

# THE NEW TIMES

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## "NEW TIMES" DINNER AN INSPIRING EVENT "Douglas's Vision Will Be Realised"

The "New Times" Annual Dinner, the first since Major Douglas's death last year, took place on Friday, September 18, and was undoubtedly the most successful and inspiring dinner yet held. There was a very large attendance, many old Social Credit stalwarts being present as the special, guests of "The New Times."

One of the highlights of the evening was the reading of a number of messages from Social Credit leaders abroad; also messages from prominent Australian Social Crediters. We republish these messages elsewhere in this issue. We particularly draw attention to the heartening news from French-Canada, where the Social Credit campaigners are making considerable progress.

In welcoming all those attending the Dinner, the chairman, Mr. W. J. Carruthers, said that the Dinner had developed into an annual event, at which Victorian Social Crediters could come together to exchange their experiences and strengthen their faith in the Social Credit idea. He said that this was the first Dinner since Major Douglas's death, and that it would be appropriate if all stood for a minute's silence before the actual Dinner started.

The loyal toast was then proposed most ably by Mr. John Johnstone, who stressed the fact that the loyal toast was perhaps of greater significance to Social Crediters than to most people. Social Crediters are not interested in mere lip service to an institution, which does not play an effective part in preserving that balance in society, which our British forefathers knew, was essential to protect the rights and liberties of the individual against tyranny. Mr. Johnstone said that Social Crediters hoped the time would come when the Crown would again exercise both power and authority.

While the first course of the dinner was being served, the chairman called upon Mr. Butler to read a message from Mrs. Douglas. Mr. Butler said that all present would be pleased to know that Mrs. Douglas had sent a letter to be read at the dinner. He drew attention to the fact that Mrs. Douglas had devoted her life to assisting her great husband in every way to further his message to the world. In his first work, "Economic Democracy," Douglas paid tribute to his wife, without whom he said this book could not have been published.

During the reading of the messages al-

ready referred to, Mr. Butler said that the Directors had hoped that Mr. Hal Allsop, former managing editor, could have been present as a special guest. Mr. Allsop unfortunately could not attend, but sent his good wishes. There was warm applause following Mr. Butler's tribute to the magnificent service, which Mr. Allsop had given, and his statement that it was hoped that Mr. Allsop could be present at the next Dinner, in order that he could be appropriately thanked for his outstanding contribution to the Social Credit cause.

### MRS. DOUGLAS'S LETTER.

The following letter from Mrs. Douglas was then read by Mr. Butler:—

"It is good of you to let me know the date of the 'New Times' Dinner, and that my thoughts can be with you all, and indeed they will be. I am sure you will have many messages from all parts of the Empire, and I have just had this heartening one: 'Social Crediters of French Canada having their most splendid congress to date. Major Douglas survives in his works and guiding inspiration. His vision will be realised.'

"Our newspapers tell us of your 'stimulus' Budget as an advance surely towards material prosperity. Here we know nothing of 'stimulus,' but much of the curtailment of production and the frustration and depression caused by the endeavour to re-allocate purchasing power by taxation. As you sit around your table on the 18th, though you are—each one of you—conscious of the tremendous difficulties of your future work for Social Credit, yet you are also conscious of your power, and of your understanding, and of that glimpse of the Truth that my husband's vision and work

has given to us all, which makes us strong. "You are a wonderful people—so alive, so vigorous, so potentially strong, growing and expanding in your immense land of promise.

'And not by eastern windows only  
When daylight comes, comes in the light,  
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,  
But Westward, look, the land is bright.'

"When I read that verse I thought at once of Australia. I wish I could be with you to hear and enjoy your varied experiences and your weighty pronouncements. I know you are having a great evening.

(Continued on page 2)

## 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,

## New Times Dinner an Inspiring Event

(Continued from page 1)

My good wishes come to each one of you personally in your work for Social Credit. Yours sincerely,

EDITH DOUGLAS."

Just prior to the first interval, Miss Jean Kennedy, a friend of Mrs. Douglas's, who came straight to Australia from the Douglas home, spoke for several minutes, and said how delighted she was to hear the tributes paid to Mrs. Douglas. All were deeply moved by her description of this "gracious lady," who had devoted her life and her material wealth to her husband's work.

### THE SOCIAL CREDIT IDEA.

After an interval of thirty minutes, during which period the guests moved around informally, the chairman called upon Mr. Eric Butler to give the major address of the evening. In his address, entitled "The Social Credit Idea," Mr. Butler was going to deal with Major Douglas's basic ideas. The following are the major points, which the speaker made:

In his first work, "Economic Democracy," Douglas had dealt primarily with the vast subject of human associations and their effect upon the individual. He was concerned with demonstrating that all organisations—whether it be political, economic or financial—must serve the individual. He drew his listeners attention to the extract from "Economic Democracy," printed on the front of the menu: that society must be built up from the sovereign individual, not down from the State.

After dealing with Douglas's discovery of the flaw in present financial costing methods, Mr. Butler said that it was unfortunate that many who had become interested in Douglas's views on financial reform during the deflationary credit policy imposed during the Great Depression, had never grasped Douglas's fundamental ideas. Many who called themselves Social Crediters were in reality only Socialist monetary reformers. Social Credit was most definitely not the replacing of a private monopoly of credit by a State monopoly, which Douglas had warned was the worst form of credit monopoly. Social Credit challenges the idea of monopoly of any description, and by appropriate techniques which Douglas outlined, seeks to place the individual in effective control of his own credit.

While the temporary policy of credit deflation during the Great Depression certainly introduced many people to Social Credit, it was not generally grasped that the major exploitation Douglas exposed was the forcing of the individual to take part in unnecessary economic activity of some description in order that he could get access to a little of his own financial credit. Douglas was the only man who had exposed the satanic policy underlying the Full Employment doctrine. Work was a material function, and to elevate a means into an end was to further the philosophy of the anti-Christ. Ironically enough, this was what all the Christian Churches were doing today. The issue was not work or no work, but whether increasing tech-

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nological progress was going to enable the individual greater freedom to choose the type of work he desired, or whether he was to work under direction. The controllers of credit policy are determined that all must work under direction, the result being that there is a continuous expansion of new credit, not to enable the individual to have an immediate higher standard of living, but to force the individual to participate in enormous capital expansion, both private and State, which depresses the present standard of living. Superimposed upon this there is the vast bureaucracy and the "work" of filling in forms, etc. One of the results of this policy of enslavement was rising prices, a fact which Douglas accurately predicted in one of his first books, "Credit Power and Democracy." It is tragic to hear so-called leaders talking about preventing inflation while they support the present credit policy.

In a survey of the vast field which Douglas's work covered, Mr. Butler said this genius clarified every aspect of human activity. Not only had he exposed the fallacies of the present financial and economic system, he had penetrated to the core of international politics in his war-time works, while in later years he had dealt exhaustively with the menace of the modern all-powerful State, and the mass voting system which was being used to destroy all constitutional safeguards. Douglas had said that there was no hope of salvation unless the people were effectively demesmerised.

