr. Eric Butler reported upon Social Credit and allied activities for the past twelve months. He stressed the fact that faith was an essential part of credit, and that, so long as Social Crediters had faith, they would not be unduly pessimistic about material events. He said that he had faith that he and his colleagues would be able to continue, "because I have faith in our 'New Times' supporters, who have never failed us yet."

Before leaving the dinner to keep an appointment, Major Fort said that he had often heard it said that Social Crediters placed too much emphasis upon material reform and overlooked things of the spirit.

Inflation

The financial "experts" are at it again. In spite of their false predictions of the past few years, they are now suggesting that the next basic wage increase will be smaller than the last. They feel that "basic wage stability" will soon be achieved. Again we disagree with the "experts," and repeat that, so long as present financial rules are followed, prices must continue to increase. And, because of this increase, wages must continue to increase. The rate of increases does, of course, vary from time to time, but the general trend is a progressive increase in the price level. The only alternative under present financial rules is a severe credit restriction policy, growing business bankruptcies, and a temporary reduction in prices as unfortunate business men try to save something from the wreckage of their businesses. This can hardly be termed a solution of the inflation problem.

But, after hearing Mr. Eric Butler's magnificent address, in which he had stressed the fact that Social Credit policies stemmed from a Christian philosophy, he was now able to say that Social Credit was a genuine Christian movement.

Mr. John Johnstone moved the toast to "The New Times," and thanked all those responsible for its regular publication. Mr. John Browne responded, and paid a tribute to all the volunteers, without whom the paper could not be produced.

All those present agreed that the entertainment was the best yet. Before the evening concluded, Mr. Weller asked all those present to show their appreciation of the artists — Mr. Brian Fitzgerald, Mr. Harcourt French, and Mr. Miller — by a round of applause. It was very pleasing to see so many supporters from the country present. This annual reunion of supporters is developing into an evening, which must be maintained at all costs. Thus the decision to arrange it so that the financial cost will not deter any supporter from being present and partaking of a very fine fellowship.

Queensland Labor Branches on State Banking Powers.

There is a ray of hope at present in Queensland. Some rank and file member in the Allenstown (Rockhampton) Branch of the Australian Labor Party has had the knowledge and courage to have a motion placed on the agenda of the next triennial conference of the Labor Party, calling on the Queensland Labor Government to establish a State Bank of Issue, to finance all public works, free of interest, the cost of issuance only to be charged. (Cost of issuance, which is the cost of the banking service, is about one percent, and as the money is only handled once, the £1 per £100 would be the one and only cost. When the Bank of Issue credits a Shire Council with £100 for a road, £1 will go to pay the Bank's costs and £99 will go to pay wages, salaries and materials for the road work. It is a grant not a debt, so there is no further interest to pay, and therefore no increase in rates or taxes.) The motion states that a State Bank of Issue will guarantee full employment to all workers, and, by doing so, will ensure that Queensland will be developed to the full capacity of available manpower and materials.

In support of its motion, the Allenstown Branch of the Labor Party points out: —
1. The Australian Constitution allows any

State of the Commonwealth to establish a Bank of Issue, the wording being that "The Federal Parliament shall control banking, credit and currency, other than State banking." All the Australian States have sovereign powers.

2. Queensland has an abundance of assets to back a continuous issue of new credit (money) sufficient to keep all workers fully employed. Available manpower is the natural limit to the new money that can be issued. As the new money is issued to pay wages and for materials, the public work built (road, railway, bridge, sewerage system, electricity work, school, hospital, harbour work, etc.) is the new asset to back the new money issued.

3. The new money (if issued free of interest) will not cause inflation of prices because it will not create any new cost that has to be recovered by increasing prices. (Inflation of prices has been going on ever since we started borrowing money for public works, and one of its main causes is the ever-increasing interest bill on our enormous National Debt, all of which has to be recovered by taxation, which is charged into prices. If inflation is to be stopped, then we must stop borrowing money to finance public works.)

4. Unemployment can be permanently ended because Queensland has unlimited developmental work to be done, and a State Bank can ensure that enough interest-free money will always be available to employ all workers. Where materials are short, the unemployed manpower can be fully employed producing the materials that are short.

5. Queensland has no cause to fear any trouble with trade with other States or overseas, because we have a wide range of valuable exports that are in keen demand by other States and countries, such as coal, butter, cheese, wool, beef sugar, etc.

6. Finance is the key to individual and State freedom and power. That is the big economic, political and social principle involved in a State Bank of Issue.

—Rockhampton "Information Sheet,"

July 1952.

BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ

BRIEF FOR THE PROSECUTION

By C. H. Douglas.....13/2

Further copies of this, the latest of Douglas's work, have now been received. A brilliant exposure of the International groups which worked to destroy the British Empire between wars.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL CREDIT

By Bryan W. Monahan, 9/1
A satisfactory and comprehensive answer to the question "What is Social Credit."

ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL CREDIT

11/7

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

The Decline of Parliament

In his "Writings of a Rebel," Commander Geoffrey Bowles, R.N., includes the following letter by his father to "The Times" of 19th October 1901. The letter deals with a matter, which should be carefully considered by all those concerned with the weakening of the Crown as part of an effective Constitution:

Your able and suggestive leading article of October 15th, on the Cabinet and its evolution or degeneration, touches the very root of the whole matter.

A well-founded jealousy of certain monarchs having been sedulously cultivated by the banded Whig families of the Revolution into an ill-founded jealousy of all monarchs, the English people have long been made to believe that the enemy is the King and the danger his prerogative; and that it is therefore necessary that the power of the Crown should be diminished and that of the Minister increased. Hence, the evolution of the Cabinet and the Cabinet Council.

As a humble student of Constitutional history and an attentive observer of the Constitution in latter-day action, it seems to me that this set purpose of diminishing the Royal authority in order to increase the Ministerial authority has manifestly been continued too long and pushed too far; that the balance of power in the Kingdom has been dangerously disturbed, to the great mischief and trouble of the State; and that, if we would escape greater mischief and trouble, the time has arrived when the Sovereign should exercise somewhat more and the Minister somewhat less power.

The highest executive authority known to the law is the King — not indeed the King alone, but the King in Council, which means the King in Privy Council. Now the Privy Council is a most ancient, illustrious, and august body of councillors, prime in importance among the acknowledged institutions of the kingdom. It has its own President, an officer of great dignity, its own oath, binding to secret and faithful counsel, its own book, wherein its proceedings are recorded by the Clerk, its own high functions, and the traditions of ages behind it. By and with its advice, the Sovereign may do almost anything; without it almost nothing. But, being thought, even when having only 30 members, too numerous a body for confidential dealing with high affairs of State, it was, while nominally left with all its attributes, superseded in practice by the Cabinet Council, and is now an honorary body of over 200 members, retaining indeed all the machinery for action and all the insignia of dignity, without any of the weight of importance that belongs to the actual exercise of power.