Mr. Butler concluded by drawing attention to the great responsibility now resting upon Social Crediters, to ensure that the genuine Social Credit idea was not perverted. He quoted Douglas's remark that if success was to attend our efforts, "it will not be because of numbers. It will be because of a sufficient quality of Integrity."

### TOAST TO "NEW TIMES."

The toast to "The New Times" was moved by Mr. W. Manifold, of the Western District, and seconded by Mr. H. Hotchkin of Gippsland. Mr. Manifold related how "The New Times" had been introduced to him a few years ago, and suggested that the personal approach to the right type of people would yield the best results. He was applauded when he pointed out that four of those present at the Dinner had been first introduced to "The New Times" by himself. He paid a tribute to all those responsible for publishing the paper.

Mr. Hotchkin, an old campaigner, dealt with past experiences and how "The New Times" had survived many a crisis. He touched on the importance of Social Crediters maintaining their integrity in their work. "No matter what organisation I am working in, if I promise to do a thing I do it. I believe in the old saying that an Englishman's word should be his bond."

Mr. R. H. Weller, a Director of New Times Ltd., responded to the toast and made reference to the work done by the Editor and also by voluntary workers, who, under the leadership of Mr. John Browne, alone made the production of the paper possible. He dealt with the importance of maintaining "The New Times" in order

that knowledge of the truth could be distributed throughout the community. He urged all present to intensify their effort to expand the influence of "The New Times," suggested that this coming Christmas they should buy subscriptions as gift for their friends and relatives.

Excellent entertainment was provided by Mr. George Miller, Mr. Brian Fitzgerald and Mr. Harcourt French. All guests enjoyed immensely the varied items from the artists. The banquet hall was most tastefully decorated for the evening, and a painting of Major Douglas and a large photograph of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, were on the wall behind the official table. There was a display of all Douglas's major works on one table while another table, decorated with an Australian flag which had been used by Mr. Butler over tens of thousands of miles of campaigning in years past, displayed selected number of famous issues of "The New Times," including the first issue. These past issues were of great interest to many who are comparatively new readers.

In closing an evening which all those who attended will remember for years to come, Mr. Carruthers dealt with several matters which indicated that the international and national picture had perhaps improved a little compared with a few years ago. He said that all those present were indebted to Mr. John Browne for his handling of the organisation of the Dinner. He urged all present to go back to their own locality and continue to advance the precious idea which Douglas had given the world.

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## New English Daily

Not since the "Daily Worker" began publication in 1930 has there been a new 'national daily newspaper,' and before that the "Daily Herald" in 1915 was the next last such enterprise.

A breach into the 'closed shop' of newspaper production is in itself, a good thing "The Recorder" seemingly has effected this Published weekly, it has been since 1939 the continuation of the "North London Recorder," first published in 1870. The new daily will "follow an independent policy of which the keynote will be pride in Britain and the British Empire. While serving no particular interests and having no specialised bias in its contents, it will believe in free enterprise." We wish it were as clearly stated that it would believe in enterprise free from the overriding control of financial policy.

Subject to the final details of registration, The Recorder Limited, the owners will take over the paper as a going concern, with a capital of £125,000 in Ordinary shares and £25,000 in notes. Mr. W. J. Brittain will continue to be the editor. He is likely to be chairman of the new company and to own about three-quarters of its capital. The price of the new paper will be 2d., and at first its distribution will be limited to London and the Home Counties.

—"The Social Crediter," Sept. 19.

# STIMULATING NEWS FROM FRENCH-CANADA

## Mr. Louis Even's Message to "New Times"

Undoubtedly the most stimulating and heartening message read at the "New Times" Annual Dinner came from the leader of the rapidly expanding Social Credit Movement in French-Canada, Mr. Louis Even. The following letter from Mr. Even, dated September 10, was received by the Editor a few days before the Dinner:

Returning from our annual Congress, held at St. George, 200 miles from here, I found your good letter, dated September 1st, with the news of your coming New Times Dinner in Melbourne.

This means that Social Crediters of Australia have also their important event each year. It may be different from ours in its outward features; but it surely proceeds from the same inspiration: the Douglas vision of a "Social Credit" world. A world where each and every individual may freely enjoy his share of the benefits accruing from life in association.

The more a disciple of Douglas grasps this far-reaching vision of the master, the more it occupies his daily thoughts, the more it becomes as a part of his soul, the more he wants to see it known and cherished by others, and the more also he is determined in his personal efforts to have the bright potentiality become a realization. Our Congress this year was an unprecedented success in the history of our movement here. More than 3,000 Social Crediters, coming from all over French Canada, some of them from as far as 900 miles, attended this impressive event. 507 cars participated in the three parades, which covered 150 miles of road in the district where St. George is situated.

The Congress lasted from Saturday noon to Monday noon, with an interruption (this word is improper) for the religious service of the Sunday morning. To accommodate us, the parish head had a priest celebrate a Mass for us, in the very hall in which we held our sittings. We were kindly received by the local authorities and acclaimed by the population.

Among the resolutions moved and passed at this huge meeting, one raised a particular interest and was enthusiastically supported. It is to the effect that our Institute of Political Action be instructed to begin, as soon as possible, the publication of a Social Credit organ in English. In its premises, the resolution stated that English Canada lacks a printed means of giving undistorted notions on Social Credit and exact news of the movement in the various provinces of Canada and in the other countries of the world. It stated also that, owing to the absence of such information, much confusion exists on the nature of Social - Credit, and most English readers in Canada connect the two words "Social Credit" only with the party bearing that name in Western Canada. This confusion will last as long as steps are not taken to place better information before the English reader. In our own province of Quebec, also, where 18 percent of the population is of English language, and in New Brunswick and Ontario where we have French Social Crediters with daily

intercourse with English-speaking neighbours, our propagandists regret not to have anything to leave as a vehicle of Social Credit.

For all those reasons, and because nothing is done by a let-George-do-it policy, our Institute of Political Action will tackle the job.

The first issue of the planned paper will likely be dated November next; the second, January; and from there on, every other month, until it is felt that the response justifies a closer periodicity.

Our present paper, Vers Demain, is the master tool of our movement in French Canada, both to carry information and to give weight to our demands. In the past twelve months, 46,369 subs to Vers Demain were raised, without paying one cent of commission to the canvassers. And our force having grown, the Congress people did not hesitate to set to themselves an objective of 60,000 subs for the coming twelve months.

I think that yourself gather collaboration to support your New Times, it being published regularly for nearly twenty years, without any commercial advertising to foot your bills.

My associates here join with me to wish you the fullest success at your "New Times" Dinner. A whole continent and an immense ocean may lie between Australia and Eastern Canada, but our hearts and minds will be together on the 18th of September. Yours sincerely, for a Social Credit civilization,

LOUIS EVEN.