FAR AND WIDE

By Douglas Reed . . . 20/5

Just published, this revealing book records the author's travels throughout America. He makes some enlightening observations of the treachery in high places, and the maturing plans for world domination.

Page 4—"New Times," October 3, 1952.

The Cabinet Council, on the other hand, which has inherited, or, as some would say, usurped, the functions performed during centuries by the Privy Council, has none of the signs of dignity. It is a body huddled away at once from public recognition and public control, and surrounded, as well in its origin as in its proceedings, by a strange and mysterious secrecy. No man can point to any authority for its creation, or explain by anything but usage, without explicit authorisation, its continued existence. It is unknown to the law. It finds no place or recognition in any part of the Constitution. It keeps no records and is, therefore, so conducted as to make it impossible for anyone — even for itself — to say what it has done or what refused to do. It has indeed been erroneously represented to be a committee of the Privy Council, but that Council never either named it or committed anything to it. It gives no guarantees and is under no safeguards for its conduct. Nevertheless, this incredible and elusive body it is which has taken, and has been allowed to take and keep, all the superior executive governing power of the Empire. What it decides the King in Council performs. The highest national issues of peace and war, treaties, alliances, policy, and legislation are determined by it, regardless of its having no other existence or credit than that which belongs to the secret conclave of a party cabal banded together for party purposes.

This amazing body has not only existed for over 200 years, but in the course of that time, it has persistently sought, like an Oriental despot, to kill all that lay near to its power. And it has met with no little success. The Sovereign, it is boasted, has been reduced to a condition in which he may indeed reign as a pensioner, but must not govern as a King. The Privy Council has been extinguished except for the sake of its oath, which the Cabinet Council, having none of its own, is forced to borrow, and has now become an honorific mob, containing, indeed, besides the Ministers past and present, a few men of commanding abilities, such as Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir Frederick Milner, Mr. William Kenrick, and Sir Bernhardt Samuelson, but composed for the most part of reputable persons whose counsel on high affairs of State can hardly be considered invaluable. But the quality of the Privy Council matters no longer. Being found, as we said, too numerous for secret counsel, it has been superseded by the Cabinet Council. The Cabinet Council for the same reason is said to have been superseded for the most important business by the Inner Cabinet. But, as you truly observe, the keystone both of Cabinet and of Inner Cabinet is the Prime Minister. And now it appears that the Prime Minister has dropped out of the arch into what I see described as the "inaccessible sub-tropical gardens" of Beaulieu.

Under these circumstances, the humblest student and observer may be pardoned for asking where we stand, how we got there,

and whether it is prudent or safe to remain there, much less to go on in the same direction.

Yet in that same direction we are proceeding at a greatly accelerated rate. From the Revolution of 1688, there has been a continuous increase in the power of the Minister, and as continuous an evasion or destruction of all that could moderate or limit that power; until now we are rapidly reaching a point, if indeed, it be not already reached, when the Minister will escape all control either by King or Parliament. The statesmen who embodied the principles and safeguards of the Constitution in the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement little contemplated this. The latter Act provided that no placeman should be capable of sitting and serving in the House of Commons. It also provided that "all matters and things relating to the well governing of this Kingdom which are properly cognisable in the Privy Council by the laws and customs of this Realm shall be transacted there, and all resolutions taken thereupon shall be signed by such of the Privy Council, as shall advise and consent to the same." These two provisions were repealed in 1705, before the time appointed for them to become operative. By the repeal of the latter the Minister was relieved from the obligation to consult and convince the Privy Council in great affairs of State, and from the perhaps more important obligation to leave a record of his acts; whereby he became untraceable in and unpunishable for his doings, and, in fact, irresponsible. By the repeal of the former, the rule that no placeman should be capable of serving in Parliament was in effect replaced by the rule that no man should be capable of becoming a placeman unless he served in Parliament. This Ministerial irresponsibility was secured by Parliamentary complicity. The Minister and the House of Commons had combined against the Sovereign, the House sharing in some of the power and all of the plunder; and to the maxim, "The King can do no wrong" was now added the maxim, "The Minister can do any wrong, but cannot be made responsible for it."

But the Sovereign, having been removed out of the effectual government of the country by House and Minister combined, the Minister at this day seeks, in the sight of all men, to remove equally the House of Commons, and thus to leave himself the sole effectual power in the State. The right of initiation, whether in legislation or otherwise, has been taken almost entirely away from the House by the Minister. The right of calling for the remedy of grievances before granting Supply has been so pared away that scarce a trace of it exists. The right of free speech, or of any speech at all, on any subject at all, is so fenced about by rules, mostly new and made by the clerks at the table to shut up loopholes that it can only be exercised at the will of the Minister. Each session witnesses new additions to the closely woven net wherein the feet of the private member are entangled should he dare attempt to "raise" any matter whatever in any form whatever; each session brings new restrictions on the powers of the House, new additions to the power in it of the Minister. And now we are being told that still further additions are intended to be made to the rules, the closure, the gag, the guillotine

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THE DECLINE OF PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 4)

and to policeman, whereby the Minister imposes his will on the House. The King reigns, but may not govern, and now it is to be, the House votes, but may not debate.

Having destroyed the Sovereign, the Minister is now in the course of destroying the House, and, for want of spirit in the Assembly, has already so nearly succeeded that there is today scarce a House of Commons left.

Thus the Minister has gained in power at the cost both of Sovereign and of Parliament, and is now practically a dictator shrouded in secrecy and irresponsibility.

The enemy, in short, is no longer the King, but the Minister; the danger no longer the prerogative of the former, but the irresponsibility of the latter.

Nevertheless, in spite of all, the Constitution remains as it was, and the rights of the Sovereign and of the House only require to be asserted and enforced, for they cannot be denied.

Why, then, should the King not resume the exercise of his right to preside at the Cabinet Council?

The practice of deciding on great affairs of State in a purely private cabal of Ministers, requiring no quorum, keeping no records, subject to no rules, and wholly removed from the public eye, is in many respects dangerous. But in none is it more dangerous than in this—that, human nature being what it is, we must expect when the chiefs of a party are privately brought together to exercise power under these conditions, that they will be tempted to discuss and decide upon public affairs, primarily with a view to the interests of the party, and only secondarily with a sole view to the interests of the State.

The King, however, is outside and above all parties, and his sole interest is the preservation of his kingly dignity and of the State whence he derives it. If, therefore, the King presided at the Cabinet Council, some of the evils now belonging to that body would be removed or diminished, and some new safeguards and additions would arise.