P.S.—From our Congress hall in St. George, we sent this wire to Mrs. Edith M. Douglas:

Social Crediters of French Canada having their most splendid Congress to date stop Major Douglas survives in his works and guiding inspiration stop His vision will be realized.

Two days later, we received this answer: Mrs. Douglas desires me to thank you warmly for inspiring message stop Secretariat joins in congratulating your brave loyal movement on its accomplishment.

Tudor Jones.

## DIET DOES IT

By GAYELORD HAUSER . . . . 19/8  
We are now taking orders for this book against supplies arriving shortly. This is the latest book by this famous author, and will be a valuable acquisition by those who desire to maintain their health by natural dietary

## JAMES GUTHRIE'S MESSAGE

Mr. Guthrie, of Tasmania, sent the following message:—

"I am writing to you on the occasion of the 'New Times' annual dinner, and I very much regret that I cannot be there in person. Please convey to our mutual friend the best wishes of Mrs. Guthrie and myself, and our congratulations to all those who have helped to keep the 'New Times' a going concern. The survival of an independent paper during all these years is more than a great achievement — it's a miracle.

"To those of us who go out on our lonely path to bear witness to the truth, it is a great comfort to know that in Melbourne there is an organisation capable of supporting our efforts and maintaining a continuous flow of vital information, so necessary for correct thinking and correct action

"Douglas, who stood by our side all these years, ready with advice and help in our every difficulty, has left us with the tremendous responsibility of carrying on his work and building on the foundation he so truly laid.

"This night and this month of September seems an appropriate time to consider the mighty task he has left us, and what we personally, intend to do about it. Those of us who have been given a glimpse of reality have been placed in a very special position and much is expected of us. —Best wishes to you all. Yours sincerely, Jas Guthrie."

## THE ARCHITECTS BEHIND THE WORLD COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY .. .. 2/6

By Ron Gostick, editor of "The Canadian Intelligence Service." A masterly expose of the Jewishness of Communism. Traces the conspiracy from Marx to the present day, presenting a mass of documented evidence and photographs of the conspirators to prove the race and identity of the enemies of Christendom.

## 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.

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## MORE MESSAGES TO THE DINNER

### CABLE FROM SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

The following cable was received from Dr. Tudor Jones, Chairman of the Social Credit Secretariat:

"Social Credit Secretariat sends compliments and best wishes for future discharge of great responsibility which rests upon all associated with New Times which we follow with close attention and high hopes."

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### MESSAGE FROM MR. RON GOSTICK

Mr. Ron Gostick related how he had just come from the big congress in French Canada, and said that new and important contacts were being made in English-speaking Canada.

"Best wishes to you and The New Times' in your patriotic efforts in Australia. Our prayers and thoughts with you on the 18th and coming weeks and months."

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### A LETTER FROM BRUCE H. BROWN

The following letter from Mr. Brown was addressed to Mr. Butler: —

"Unfortunately I shall not be able to attend the annual dinner on September 18, and should like you to apologise for me. I hope the gathering will be a happy, personal occasion for all who attend, and a very successful occasion for the progress of the ideas for which we stand.

"Our success to date is not to be measured by the deepening chaos about us or by the pathetic nonsense which continues to be uttered by the babblers posing as 'leaders', but rather by the fact that so many more people are now aware of the facts of the situation than was the case a few years ago. It seems to me that the gradual permeation of our ideas through the responsible sections of the community is more important than an early emotional arousing of the mob. Our immediate task is to maintain the light until events facili-

## Freemasonry and the Anti-Christian Movement

By E. Cahill. 15/3, post-free.

This remarkably well-documented book proves beyond doubt the Jewish origin and domination of Freemasonry as indicated in the Protocols of Zion. Quotes extensively from Masonic writings.

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tate a more general illumination by it. Even now, events appear to be shaping in that way.

"According to biblical records, Sodom would have been spared had there been a few righteous men about, and I think it true to say that while there is an increasing number of men about who understand the nature and implications of the discovery of C. H. Douglas, Christian civilisation will eventually supplant the powers of darkness expressed in the term 'anti-Christ'. It is for each of us to do what we can to spread this knowledge where we can.

"You, and all those associated with you, are to be commended for the work you and they have continued so patiently and so perseveringly to do in the face of great difficulty, and I wish all of you increasingly fruitful results in the days to come.

"With greetings to everyone present. — Yours sincerely, Bruce H. Brown."

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### MR. C. BARCLAY-SMITH'S TRIBUTE

In December last when I sat down to write an article summing up the proposals and philosophy of C. H. Douglas, I was again struck—indeed, staggered—by the transcendental genius of the man and the mind which offered feasible and practical solutions to all the major problems which appear to baffle statesmen and economists.

Just consider:

His penetrating mind saw the flaw in the financial system and he devised practical remedial measures.

His proposals related monetary issues to productive capacity, neither more nor less, thus ruling out the alternating evils of boom and slump.

His proposals made it possible to greatly increase the volume of money and at the same time effect a general reduction of prices.

He gave the world the way of escape from the encircling gloom of debt and tax enslavement.

He saw the cause of wars as the insecurity of the individual magnified to the national and international scale, and he provided a financial mechanism to remove those causes.

He realised the impact of the power machine on the employment system, and again gave the world the answer to the impending problem of unemployment, or rather, unemployment.

And, finally, he lifted his great mind to the abstract level and gave the world a practical philosophy of freedom, whereby the individual might reach his maximum stature and happiness.

When one pieces the story together, one feels an abiding sense of pride in having been associated, even remotely and humbly, with a mind so great and a movement which transcends all other ideologies so completely.

It will take many years after Social Credit principles have become the established order of human society before a grateful world sees Douglas' contribution

to the new civilisation in its true perspective.

When the news of his death appeared in the cables with additions wholly untrue and uncharitable, my mind contrasted these paltry references to the vast contribution C. H. Douglas made to society.

He gave the world a new conception of economic democracy, a new assessment of the supreme importance of the individual and an entirely new financial technique to make economic security physically possible.

Douglas passed without so much as one generous reference in the Australian Press but I venture the opinion that the time will come when every democratic country having proved the soundness of the principles he put forward, will honour and revere his name as the greatest mind of this epoch, enabling the world at long last to resolve its problems and "bring to birth a new civilisation".

## Immigration and Culture

No civilisation is tolerable which suppresses agitation from within its own borders against an existing condition, however mistaken that agitation may be. But no civilisation can survive which will permit members of an alien culture to settle within its borders in order to make the exploitation of grievances real or fancied into a highly lucrative profession . . .

It is not difficult to apprehend that naturalisation laws have a vital bearing on this matter, and those naturalisation laws are affected not merely quantitatively but essentially by the relation of the culture of the immigrant to that of the country of his choice. Apart from a few points on the seaboard, for instance, the culture on the North American Continent in the seventeenth century was that of the North American Indian.

Immigration has wiped out that culture not wholly or even principally through frontier massacre, but by the sheer incompatibility of the indigenous culture with that of the immigrant. The immigrant himself was in the main a variant of the general European culture although of differing national stocks, and a culture with recognisable European features was characteristic of the United States until the last quarter of the nineteenth century, as it is in Canada today.

The immigration and the culture which is being forced upon Great Britain by every device of propaganda and covert political social, and economic pressure is not fundamentally European, is not accompanied by immigration of European stock, and is as incompatible with the native culture as was European culture with that of the North American Indian. It is just arguable, and it is very loudly argued, that a small influx of foreign strains can be absorbed with out great disadvantages. But it must be small, and it is essential that it should be absorbed. —C. H. Douglas in "The Brief for the Prosecution".

D.S.C.M. WOMEN'S GROUP  
(VIC)

Now Meets on

THE THIRD THURSDAY  
of Every Month.  
All interested are invited

# WHAT CHURCHILL SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM IN 1930

We are indebted to "The Social Creditor" for the following extracts from Sir Winston Churchill's Romanes Lecture at Oxford University in 1930:

"Let us now look at some of the economic issues about which our partisans contend so loudly and about which great numbers of intelligent people are in honest doubt.

"The classical doctrines of economics have for nearly a century found their citadels in the Treasury and the Bank of England. In their pristine vigour these doctrines comprise among others the following tenets: Free imports, irrespective of what other countries may do and heedless of the consequences to any particular native industry or interest. Ruthless direct taxation for the repayment of debt without regard to the effects of such taxation upon individuals or their enterprise or initiative. Rigorous economy in all forms of expenditure whether social or military. Stern assertion of the rights of the creditor, national or private, and full and effectual discharge of all liabilities. Profound distrust of State-stimulated industry in all its forms, or of State borrowing for the purpose of creating employment. Absolute reliance upon private enterprise unfettered and unfavoured by the State. These principles, and others akin to them, are all part of one general economic conception, amplified and expounded in all the Victorian textbooks and endorsed by most modern histories extant and current.

"Whatever we may think about these doctrines—and I am not today pronouncing upon them — we can clearly see that they do not correspond to what is going on now. No doubt each political party picks out unconsciously from these tables of economic law the tenets which they think will be most agreeable to the crowd that votes for them or which they hope will vote for them. They ignore or transgress the others. They then proceed to plume themselves upon their orthodoxy. But the growth of public opinion, and still more of voting opinion, violently and instinctively rejects many features in this massive creed. No one, for instance, will agree that wages should be settled only by the higgling of the market. No one would agree that modern world dislocation of industry through new processes, or the development of new regions, or the improvement of international communications, or through gigantic speculations, should simply be met by preaching thrift and zeal to the displaced worker. Few would agree that private enterprise is the sole agency by which fruitful economic undertakings can be launched or conducted. An adverse conviction on all these points is general, and practice has long outstripped conviction. The climate of opinion in which we live today assigns the highest importance to minimum standards of life and labour. It is generally conceded that the humble local toiler must be protected or insured against exceptional external disturbance. It is admitted increasingly every day that the State should interfere in industry — some say by tariffs, some by credits, some say by direct control, and all by workshop regulations; and far-reaching

structures of law are already in existence under several of these heads. Enormous expenditures have grown up for social and compassionate purposes. Direct taxation has risen to heights never dreamed of by the old economists and statesmen, and at these heights has set up many far-reaching reactions of an infrugal and even vicious character. We are in presence of new forces not existing when the textbooks were written. There are the violent changes in world prices and in the localities where the leadership of particular industries is situated all unmitigated by any steady uptide of British population and consuming power. There is the power of vast accumulations of capital to foresee and to forestall beneficial expenditure in new regions or upon new processes. There are the remarkable economies with their consequent competitive dominance, which flow from scientific mass production. There is the vast network of cartels and trading agreements, which has grown up irrespective of frontiers, national sentiments, and fiscal laws. All these are new factors. These examples could be multiplied, but enough will suffice. It is certain that the economic problem with which we are now confronted is not adequately solved, indeed is not solved at all, by the teachings of the textbooks however grand may be their logic, however illustrious may be their authors.

"But a harder task lies before us than the mere breaking up of old-established conclusions. It may well be indeed that these conclusions are sound, that they are the true foundations of the palace in which we seek some day to dwell. Our task is not to break up these foundations and use the fragments as missiles in party warfare. Our task is to build another storey upon them equally well proportioned, symmetrical and unified. This then and nothing else is the dangerous puzzle with which you now confront your ancient and admirable Parliamentary institutions and the harassed managers or leaders of your political parties. If the doctrines of the old economists no longer serve for the purposes of our society, they must be replaced by a new body of doctrine equally well related in itself, and equally well fitting into a general theme. There is no reason that the new system should be at variance with the old. There are many reasons why it should be a consistent, but a more complex, secondary application.

"I will take a sharp illustration. On the one hand we are told that imports injure our prosperity, and that we should insulate ourselves against them and substantially abate their volume. Something like this, you will remember, was done for us in the war by the German submarines. On the other hand there is the view that it is what comes into the island rather than what goes out of it that we enjoy: and that to refuse imports is to refuse the payments for your exports and consequently to impede your

exports, or else it is to refuse to receive the interest upon your immense foreign investments. Therefore, it is argued, the more imports the merrier. But why should we accept this bleak dichotomy? Could we not by a selective process so handle the matter that while the volume of imports actually increased or remained constant, its character would be changed, and the commodities, which compose it and the sources from which they come, would be quite differently proportioned? What is required is not a simple Aye or No, but a discriminating process based upon systematized principles. These principles, no doubt, exist; but they are hardly likely to be discovered for regulating either imports or exports, by candidates for Parliament promising to protect their local industries; or by any favours, which Ministers may bestow upon the mining constituencies, whose support they enjoy.

"It is evidently a matter requiring high, cold, technical, and dispassionate or disinterested decision. It is a matter requiring stiff rules to which local and individual interests can be made to conform.

"I cannot believe that the true principles will be discovered by our excellent Parliamentary and electoral institutions — not even if they are guided by our faithful and energetic Press. We might have a General Election in which eight million voters were taught to sing in chorus, 'Make the foreigner pay,' and eight million more to chant in unison, 'Give the rich man's money to the poor, and so increase the consuming power'; and five other million to intone, 'Your food will cost you more'. We might have all this; we probably shall! But even so we may be none the wiser or the better off.

**"Beyond our immediate difficulty lies the root problem of modern world economics; namely, the strange discordance between the consuming and producing power."** (Our emphasis.)