What is done of State business in the Cabinet Council cannot be, must not be, and is not concealed from the King, nor can it eventuate in action unless with his consent. What is done, indeed, is now only communicated to him when decided; and how much better that he should hear it discussed and himself take a part in the decision he is expected to carry out.

The King would then hold, as it were, a communicating link and maintain a continuity between successive Administrations, and the inconvenience of the absence of records would thus to some extent be obviated.

The King, again, has means of information, especially with reference to foreign affairs and the designs and intentions of foreign courts, often, nay, usually, of far more trustworthy origin and greater value than any accessible to the Minister. He could therefore often impart to the Cabinet Council, were he habitually to preside at it, such information as might be of the highest value and the greatest importance in its effect on the decisions to be taken.

There are, moreover, occasions when the King is, as it were, left all alone without

a Ministry to advise him. When a Cabinet resigns, it is the King who must decide what Statesman shall be sent for to form another Cabinet, and who must practically decide alone. It is a supreme moment of the uttermost importance. In such a moment it would be of the greatest assistance to the Sovereign if he had previously acquired in Cabinet Councils a knowledge of the various Statesmen among whom he had to choose, a knowledge not merely of their personal qualities in private life, but of their statesmanlike quality in public action, of their ability and good sense as displayed in the confidential and uncontrolled discussions of the Cabinet, and of the soundness of their judgment as shown by the event. This consideration may at some future moment prove important, for times have been when, foreseeing a proximate retirement of a Premier, cohorts of cousins and relays of relations have banded themselves together in advance to force the hand of the Sovereign, to compel him to send for no other but one of themselves, and thus to perpetuate a Nepaulese heredity in the Premiership.

The King, presiding at a Cabinet Council, would represent the State at large, and, in his presence, it would be impossible to debate State affairs otherwise than with a principal view to State interests; or party interests, if at all, otherwise than as subsidiary thereto. A Cabinet Council presided over by the King could no longer be, or be suspected to be, the conspiracy of a faction. In his presence and under his presidency, it must become a Council of State.

Such a Council, under the presidency of the Monarch, who represents all the interests of all the Empire, would probably inspire much more confidence, for instance, in Ireland and among Irish Members, than one exclusively composed of the representatives of English interests, and the uncontrolled chiefs of parties, committed to what the Irish hold to be an unjust and evil Irish policy.

Why, then, should the King not attend and take part in those meetings of his confidential servants known as Cabinet Councils?

I can divine some reasons why a Minister, intent mainly on the promotion of party interests, the maintenance of his own irresponsibility, or the increase of his own power, should object to such a thing. I see no reasons of State against it, nor any that could be defended on the ground of public welfare.

This is no new thing. It is a thing only in abeyance. Queen Anne presided over her Cabinet Councils, which met once every week. George I did not follow her example, only because he understood no English, and, since then, the usage has been to leave Cabinets to deliberate and decide alone without a Sovereign. Nevertheless, the Sovereign still presides over the Privy Council, which is dignified but powerless; and it seems, therefore, especially unreasonable that he should also not preside over these select few of that Council forming the Cabinet, which, though unrecognised, is all-powerful.

With the decreasing power of Parliament, with the increasing power of the Minister, and the increasing need of some check thereon, we may well turn to the Sovereign with the hope that he will resume

the exercise of his undoubted right to preside over that Cabinet Council which disposes of the destinies of his Kingdom.

The House of Commons has before now been induced to combine with the Minister against the Crown in the interests of liberty and good government. It is now time that, in the same interests, it should look to the Crown to assist in preserving the State from the dangers of an uncontrolled Minister.

Your faithful servant,

THOMAS GIBSON BOWLES,

25 Lowndes Square, October 18th, 1901.

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VOL. 18.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1952.

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The High Court on the Capital Issues Case

The Socialist planners at Canberra have, in the High Court's decision on the Capital Issues case, scored their greatest victory for a long time. Dr. Evatt can only be delighted with this decision; it means that the economic powers of the Commonwealth can be extended indefinitely under the Defence Power. The totalitarian planners can now move ahead freely and impose an economic dictatorship under the pretext that they are preparing for war. Press reports state that many rank and file supporters of the Government are worried about the High Court's decision, because it means that if Dr. Evatt wins the next Federal Elections, he will be in the position to intensify the programme of centralising all power in the hands of a powerful and irresponsible Federal bureaucracy. We suggest that the trading banks, which thought that they obtained a victory at the 1949 Federal Elections, closely examine the High Court's decision. By the use of mere regulations, the planners can further tighten their grip upon credit policy.

Mr. Justice Williams, who, along with Mr. Justice Kitto, disagreed with the majority decision of the Court, pointed out that under Section 4 of the Defence Preparations Act, the Section the Court considered, any of the regulations imposed under the National Security Act could be re-imposed. He pointed out that this included price-fixing powers. In other words, if Dr. Evatt wins the next Federal Elections, he can impose centralised price-fixing merely by having a regulation issued. Well may some Government supporters be concerned. But it was they who voted for the Defence Preparations Act, even though many of them were afraid of where it might lead. We strongly opposed this legislation, warning of what it could ultimately mean. Business leaders refused to fight on the issue because they would not face the implications of what was involved. As usual, they will now learn the hard way.

As we have said time and time again in the past, the Federal Constitution in Australia is the major barrier to the introduction of the complete centrally Planned State. The planners have tirelessly explored every possible avenue for breaking through this constitutional barrier. Direct assaults have failed because the electors have invariably refused greater powers for Canberra when asked at Referenda. Thus the necessity of finding issues, which can be used to by-pass the Constitution. Centralised control of credit is one major instrument. But under the threat of war, which the Communists so obligingly provide, it now appears that the Defence Power in the Constitution can be used indefinitely to further the centralised planning.

It was the Fabian Socialists in Great Britain who said that it was only under war or threat of war that the British peoples would accept large-scale centralised planning similar to that being imposed in Soviet Russia. We again ask the question: Why should the Communist leaders risk an immediate major world military war when the "defence" measures being adopted by all the Western Powers are the very policies which the Communists advocate as necessary to destroy the "capitalist" State? Genuine patriots should look at this question honestly while there is still time for some effective action. They should be now realising that the Menzies Government is the greatest asset the totalitarians could possibly wish for.

Temporary Victory On "Green Belt" Scheme

The campaign by the Victorian League of Rights against the proposed central planning of the whole of the Melbourne and Metropolitan area — the "Green Belt" Scheme — has been responsible for a further delay in the planners' schemes. At the Metropolitan Board of Works meeting on September 23, it was agreed to defer a decision on the issuing of an Interim Development Order for another 28 days, in order that Councils could seek further information. The League is intensifying its campaign, and believes that it may yet be completely successful. We hope to publish a full report at a later date.