"Is it not astonishing that with all our knowledge and science, with the swift and easy means of communication and correspondence which exist all over the world, that the most powerful and highly organised communities should remain the sport and prey of these perverse tides and currents? Who would have thought that

(Continued on page 7)

**You MUST Have This Book!**

***"The International Jew"***

**(By Eric D. Butler)**

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## Wages And Inflation

*The decision by the Arbitration Court that the quarterly automatic adjustment of the basic wage should be suspended has been hailed by all the "experts" as a move, which will help defeat inflation. All the usual rubbish has been churned out by the press, which has over the past few years faithfully featured every statement made by Government leaders on how their financial policies were curing the inflation problem. Unfortunately for the "experts", and for the community, the facts will, as we have shown time and time again, confound their predictions.*

*Automatic wage increases are not the basic cause of inflation as is being demonstrated in Italy at present, where there is a grave fear that there will be a repetition of the recent disastrous French strike. The Italian workers, like the French workers, are finding that the cost of living has increased so much that they must obtain an increase in wages if they are to avoid a lowering of their living standards. While present financial policies are pursued in Australia, prices must continue to rise steadily. If wage earners are to be denied an automatic increase in wages to compensate for price rises which have already taken place as indicated by official statistics, it is certain that there is going to be a great deal of industrial unrest ahead in Australia. And the Communists are already anticipating this.*

*The present move for increased margins of pay is a forerunner of the type of activity, which can be expected in the future. How are future wage increases to be made? If they are still to be based upon the official statistics used for the quarterly basic wage increases, then what is gained by abolishing these increases. If the suggestion is that the wage earners should help subsidise prices by accepting a lower standard of living, then we can expect an intensification of the class struggle. (If every increase in wages is only to follow an application to the Arbitration Court, then it is clear that the Arbitration Court is going to be increasingly used as a battleground between the Trade Unions and the employers. This will further strengthen the Communists' contention that the "class struggle" is inherent in the present "capitalist system. We warn that there is real trouble ahead unless responsible representatives of both employers and employees — if there are such people — realise that they cannot possibly co-operate harmoniously under present financial rules. They must unite to change these rules in order that employers can pay their employees the highest possible wages while being able to recover their total costs from consumers who desire their production.*

*The real cause of rising financial costs can only be discovered by objectively examining present financial costing arrangements. If there are any genuine leaders amongst the ranks of either employers or employees who desire to undertake this examination, we will be pleased to assist with authoritative material which no one has yet refuted.*

## Communist "Morality"

"Law, morality, religion are to him, the proletarian, so many bourgeois prejudices behind which lurk in ambush just so many bourgeois interests."—Karl Marx.

Lenin was more explicit: "We say that our morality is wholly subordinated to the interests of the class struggle (hate and civil war) of the proletariat. That is why we say a morality taken from outside human society, (Almighty God) does not exist for us, it is a fraud. For us, morality is subordinated to the interests of the proletariat class-struggle."

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## Church Leaders and Moral Issues

**The following letter appeared in the Melbourne "Age" on September 24:**

Sir, —If all ministers of religion, instead of fighting the lottery, would marshal their forces and try to compel the Government to treat pensioners more humanely, they would be better occupied.

If there is anything more immoral than the treatment of these people I have yet to hear of it.

We seem to forget that these old people helped to make this country a politician's paradise and the finest in the world in which to live. —L. Roche.

Having dealt with the issue raised in the above letter, we suggest that the Church leaders could then proceed to deal with the moral issue involved in the control of individual's credit by those using this control to enslave the individual. If the fundamental matter of the ownership and control of credit were dealt with, all the problems concerning the financing of hospitals would be quickly solved.

## Gift Subscriptions

We desire to emphasize the suggestion made at "The New Times" Dinner, for readers to give subscriptions of "The New Times" as Christmas presents. It is not too soon to start thinking about Christmas gifts. Here is a way in which readers can solve the problem of Christmas gifts and at the same time help advance those ideas for which "The New Times" stands. Most "New Times" readers undoubtedly have friends or relatives who would appreciate reading "The New Times". Many of these would undoubtedly continue as regular readers. If sufficient readers will cooperate with us in this scheme, it is our intention to have printed suitable cards with appropriate wording to be sent to recipients of the gift subscription.

Will all those readers who intend to make use of our Christmas Gift Scheme please let us know at their earliest convenience. Money can be forwarded later if desired.

## WHAT CHURCHILL SAID

(Continued from page 5)

it should be easier to produce by toil and skill all the most necessary or desirable commodities than it is to find consumers for them? Who would have thought that cheap and abundant supplies of all the basic commodities should find the science and civilisation of the world unable to utilise them? Have all our triumphs of research and organisation bequeathed us only a new punishment — the Curse of Plenty? Are we really to believe that no better adjustment can be made between supply and demand? Yet the fact remains that every attempt has so far failed. Many various attempts have been made, from the extremes of Communism in Russia to the extremes of Capitalism in the United States. They include every form of fiscal policy and currency policy. But all have failed, and we have advanced little further in this quest than in barbaric times. **Surely it is this mysterious crack and fissure at the basis of all our arrangements and apparatus upon which the keenest minds throughout the world should be concentrated.** (Our emphasis.) "Are we, or are we not, capable of a higher and more complex economic, fiscal, and financial policy? Are we not capable of evolving a united body of doctrine adapted to our actual conditions and requirements? Could not such a system of policy be presented and accepted upon a national and not a party basis? Could it not, when devised, be taken out of the political brawling and given a fair trial by overwhelming national consent? Here then is the crux for Parliament. Many dangers threaten representative institutions once they have confided themselves to adult suffrage. There are dangers from the right and dangers from the left. We see examples of both in Europe today. But the British Parliamentary system will not be overthrown by political agitation: for that is what it specially comprehends. It will pass only when it has shown itself incapable of dealing with some fundamental and imperative economic need; and such a challenge is now open.

"It must be observed that economic problems, unlike political issues, cannot be solved by any expression, however vehement, of the national will, but only by taking the right action. You cannot cure cancer by a majority. What is wanted is a remedy. Every one knows what the people wish. They wish for more prosperity. **How to get it? That is the grim question, and neither the electors nor their representatives are competent to answer it. Governments and the various parties moving in the political sphere are not free to proclaim the proper remedies in their completeness, even if they knew them.** (Our emphasis.) All kinds of popular cries can be presented for an election, and each may contain some measure of truth. None in itself will provide us with the key. For this reason opinion has been turning towards the treatment of the subject on national and non-party lines. The leaders of parties, we are told, should meet together and arrive at a common policy. **But these leaders, having their being in the political sphere, would not be able at such a conference to do much more than to restate in civil terms the well-known differences and antagonisms which they represent.** (Our emphasis.)