Decline In Melbourne Show Business

Although there were record crowds at this year's Melbourne Show, the majority of exhibitors complained that there was a sharp decline in business compared with previous years. One machinery salesman was quoted as saying, "Business this year is the worst it has been since the Shows were resumed after the war."

Although consumers claim that they are short of purchasing power to buy what they require, and what the manufacturers have produced, Mr. Menzies does not agree. He claims that all that is lacking is confidence. There is certainly a growing lack of confidence in Mr. Menzies and the treacherous policies he is imposing upon the Australian people. This lack of confidence will be strongly expressed at the Flinders by-election on October 18.

Big Increase In Unemployment Figures

The number of Australians receiving unemployment benefits jumped by 11,149 during August, making the total 24,629. Persons registering for unemployment, as distinct from those receiving benefits at the end of August totalled 58,247, an increase of 13,347 over the previous month. These figures dispute Mr. Menzies' contention that his Government's "incentive" budget was going to improve the economic situation. In studying the above figures, it is necessary to remember that many employees are now only working several days a week.

At a time when economic activity is declining, because of the Government's credit policy, it is almost unbelievable that employers' organisations should be asking the Arbitration Court to increase hours and reduce wages. Don't they remember what happened when this type of "solution" was implemented during the Great Depression? Or are they being advised by individuals who are skilfully trying to discredit free enterprise? Another Great Depression is what the Communists are feverishly anticipating.

Flinders By-Election

The endorsed Liberal candidate for the Flinders by-election, Mr. J. F. Rossiter, is quoted in the "Mordialloc News" of September 18 as saying that "the general level of prosperity facing Australia is much more stable now than during the boom of prosperity after the war." Mr. Rossiter "feels that the housewife will benefit from the present economic position. Prices are already coming down, such as eggs, coke, bran and pollard, and this is the forerunner of the value which is seeping back into the pound."

This gibberish confirms our opinion that Mr. Rossiter is one of the most mediocre candidates the Liberals could possibly have chosen. Every Liberal who votes for this candidate is voting for a continuation of Liberal-Socialism. Our considered opinion is that every genuine anti-Socialist in Flinders must ensure that the Liberal candidate is decisively defeated. Mr. Menzies recognises the importance of this by-election, and is campaigning personally. It is possible that he feels that another Liberal Party setback would result in a challenge to his leadership within the Liberal Party. While we do not consider it probable that the Liberal-Country Party Government can be compelled to change its totalitarian policies before the next Federal elections, it is possible that a defeat in Flinders would produce some revolt within the Liberal Party. This might lead eventually to something worthwhile. A vote for the Liberal candidate would be an endorsement of the policies the Menzies-Fadden Government has been imposing upon the Australian people.

In case it should be argued that a vote by anti-Socialists against the Liberal candidate is a vote for Labor-Socialism, we must stress what should be an obvious fact: Irrespective of how big the anti-Liberal vote in Flinders may be, it will not result in a Labor Government. In fact, it may possibly prevent a Labor victory by forcing the Government to change its policies.

We make a special appeal to all our supporters who reside in Flinders to ensure that the electors of Flinders, particularly rank and file Liberal Party supporters, make it clear to Mr. Menzies that they reject his destructive policies.

THE SERVILE STATE

"The danger which at the moment threatens individual liberty far more than any extension of individual enterprise is the Servile State; the erection of an irresponsible and impersonal organisation through which the ambitions of able men, animated consciously or unconsciously by the lust of domination, may operate to the enslavement of their fellows. Under such a system, the ordinary citizen might, and

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probably would, be far worse off than under private enterprise, freed from the domination of finance and regulated in the light of modern thought. The consideration of any return to isolated undertakings is quite academic, since there is not the faintest probability of its occurrence, but that stage of development had undoubtedly certain valuable features, which it would be well to preserve and revive. The large profit-making limited company, which distributes its profits over a wide area, is already rapidly displacing the family business and, as will be seen, it is not alone in the profit-making aspects of its activities that worst features lay.

"In attacking capitalism, collective Socialism has largely failed to recognise that the real enemy is the will-to-power, the positive complement to servility, of which Prussianism, with its theories of the supreme State and the unimportance of the individual (both of which are the absolute negation of private enterprise) is only the fine flower; and that nationalisation of all the means of livelihood, without the provision of much more effective safeguards than have so far been publicly evolved, leaves the individual without any appeal from its only possible employer and so substitutes a worse, because more powerful, tyranny for that which it would destroy."

—C. H. Douglas, in "Economic Democracy."

Nehru's Police State

The influences, which, as dangerous undercurrents, seep through the Eastern world, command study. The part, which India, through Mr. Nehru, is playing, should be publicised. Mr. Nehru is ever anxious to solve the problems of the world—outside India. But where India is concerned, he is clearly laying the foundations of a police State.

He has taken all those "Emergency Powers" which are the prelude to Communism, and in domestic matters often avoids those democratic methods of settlement, which he laboriously counsels the West to employ.

In the case of Kashmir, which is even now under discussion, he has long professed that the matter should be settled on the basis of free elections expressing the will of the people of Kashmir. These should be the people, he affirms, who should decide under what form of Government they will live.

But at every turn Mr. Nehru frustrates attempts to hold a plebiscite on the Kashmir question.

Now he wants to take a hand in Dr. Malan's dispute, advocating the very methods, which Ghandi employed to make British rule in India inoperative.

At the other end of Africa, Mr. Nehru's Commissioner in East Africa, Mr. A. B. Pant, said at Accra that the first half of this century had given freedom to the people of Asia, and an opportunity to contribute to world peace; the second half of the century belonged to Africa, and the world was waiting to see what would be Africa's contribution.

To claim that modern Asia has contributed to the peace of the world is utter nonsense dangerous nonsense, too, as events may shortly prove.

Though India may feel herself free and

secure in the "peaceful" Asia which she claims to have created, we offset these optimistic views by reports from very experienced correspondents in the Far East. Something like 500,000 troops are now being recruited in China for service in South East Asia. There are signs along the coast of Chekiang and Fukien of concentrations ostensibly poised for an attack on Formosa. Chiang Kai-shek has, in fact, carried out probing actions against this force. But certain observers say that the real objective of this force is Japan, where the Communist Party is organising for a coup d'etat.