"It would seem, therefore," he went on, "that if new light is to be thrown upon this grave and clamant problem, it must in the first instance receive examination from a non-political body, free altogether from party exigencies, and composed of persons possessing special qualifications in economic matters. Parliament would therefore, be well advised to create such a body subordinate to itself, and assist its deliberations to the utmost. The spectacle of an Economic sub-Parliament debating day after day with fearless detachment from public opinion all the most disputed questions of Finance and Trade, and reaching conclusions by voting, would be an innovation easily to be embraced by our flexible constitutional system. I see no reason why the political Parliament should not choose in proportion to its party groupings a subordinate Economic Parliament of say one-fifth of its numbers, and composed of persons of high technical and business qualifications.

"Let me recapitulate the argument I have submitted to you upon this aspect of political science. The economic problem for Great Britain and her Empire is urgent, vital, and dominant. There exists at the present time no constitutional machinery for dealing with it on its merits, with competent examination and without political bias and antagonisms. The House of Commons, to which the anxious nation looks to provide a solution (its instinct led it to believe there was a solution), is unsuited both by its character and the conditions, which govern its life to fulfill such a task. Nevertheless, the task has to be done. Britain is unconquerable and will not fail to find a way through her difficulties. Parliament is therefore upon its trial, and if it continues to show itself incapable of offering sincere and effective guidance at this juncture, our Parliamentary institutions, so admirable in the political sphere, may well fall under a far-reaching condemnation. (And haven't they?) If Parliament, and the Ministries dependent upon Parliament, cannot proclaim a new policy, the question arises whether they should not, while time remains, create a new instrument specially adapted for the purpose,

and delegate to that instrument all the necessary powers and facilities." Adapted for the purpose, yes; we would only remark how vaguely the purpose has been defined. "I hope you will feel I have been justified in troubling you today with these anxious matters," the lecturer went on. "These eventful years through which we are passing are not less serious for us than the years of the Great War. They belong to the same period. The grand and victorious summits, which the British Empire won in that war, are being lost in the years, which followed the peace. We see our race doubtful of its mission and no longer confident about its principles, infirm of purpose drifting to and fro with the tides and currents of a deeply disturbed ocean. The compass has been damaged. The charts are out of date. The crew has to take it in turns to be Captain; and every captain before every movement of the helm has to take a ballot not only of the crew but also of an ever-increasing number of passengers. Yet within this vessel there abides all the might and fame of the British race and all the treasures of all the peoples in one-fifth of the habitable globe. Let this University bear her part in raising our economic thought to the height of the situation with which we are confronted and thereafter in enforcing action, without which such thought is vain."

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### U.S. Foreign Policy Worries Israel

If press reports are correct, the controllers of Israel are becoming increasingly worried about the policies of the American Republican Administration. This would confirm our view that some of these policies are a great improvement upon those of Truman Acheson regime.

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### Adult Municipal Voting Opposed

The Victorian League of Rights has announced that it intends to oppose any proposal to introduce adult voting for municipal council elections. The League believes that councils are at present elected by the most responsible members of the community, and that the Victorian Government's proposal is designed to pave the way for the creation of a Greater Melbourne and the further centralisation of power.

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## FIRST AUSTRALIAN BOOK ON ORGANIC FARMING

"Life from the Soil", by Col. H. F. White and Sir C. Stanton Hicks

Reviewed by Eric D. Butler

Although an increasing number of Australian farmers and gardeners have in recent years become interested in the principles of organic farming and gardening, it has often been asked why there has been no Australian literature similar to the numerous books appearing in Great Britain, America, and to a lesser extent, in New Zealand. In the first Australian book on organic farming to appear, "Life From The Soil," by Col. H. F. White and Sir C. Stanton Hicks, the answer to the foregoing question is perhaps answered by the authors drawing attention to the important fact that Australia has no genuine farming tradition. Very few of the early colonists were true British husbandmen while early farming development in Australia took place when the idea of "scientific chemical farming" was first being keenly propagated by the chemical interests.

Col. White and Sir Stanton Hicks must be congratulated for their courage and initiative in not only producing the first Australian book on genuine soil husbandry, but a comprehensive work which every Australian producing food should have upon his shelves for reference. "Life From The Soil" should not only be read and studied by those directly responsible for soil management, but by all those responsible for political, economic and financial policies which affect the activities of those engaged in producing the very means of life. There is also a message for the inhabitants of Australia's overpopulated big cities who are unaware of the inevitable disasters threatening them if present centralist policies are pursued.

"Life From The Soil" is in two parts, the first by Colonel White dealing mostly with the author's practical experience as a grazier, while the second part by Sir Stanton Hicks, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at the Adelaide University, and probably Australia's most outstanding authority in nutrition, covers the vast field of man's relationship to the soil and his environment.

Colonel White of Bald Blair, New England, is generally recognized as an outstanding successful Australian grazier. He relates how as a result of his University training he followed closely the development of chemical "farming" and applied the recommended quantity of superphosphate to his pastures. But as time went on, he discovered, as have other observant Australian farmers—several of whom he quotes—

that the response to "supering" became progressively less. The only recommendation of these advising the use of chemical fertilisers was to increase the amount of "super"!

Colonel White relates how he eventually came in touch with the idea of organic farming and immediately introduced a policy of ploughing down old pastures, upon which he established new ones, to be eventually also turned in. The results were immediate and spectacular. They confirmed the outstanding results achieved by British farmers who have stopped the use of chemical fertilisers and have introduced a system of ley farming to build up the organic content of their soil. Colonel White quotes extensively from many of the most outstanding authorities on the importance of the organic content of the soil and the various beneficial results, which follow naturally from organic farming methods. A number of excellent photographs show clearly the splendid pasture growth, which Colonel White has achieved with his plough-down policy. Colonel White bases his pastures upon phalaris tuberosa, a deep rooting plant admirably suited for most Australian conditions, and various clovers. He gives some very sound advice on pasture management; also on breeding. His findings based upon practical experience can be best summarised in his own words: "My more recent work shows me that the British ley-farming practices will completely recover the fertility of worn-down soils, and will maintain it without recourse to fertilisers and at a lower cost than the original expenditure on applying fertilisers". No Australian farmer can afford to ignore the

significance of Colonel White's findings. He should study "Life From The Soil" and then start to apply the principles of organic farming on his own farm, allowing of course for his local environment and type of farming. Sir Stanton Hicks deals with a vast field, although in a non-technical manner which the average reader can easily follow, that it is only possible in this review to touch upon several points. His central theme is that man, particularly Western man, has ignored the necessity of maintaining a proper relationship between himself and the natural order. "To achieve equilibrium man must live with Nature on

(Continued on page 9)

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# FIRST AUSTRALIAN BOOK ON ORGANIC FARMING

(Continued from page 8)

equal terms, for he is a part of the natural order. If he continues on the arrogant assumption that he is above Nature, the desert will bury him and his works, as it always has done."

Sir Stanton pleads for a more humble approach to the subject of how man can live in harmony with his environment. He deals with the fallacies of the so-called scientific approach and paints an alarming picture of where it is leading: the life in the soil being destroyed, the growing incidence of degenerative diseases as the result of living on food grown on life-less soil, the fantastic large-scale planning schemes like the T.V.A., in an endeavour to deal with effects, not the basic causes, of growing floods, and "the subjection of the land to commercial interests", resulting in "a proletariat, a dispossessed, and detached human mass, for whom governments have been . . . at pains to manipulate the national finances either to placate, or to control." A chapter on "The Financial Position of the Farmer" clearly shows the vital effect of credit policy upon Australian farming. Sir Stanton challenges many fallacious but widely held views on the subject of food, its production, and its effect upon health. "Life From The Soil" will not be popular with some groups because of these views. But, as he indicates, he has previously had the experience of efforts being made to suppress his views and, as all who know him will agree, he is a courageous man seeking to serve the cause of Truth. Every Doctor and Dentist in Australia should read "Life From The Soil", even if only to consider the implications of Sir Stanton's comment upon the relationship of soil management to human health. It is undoubtedly the most important book on soil management and its relationship to life, which has yet appeared in Australia. Both writers provide an excellent bibliography and a comprehensive index is provided. The reviewer has only one suggestion to make for improving the book, and it is a fundamental one, because it deals with the subject of "phosphate deficiency", one that is almost an obsession with most Australian official agricultural advisers.

While organic farming and gardening enthusiasts will appreciate the criticism of the "super" mentality by the authors of "Life From The Soil", many will feel, as the writer does, that the material on phosphate does not deal adequately with the current arguments of the apologists for artificial fertilisers. The advocates of artificial fertilisers now agree—because they have been forced—that the organic content of the soil must be increased and maintained. But they claim that artificial fertilisers are essential to achieve this objective. They even advocate making "compost" heaps with the aid of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia! It would be a tragedy if "Life From The Soil" were used to further this perversion. The writer has met advocates of artificial fertilisers who have gloatingly quoted Colonel White's heavy initial "supering" to establish his leys, as evidence that even organic farmers must use superphosphate. Now both Sykes and Newman Turner in England, to mention only two successful completely organic farmers, have demonstrated that pastures can be established

without the use of any artificial fertilisers whatever. Can the same be done in Australia? And at what cost? These answers can only be answered by Australian farmers making practical experiments under their local conditions. But they must be encouraged to make these experiments and it is to be hoped that the authors of "Life From The Soil" will in future editions draw attention to the fact that the organic content of the soil can be lifted, and successful pastures established, without recourse to artificial fertilisers. Unless this is done, the development of the organic farming movement in Australia will be governed by the view that superphosphate is indispensable; that there is no other line of approach.

Taking the long view of sound agricultural development—and the authors of "Life From The Soil" strongly stress this view—it is surely obvious that the widespread phosphate deficiency in top soils cannot be permanently solved by digging up the comparatively few deposits like those at Nauru and sprinkling them over the earth's surface. Sir Stanton Hicks does deal with this point very well, but unfortunately his inference that phosphate should be used initially if supplies are available will, in conjunction with Colonel White's material, suggest that this phosphate can only be used as "super". There is no reference to the fact that phosphate rock can be used without treating it with sulphuric acid. Ground phosphate rock has been used extensively and successfully in the U.S.A. for many years and is now available in Australia. Although it is criticised by the agricultural "experts", the only argument they can advance is that it does not stimulate plant growth, particularly clover growth, quickly enough. It is true that "super" acts more quickly than rock phosphate, but as against this the chemical action of the "super" not only has a bad effect upon some soil bacteria, but also results in most of it being "fixed" and lost to the plant. Colonel White makes the interesting point that this "fixed" phosphate is, however, eventually made available when leys are turned under. If this is so, those who have been "supering" in the past and are now going over to organic farming should have no need to use any further phosphate at all. However, where it is desired to apply phosphate initially—and it is commonsense to use deposits like those at Nauru while they last—the use of rock phosphate should at least be mentioned as an alternative to "super". The claim that phosphate will produce no response the first year is not true so far as the writer's experience is concerned. Taking all factors into consideration, the slower results—in quantity of growth although perhaps with better quality—from ground phosphate rock should recommend its use. If the authors of "Life From The Soil" could make mention of the known results of rock phosphate they would encourage a much greater use of it in Australia. And the Federal Government would not then be so concerned about the sulphur shortage and the spending of the taxpayers' money trying to find alternative but expensive methods of treating phosphate rock.

Like other minerals, phosphate is lost via human food consumption and by the process of leaching into the subsoil. One method of

recovering this phosphate is the suitable treatment of human sewage for its return to the soil from which it originally came. The present waste of sewage must cease and the authors of "Life From The Soil" deal adequately with this important matter. Information concerning the Melbourne Board of Works' farm at Werribee and various local schemes overseas is given and should stimulate the necessary action to ensure that the waste of valuable phosphate and other minerals through present methods of sewage disposal must be stopped. This matter is of vital public importance. Sir Stanton Hicks makes available some of Liebig's writings stressing the importance of returning all sewage to the soil to prevent waste of phosphate. It is obvious from these writings that Liebig was a much sounder agricultural scientist than organic farming supporters have realised. It was the perversion of his ideas by the chemical interests, which resulted in the increasing use of artificial fertilisers and their disastrous effects.

Apart from the use of all sewage as a fertiliser, sub-soiling and the use of deep-rooting plants will bring adequate supplies of phosphate from a considerable depth and make them available first to the grazing animal and through the animal's manure to those plants which do not root very deeply. The reviewer would have liked to have seen this question of the use of deep-rooting plants emphasized a little more by Colonel White. In the long run the maintenance of adequate supplies of phosphate close to the surface where it can be utilised by pasture plants and crops, must depend upon genuine husbandry rather than reliance upon freak deposits of phosphate rock. The writer is sure that the authors of "Life From The Soil" will agree that we cannot begin too soon to develop a new mental approach to this matter; to attempt to develop an agriculture which can, if necessary, be maintained without any assistance whatever from imported phosphate.

The organic farming and gardening movement is as yet in its infancy in Australia, but "Life From The Soil" should not only give it tremendous impetus, but result in the production of a number of books by Australian farmers and gardeners telling of their experiences in working in harmony with Nature. It is to be hoped that this book will be the first of many similar books; that it will play an important part in creating a genuine Australian farming tradition.

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## "SOCIAL CREDIT AND CATHOLICISM"

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

Introduction by Eric D. Butler,

(post free). Order now Price 1/2

# DOES WORLD-WIDE FAMINE THREATEN

In publishing the following article by Jorian Jenks in the August-September issue of "Rural Economy" (England) we desire to make it clear that we do not agree with all the points made by the author:

It is often said that all wealth comes from the land. However over-simplified such a truism may seem, it does at least illumine the fact that land is the limiting factor in the growth and ultimate survival of civilization. The human species has an apparently ineradicable tendency to breed up, and even beyond, the limits set by available food supplies. This self-imposed problem has now been enlarged by modern transport and communications from local to global magnitude. Taking the world as a whole, as we now must, both human populations and their demands for better diets have been increasing rapidly, while the cultivated area has been expanding very slowly if at all; and though prophecies based on mass statistics must always be treated with reserve, there is clearly developing a situation calling for statesmanship of the highest order if disaster is to be averted.