From another direction an invasion of Burma is on the cards and the Burmese Army, which consists of 30,000 officers and men, is not likely to stand against the 35,000 troops massed along the Yunnan-Burmese border. Our correspondent insists that the real objective is India, via Tibet and Sinkiang. Certainly, India is laying herself open to attack, for Nehru's flirtations with Peking have encouraged the spread of Communism within India.

—"The London Newsletter," September

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"New Times," October 3, 1952—Page 7.



Chemical Sprays Can Lead To Race Suicide

By J. I. RODALE, the famous American authority on organic gardening. Something sinister is occurring in American agricultural practice, far worse, in my opinion, than the imagination of anything agronomical science has conceived thus far, and which should be a cause for great alarm. It concerns a new method of preventing insect infestation in plants by means of poisonous insecticides and involves such a dangerous mode of action that I wonder if, adopting it financially, hungry industry isn't going a bit too far, or, are the men who guide these concerns sick in the conscience?

Is it possible also that the ignorance of these men in matters of diet, plus the fact that they are consuming devitalised and poisoned food as a result of the products sold by their very own companies, is causing their mental powers to decline, so that they cannot clearly see the effect of what they are doing? An English scientific organisation has recently made a study in their country and America, and have found that the mental ability of people has been declining two percent per generation. Is this fact related to the quality of food produced by modern industrialised agriculture and the food processors?

About seventy-five years ago, the poison spraying of apple trees was practically an unknown procedure in orcharding. Some insects came to plague the apples, but nature provided enemy insects that kept the troublemakers in check. But, as is always the case in nature, it was not a 100 percent effective arrangement, and some fruit damage occurred. The public was used to seeing and even eating an apple here and there that exhibited an insect bite or two. However, a trend was developing in American life, which demanded perfection of appearance. It was part of the movement that gave America automobiles with beautiful chromium fittings. The public began to demand white eggs, thinking they were "purer," and willingly paid a premium for them. Apples had to be large and perfect, without an insect bite or other disfiguring blemish. The citrus interests began to add color to oranges, and the dairy people put the cancer-causing butter-yellow into butter (now banned). Industry scandalously pandered to the consumer's taste for beauty, and added eye-appeal to all items of food, regardless how it damaged their nutritional values. This tendency encouraged the chemical interests to play a big part in the beatification of food products.

As the years went on, the problems in

the orchard became more perplexing. The chemist mastered one insect, and another appeared from nowhere. In one season, chemical X destroyed insect Y, but the next year insect Y developed a tolerance to poison X. This led to the perfection of more and more powerful chemical compounds, and the need for increasing the number of applications to about fifteen or sixteen a season, disturbing the balance of nature to such an extent that even the bees that were needed by the orchardist to pollinate the apple blossoms disappeared, so that the farmer had to hire additional people to hand-pollinate his trees. And when this insecticidal bludgeoning with poison sprays got beyond the physical capability of the farmer to handle, he took to the air and in 1951 the farmers of the U.S. used 6,500 airplanes to shower upon the earth these expensive chemical poisons.

The entomologists — those people who spend their lives trying to prove that man is superior to the insect — are having a tough time. They are frantically attempting to breed varieties of fruits and vegetables that are more resistant to disease and insects. They are working feverishly to discover magic formulas that will stop the insect dead in its tracks. But, for a long time, they have had a dangerous idea in the back of their heads. Why not feed some kind of poison to the plant instead of to the insect, so that every cell and bit of tissue becomes saturated with it. Thus, when an insect feeds upon the plant, it will be done for. This would be science with a vengeance. They thought of it so long that they actually did it.

Early in 1952, such a product, called Systox, was launched with powerful hullabaloo in the ballroom of New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, by the Pittsburgh Coke and Chemical Co. This product, made from coal, has the chemical name of Octamethyl Pyrophosphoramide. This pesticide is either put on the soil around the roots or is sprayed on to the plant itself. In either case, it forces itself into every cell of the entire plant. One can judge the potency of such a chemical that has the power of

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forcing itself so thoroughly and saturating every part of a plant.

Several years ago, this idea was discussed in agricultural literature, and it was announced that soon such a product would be placed on the market. When I was called as a witness, a few years ago, in a hearing in Washington conducted by the Pure Food and Drug Administration, for the purpose of determining permissible residues of poison sprays on foods, I expressed alarm at the possibility that such a practice would be encouraged on food crops, that the public would be eating foods, every cell of which was tainted by these systemic chemicals. Up jumped a repre-

(Continued on page 9)

Chemical Sprays Can Lead to Race Suicide

(Continued from page 8)

sentative of one of the insecticide companies, and stated that it was not the intention that this product be used on food crops. It was only thought of for ornamental plants. But in my mind I harboured misgivings. It was a dangerous trend. I was sure that it was bound eventually to be used on edible crops. And that is exactly what is happening.

Professor R. W. Leiby, entomologist of Cornell University, in the June 1952, "Country Gentleman," speaks of experiments with Systox on potatoes and apples, and states; "Much more experimentation must be made with the systemic insecticides before they will be approved for use on fruits, vegetables, or crops fed to livestock." But, in the demonstration at the Waldorf-Astoria, mentioned above, Systox was applied into a garden plot of widely assorted plants, including green beans and tomatoes. I feel certain that, unless some powerful consumers' group files an injunction against a few hundred farmers who begin to use systemic poisons on food crops, in a short time every mouthful of food eaten by the public will carry a quota of poison distributed in every cell of it.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the time Systox was announced, advised that the systemic types of insect poisons were definitely not for use on edible crops, although it did state that, some day, it might be recommended for such crops. If that day ever comes, it will be the most formidable blow ever struck against the interest and the health of our citizenry. It will be the biggest step yet taken towards race suicide through the sterilisation of the reproductive functions of man by the irritating effect of these harmful systemic chemicals upon them.

The experts say that systemic insecticides do not remain long inside a plant, and that, if you wait a few weeks after fruit and vegetables have been treated, they will be safe to eat. But, in the same breath, they state that the systemic insecticides last three to four times longer than ordinary poisons. I have seen so many of these sales talk statements prove to be false that I do not trust this one. I do not think that all of this poison will be excreted by the plant, and, if it does, what effect will it produce on the plant's tissues while it is tarrying in its midst. And who is going to fence in all the orchards and farms to keep innocent wayfarers from this deadly produce before the poison is excreted?

The company that makes Systox states

that its investigations have shown that bees tapping the nectar of plants treated with this systemic poison were not affected by it. Perhaps they were not affected outwardly or immediately, but careful study might indicate that they are less healthy. They might become lethargic and produce less honey. And did the Pittsburgh Coke and Chemical Company check on the quality of the honey produced by these bees? Does it contain a residue of these poisons?

"Farm Chemicals" magazine, in its June, 1952, issue, says that Systox is approximately as toxic to mammals as Parathion; and, brother, Parathion is extremely toxic, having in only a few years' time killed many orchardists who were applying it to their trees.

A newspaper states that Systox will save the nation's farmers millions of dollars' worth of crops a year, but I might add, it might cause the people who eat Systox treated foods, tens of millions of medical and hospital costs. Business is in the form of a monetary equation, and we must not fail to study that formula in its every aspect, paying attention to both sides. The agricultural press wildly acclaims this new product, mouthing the prepared statements of the manufacturer to the effect that the product is not dangerous to human beings in the

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quantity present in the harvested crop. But, if it is added to all the food preservatives, all the germ killers, the benzoates of soda, the chlorine and alum in water, the sodium nitrite in frankfurters, the chemicals in bread and in every item of food on the daily menu, what then would be the total cumulative effect? The Pittsburgh Coke and Chemical Company, I am sure, has not made such a test.

This is a situation that calls for immediate action. The public must speak out boldly and at once. It must write to congressmen, senators, newspapers, agricultural colleges, and the Pure Food and Drug Administration, asking that an unqualified ban be placed on this type of insecticide, even for ornamental plants, because there are too many uneducated farmers and truck gardeners who will be tempted, in bootleg fashion, to use it on food crops if they can purchase it for ornamental use. I say again that our readers must take immediate action to protect the public. It must be brought up for discussion in public forums and at parent-teacher meetings. The public has an inalienable right to eat unpoisoned food, and industry must learn to make profits without infringing upon that right.

I am horror-stricken as I observe the activities of these conscienceless chemical companies — truly organisations without souls, coldly proceeding with their devious

money-multiplying devices, regardless of the effect it has upon people's health, I am shocked, and never have I been so shocked before. Chemical fertilisers are bad, but the chemical fertiliser companies do not ask you to eat them! But Systox and now Pestox, and a hundred other competitors, are chafing at the bit in order to force their share of this new poison down the public's gullet.

I cannot emphasise this warning sufficiently — we are in the greatest danger we have ever been. It is worse than a military war. The public must become aroused and act at once to prevent this disaster from overtaking us

—"Organic Gardening," U.S.A.,
August 1952.

ANIMAL DISEASES INCREASE

The new "mystery disease" which has been killing hundreds of cattle in Victoria should surely cause some realistic thinking about basic causes of the disease before the chemical and drug advocates are permitted to cause any more havoc. It has been recently reported that the "mystery disease" has now reached epidemic proportions. The big increase in the incidence of disease in livestock coincides with the growing practice of not only using chemical "fertilisers," but also of spraying pastures and crops with various types of chemical sprays. Those advocating the use of chemical sprays and "fertilisers" do not appear to have given any thought whatever to the possible effects of such chemicals upon the soil's bacteria. Neither has any thought been given to the question of whether the use of chemicals may have serious effects upon the health of stock, plants, and of man himself. Exhaustive research in the U.S.A. has proved beyond argument that the use of D.D.T. to destroy weeds in pastures has resulted in the D.D.T. being transmitted by stock to human beings. It has even been stated that traces of D.D.T. have been found in the fat of newly born babies. Man has so departed from genuine science that he is actually engaged in slowly poisoning not only his animals, but also himself.

If newer and more powerful chemical sprays are to be used by our farmers, we have no doubt that there will be more and more "mystery diseases," which will, of course, provide the agricultural "scientists" with increasing opportunities to experiment with various drugs. Sound health in both man and beast is only possible when there is genuine husbandry, when farming is mixed and consequently balanced. A fertile soil is one rich in organic content. Without a high organic content, which must be constantly replenished by appropriate techniques, it is impossible to have healthy pastures and healthy stock. And without healthy stock there can be no healthy humans. We are convinced that the growing incidence of nervous instability, which expresses itself in numerous ways, is associated with the consumption of foods deficient in the vital vitamins and minerals so essential for real health. This matter is one of the most serious now confronting every Western nation.

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Our Foods Are Being Poisoned!

The following article, by C. F. Carpenter, in the American journal, "Organic Gardening," provides frightening evidence of how the human being is being progressively poisoned by the growing use of various chemical sprays on pastures, crops, and orchards:

The recent Congressional inquiry investigating the use of chemicals in food products brought to light many facts which substantiate the claims that organiculture produces pure and more highly nutritious produce than is possible under the inorganic methods. The widespread use of chemical fertilizer, poisonous sprays and dusts, sterilization of the soil and other unnatural ways, must cease if this land is to be brought back to a high degree of natural fertility and its people to a hitherto undreamed-of state of good health.

One company, the Beech-Nut Packing Company, through Dr. L. G. Cox, its director of technical projects, asserted before the House Committee that it had "spent 668,000 dollars in the last six years keeping residues of new pesticides out of baby foods and peanut butter alone."

Beech-Nut is one of the foremost processors of vegetables, soups, meats and fruits for baby food, as every mother knows.

Dr. Cox stated that:

"The fragmentary data which we have been able to assemble to date indicates, at least, that the new born baby may already have a slight amount of DDT stored in its tissues, and be receiving additional amounts via its mother's milk prior to the time it is ready for commercial milk or baby food. We are, therefore, of the opinion that any insecticide residue which tends to accumulate in fatty tissue, should be eliminated in so far as possible from the baby's diet at the time when milk and prepared baby food are the major part of its diet."

That Beech-Nut has spent so much time and money in quietly — without any fanfare or publicity — protecting babies' health by eliminating traces of residues of poisonous sprays or inorganic chemical fertilizers, speaks volumes for their integrity and square dealing.

The testimony of Dr. Cox in speaking for his company indicates that the company officials realized that something was wrong with our government approved — even highly recommended — methods of farming, animal husbandry and growing of truck crops and orchards.

The National Association of Manufacturers, writing directly to us and referring to the Beech-Nut Packing Company, stated that the "company's sales and assets apparently amounted to only a tiny fraction of

one percent of the food industry." But the capitalization or sales volume has little to do with the basic findings of their chemists . . . More credit rather to this company for their efforts to pack only baby food, which was of the best by all known tests . . . and more shame to the other companies if they continue to package foods produced by methods now known to be harmful, if not definitely toxic, to human health.

Dr. Cox claimed that his company had been accused by the manufacturing chemists of "being hysterical about the problem," and he went on to assert that a fund of about 119,000 dollars had been raised by the chemists "to counteract unfavourable publicity." Politics again play their part and the public suffers if the exponent of their good is the financial underling.

It is true chemical sprays and dusts are usually able to control both injurious insects and fungus diseases, BUT — and here we organiculturists register our complaint emphasized by the findings of the Beech-Nut scientists — they also leave a poisonous residue on our fruits and vegetables which penetrate through the outer skin to the centre. Our national health is being adversely affected. We are being slowly, ever so slowly, poisoned, and yet most of us, perhaps fortunately, are unaware of it or else we would become hypochondriacs.

Plants grown organically, we believe, develop resistance to both insect pests and fungus diseases. Therefore, there need be little question of using sprays to combat them. The normal "police force" of nature, the predacious and parasitic insect enemies of our pests, as well as the birds, will keep them in check.

Dr. Cox testifies that: —

"Prior to the commercial introduction of DDT as an agricultural insecticide, our quality control programme consisted of close bacteriological supervision of equipment, raw materials, and finished products; routine insect fragment and mould counts and chemical analyses for lead, arsenic, fluorine and occasionally copper. Periodic checks were made on agricultural raw materials as they arrived at the plant, again at the end of the customary preparation procedures of washing and peeling, and finally on the finished product, **in accordance with well established methods of analysis acceptable both to the National Canners' Association and the Food and Drug Administration.** (The emphasis is ours. — Ed.). In general, a simple wash was sufficient to remove most residues, but on some fruits an acid wash was occasionally required to remove excessive residues of lead and arsenic.

"The advent of DDT gave us higher quality fruits and vegetables than we had been able to obtain heretofore. But, it also presented a new residue problem with respect to methods of analysis adapted to the minute residues existing on or in food products, methods of economical residue removal, and tolerance standards for residues in the finished product.

"Our management immediately made the decision to employ competent chemists in order to develop suitable methods of residue analysis and removal, and gave others of us the responsibility of becoming intimately acquainted with those developments in new pesticides pertinent to our business. This has led to the development of a considerable research programme within our own laboratories, supplemented by grants in aid to universities, experiment stations, research institutes, and even the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Our research staff worked closely with the American Medical Association, The Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, the American Chemical Society, the National Research Council, the National Canners' Association, various insecticide manufacturers, trade associations, and farm organizations. Eventually we were associated with the formation of the Pesticide Committee of the American Medical Association, the Pesticide Subdivision of the American Chemical Society, and the Food Protection Committee of the National Research Council."

Back in 1947, Beech-Nut felt they had an obligation to protect the consumers of their products. It was further pointed out by Dr. Cox that "The American Medical Association has recently reviewed the Pharmacological and Toxicological Aspects of DDT (2) and they state that Chronic DDT poisoning may result from the ingestion of small amounts of the material over a long time. Since the chemical is irregularly absorbed, the level, below which adverse long range effects are absent, is unknown." . . . But, in the public interest, should the Association's research terminate in that ineffective manner?

The research work of Beech-Nut has proved that much was needed to be done, and now, three months after, the House investigated the whole question of poison absorption from chemical fertilizers and sprays, there is still much to be done by the general public in clamoring for healthy cattle raised on healthy chemical-free land, as well as for fruit and produce containing no residue of injurious spray or dust. Of course, any reform should start with (1) an examination of our Pure Food and Drug Act in the light of the Beech-Nut research programme; (2) the Public Health Service has a definite responsibility in the light of the foregoing to establish test procedures to determine the proper tolerances of chemicals in foodstuffs, and (3) the Department of Agriculture, working with selected Experiment Stations in strategic sections of the country, should have an unbiased group of scientists and practical agriculturists making exhaustive tests to prove the claims of organiculture which follow Nature's own law in returning vegetation to the soil in order to put back into circulation, so to speak, the ingredients so essential to its continuing fertility. Only in such manner can healthy plants be raised to feed both cattle and man.

DIET DOES IT

By GAYELORD HAUSER . . . 19/8
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The Mysterious Protocols. 3/5

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

Serious Decline in Primary Production

The following are extracts from Labor Member Keon's address on the Budget in the Federal Parliament on August 21:

Of all the failures which can be laid at the door of this Government—heaven only knows they are numerous—its failure to increase primary production has had the worst consequences for the Australian people as a whole. The honourable member for Mallee quoted from the "Sunraysia Daily". I propose to quote certain extracts from that newspaper. Honourable members will recall that not so long ago, when our overseas balances were found to have declined to a remarkable degree, the Prime Minister, in his most mellow tones and with his best oratory, appealed to the wheat-growers to grow more wheat. Of course, that was all that he did about the matter. According to a report published in the "Sunraysia Daily" by the chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, Sir John Teasdale, wheat production has declined to such a degree that next year Australia will be unable to produce sufficient to enable flour-millers to operate on a profitable basis. Apparently, the Prime Minister's appeal fell on deaf ears. The wheat-growers want more than sweet words as an incentive to increase production. Sir John Teasdale added:—

"Millers need enough wheat to enable them to run their mills for 120 hours a week in order to make a reasonable profit.

"Operating for 80 hours millers can meet costs, but when there is only enough wheat for the mills to run 40 hours, the loss has to be made up by a rise in the price of flour."

I ask members of the Australian Country Party and other supporters of the Government, who are rural minded, "What is contained in this budget that will produce one additional grain of wheat?"

I shall cite other statistics to show the degree to which the Government has failed to encourage primary production. This year, according to the latest statistics, 400,000 fewer acres have been sown to wheat than were sown last year. Perhaps, that is not a matter for wonderment when as I said earlier, the Government has done nothing to increase production except, through the Prime Minister merely, to appeal to wheat-growers to grow more wheat. During the twelve months ended the 30th June last, dairying

production, which is one of our major sources of exports, declined by 12 percent. Butter production declined by 17.7 percent. It is useless for Government supporters to explain that loss of production by talking about the occurrence of droughts in the Northern Territory, because droughts in that part of Australia can have no effect upon the dairying industry . . .

I come now to the decline in the number of dairy cattle in Australia since the horror budget in 1951. Members of the Australian Country Party are strangely silent whenever this subject is mentioned. The number of dairy cattle has fallen by 4.8 percent during the last twelve months to the lowest level since 1932. Beef and veal production has dropped from 652,000 tons to 585,000 tons. The production of mutton has been maintained at only approximately the same level, despite our increase of population. The production of pig-meats has declined from 85,000 tons to 82,000 tons. The total meat production has decreased from about 1,000,000 tons to 943,000 tons. In short, the number of dairy cattle is down by 4.8 percent; the number of beef cattle is down by 1.6 percent; and the production of pig-meats has decreased by 9.8 percent, to the lowest level since 1927. This is a matter for concern to every serious-thinking Australian.

Nitrate of Soda Hardens Soil

In our arguments against the use of artificial fertilisers we often stress the fact that the average chemical fertiliser, in addition to containing the nutrient to feed the plant, has something else in it, which causes trouble. Superphosphate contains too much sulphur. Muriate of potash has too much of chlorides, while in nitrate of soda we have often maintained that the plant needs very little of the soda it contains. The soda piles up in the soil from yearly applications, combining with carbon, forming the compound, carbonate of soda, which is washing soda. This substance destroys the structure of the soil, causing it to pack and to harden. No critic of the organic method has ever questioned this statement.

Now comes a news item in the "New York Times" during April, 1952, which gives indisputable proof that nitrate of soda has something in it which can become so hard that it can be used as a paving material. In the northern coastal plains of Chile, where the nitrate of soda is mined, a hundred thousand tons is taken out annually and spread out in the process of nitrate manufacture, leaving waste solutions which paved the desert soil to the hardness of concrete. As a result, the engineers of the Worthington Company of Harrison, N.J., who played a part in this discovery, have developed a new type of paving material out of Chilean nitrate, which is being used in South America to pave airport super-highways, and to build cement walls.

Now, when we tell you not to use nitrate of soda because it will harden your soil, you had better believe us. If you want to pave your soil, it is cheaper to use cement. — "Organic Gardening" (U.S.A.),

THE VALUE OF MULCHING

I use quite a lot of sawdust, mainly as mulch around my fruit trees and bushes. If kept moist, the worms work upon it surprisingly quickly, and it soon needs replenishing. When my small seeds are a few inches high, I rake between to destroy some of the weed seedlings and cover with a thin layer of compost or short material like shavings, or occasionally sawdust; by this method I find I can control the weeds quite easily. But I don't as a rule spread sawdust among my small seeds, because I find it has a tendency to cake in such a manner that, when it rains, the water runs off the very dry surface. I have used it now and then, however, and then I rake it in with the soil or mix grass clippings with it.

In dry weather, and in fact whenever I can, I employ mulching of some kind, even if it is only long grass or weeds that have wilted, because it keeps the soil from drying out, especially, as often happens, when strong winds follow a shower of rain before the plants have been able to absorb any moisture. These mulchings provide food for worms and other insects, which appear to prefer them to the growing plants, and consequently I rarely have trouble with pests and seldom a crop failure. When particularly dry weather prevails, or during a prolonged drought, I often sow my seeds, especially peas, by soaking the drill and filling it with compost, which I tread firm, and then cover with a mulch of long grass and let the seeds grow through. In this way, I have been able to save several weeks and obtain a crop which otherwise might have been left till it was too late.

Some of the ground has, naturally, to be treated differently in the winter, such as that containing parsnips, which are lifted as required, or celery which has been earthed up. This soil is usually left bare, loose, and exposed to the weather, but in the spring I never fail to notice how different it is from that which has just been cleared of weeds. It appears harsh and lifeless, and contains very few worms — a fact of which I take advantage when seeking soil for potting — and it usually needs a lot of attention if I have to provide a fine tilth. It often takes more time to prepare than that covered with weeds; it also appears colder, germination is slower, and in a dry spring it becomes very parched.

No soil is inverted if it can possibly be avoided; it is disturbed as little as possible, while every precaution is taken against harming the worms by hoeing, my chief tool being a small fork, which has had the tines bent over and put into a long handle. This I find very useful and sufficient to kill many of the weed seedlings, when necessary.

—S. W. Boreham, in "Our Answer to the Land."

Trace Elements

"The best means of maintaining adequate supplies of trace elements in available form in the soil is to provide plenty of compost, which often contains most of them in considerable amounts.

—Dr. Firman E. Bear, Research Specialist in Soils, Rutgers University (U.S.A.), in "New York Tribune."

Flight From The City

By Ralph Borsodi

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

Flight From The City is the story of an experiment, which will stimulate the reader. Price 2/11, post-free. Order from New Times Ltd, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne,

The Mixed Small Holding

"The old order has changed, but has not yet given place to a new order. There is much waste and chaos, frustration of human hopes and even a danger of national bankruptcy. Possibly life for many is too complicated and standards of living are being confused with standards of life. Houses, Food and Local Leadership are lacking, despite the fact that we can fly faster than sound and heat a house with a split atom. Let us try literally to get down to Mother Earth.

"If permitted by planning authorities, many people would prefer to live in a shack built of Nissen hut or old railway carriage material on their own two-acre holding of marginal land, keeping pigs and poultry, co-operating with similarly-situated neighbours in growing fodder crops and drawing water from a well, to living in a crowded backstreet house with another family and enduring the daily drudgery of office or factory life. But the Town and Country Planning Act and Agriculture Act, which have 'socialised values', tend to check such enterprise and prevent escape from city life.

"Admittedly, it is good to plan for an ideal of better housing amenities for all. But, in view of rising costs of production, danger of war, debts from previous wars, and the tendency to work shorter hours and increase purely administrative services, it is questionable if it is economic to restrict the spirit of enterprise and condemn the people to congested living conditions when there are still large under-populated areas which are not making much contribution to the national larder.

"There is a school of thought which holds that only further large-scale mechanised farming methods can make full and efficient use of our food-producing land. Mechanised mass-production tends to strangle the human soul and necessitate provision of passive amusements costing dollars. Such methods may be necessary for the export trade. But in the produc-

tion of food for home consumption, particularly much-needed meat and milk, the farmer finds that rising costs of labour and shortage of houses for agricultural workers, whose working hours are restricted and who require higher wages for weekend work, are restricting production. He also finds that fertiliser and mechanisation costs are rising, and that his fields require humus if they are to be intensively cropped.

"Has not the mixed small holding with family labour working all hours, and its dwelling which the planners may consider sub-standard but which is at least a home, a vital part to play in attracting both capital and labour to the land and restoring soil fertility, as well as converting 'waste' from the towns into bacon and eggs?"

—A. B. Hudson, in "Rural Economy", (England), April 1952.

THE FLOOD PROBLEM

Mr. F. H. Brewster, chairman of the Hunter Valley Conservation Trust, is reported as saying that the only way to save Maitland, Forbes and other towns flooded in recent years was to move them. This is not a solution at all. It suggests that nothing can be done to prevent further flooding. The increasing damage of floods in recent years is the price Australians are paying for the progressive destruction of their watersheds. Floods will continue to get worse as these watersheds are denuded of their remaining cover. Genuine flood control requires immediate re-forestation of all watersheds. This policy would require far less effort than the building of large flood control dams, which would start to silt up as soon as they were built, and the moving of whole towns and cities. If Mr. Menzies and his colleagues could take their eyes off the ends of the earth and dollars for a while, and have a look at the rapid destruction of the nation's greatest heritage, they might then take some realistic action. We said might.

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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.