Many books on this subject have appeared in recent years. Some have been almost hysterically alarmist; others, though preserving a soberer attitude, unmistakably pessimistic; others, again, so glibly optimistic as to be mere wishful thinking. It is as well that such books should be written, for there is little in everyday experience to make one aware of the immensity and complexity of food-land-population relationships, and though ignorance may be blissful to the individual it is a menace to society. Every politician, every economist, every sociologist, every citizen for that matter, ought to be thinking hard about what can be done to avert the threat of world-wide famine.

The latest addition to this series. "Our

Undeveloped World" (Faber, 1953, 18s.), is perhaps the most informative of all; for its author, Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, is a geographer of high international standing and much experience who is concerned to present a well-proportioned picture rather than to plead a cause or advocate a policy. If that picture is, on the whole, a sombre one, it nevertheless contains features that should spur us to action rather than consign us to despondency.

Dr. Stamp begins with a demographic survey quoting the best available statistics to show that world population has expanded by almost 50 percent, i.e. from 1,608,000,000 to 2,400,000,000, in the first half of this century! At the recent rate of increase, about 1.5 percent per annum, it would double itself in the next half-century, attaining the staggering figure of nearly 5,000,000,000 by A.D. 2000. Beyond that date, figures become so astronomical as to be incomprehensible to the ordinary mind. Even if we take comfort from the possibility that recent birth rates, being in part a reaction from the last war, may not be maintained, it is hard to discount the fact that, thanks to the advance of medical science and hygiene, death rates (especially among primitive populations) may fall even faster.

There is no present prospect whatever of food production keeping pace with such an increase in population; indeed, it is falling further behind every year. Even if we postulate revolutionary changes in food habits and agricultural practices, possibly the development of new food material-seems to be only a question of time before some drastic check must be imposed on human fecundity. Either the world can wait for the advent of the "natural" checks envisaged by Malthus—famine, pestilence, and war; or it can deliberately reduce birth-rates. But, as Michael Roberts pertinently asked in "The Estate of Men." if deliberate checks are used, where, how, to whom, and by whom are they to be applied?

In this connection, Dr. Stamp does well to remind us that it is the white races that have been expanding most rapidly. In the last 100 years, Europe, the Americas, and Australia have substantially increased their share of total world population, while Africa has barely held her place, and Asia—"the teeming East"—has actually dropped back from nearly 64 percent, to 53 percent, though in actual numbers her increase has been the greatest. Moreover, if we include Latin America and the U.S.S.R., this trend is continuing. Recent net increase rates have been 1.36 in the United States, 1.8 in Canada, and over 2 in Argentina, as against 1.26 in India and 0.75 in Pakistan. One interesting estimate is that English-speaking whites have increased tenfold in the past century and now comprise nearly 9 percent, of the total world population. Such disproportionate increases show clearly what the peoples of European stock have gained by their access to fertile new territories, by the industrial and commercial expansion which these made possible, and

by their leadership in medical science and social improvement. The greater, then, are their responsibilities—"the white man's burden."

Dr. Stamp then turns to resources. Only one-quarter of the globe's surface is land and, of this quarter, one-fifth is too cold, one-fifth too rugged, and another fifth too arid, for food production. Much even of the remaining two-fifths must be eliminated because of lack of soil or excess of rainfall. Nominally, there are still 4 acres of cultivable land per head of present world population; in fact, only about 1½ acres per head are actually cultivated.

Doctrinaire anti-Malthusians such as Earl Hanson ("New Worlds Emerging") and Dr. Josue de Castro ("Geography of Hunger") have argued with some vehemence that there are vast areas awaiting development and that the obstacles are political rather than physical. Those, on the other hand, who have some acquaintance with the realities of land settlement, have seen some significance in its marked slowing-down after a period of rapid and almost continuous development from around 1860 to about 1930, the conclusion being that, by the latter date, the frontiers of successful cultivation had been reached, or even overstepped. This conclusion is largely confirmed by Dr. Stamp, who points out that nearly all the "potential" areas present major problems for which we have not yet found the answers—as witness the failures of the Overseas Food Corporation. Tropical rain forests, for instance, are not only costly to clear; their legendary "richness" is largely illusory, being mainly centred in their lush vegetation. When this is removed, the bared soil is so rapidly depleted of fertility by tropical sun and rain that it must soon be returned to forest if it is not to be eroded away. Aridity, again, can be overcome by irrigation; but this presupposes an unfailing supply of water of the right composition; for, in hot climates, alkalinity is a cumulative problem and has wrecked many promising schemes.

Patient research may yet, of course, open up some of these problem lands. But meanwhile, Dr. Stamp's verdict seems to hold good:

"The first truth which seems to my mind to emerge is that, from all points of view, it is an easier task to increase production from the mid-latitude or temperate lands where we are familiar with the vagaries of nature and where we know something of the management of soils and the development of crops than it is to look for immediate development of tropical lands." (p. 178.)

He goes on to suggest that food production could most readily be increased by raising farming standards (subject to climatic limitations) in countries such as the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Australia nearer to those of N.W. Europe, which feed approximately one person per acre cultivated on a soil-con serving basis. Apropos of the demand for "development" epitomized in the Truman Point Four Plan, he says:

"The destruction wrought over the past century by our modern machinery on the earth's natural resources is so colossal, so staggering, that if unchecked it can lead to the suicide of the whole human race. With our own problems of soil conservation but

(Continued on page 11)

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# Does Worldwide Famine Threaten?

(Continued from page 10)

partly solved, and the practice of types of balanced mixed farming which conserve rather than destroy the land by no means generally accepted, we contemplate turning loose the old forces of destruction on the still unknown tropical lands." (p. 179).

What is happening, of course, thanks largely to Western ideas and investment is that many places in Asia and even Africa are developing *industrially*; and industrialization, besides acting as a counter-attraction to agriculture, invariably stimulates the demand for food. If, therefore, Dr. Stamp is right in saying that the solution of the world food problem demands greater freedom of international traffic, we may yet find the "advanced" West having to supply food to the "backward" East in exchange for manufactures—an interesting reversal of certain popular expectations!

From such startling economic possibilities, it is quite a relief to turn to our own "undeveloped areas." For here there is no question what our contribution to the world food problem must be. Enjoying, as we do, some of the best agricultural conditions in the world, we must at least make a serious attempt to feed ourselves and so release supplies for needier peoples.

A good deal of information under this head is likely to be provided by the forthcoming report of the R.R.A. research committee. But meantime it was somewhat disquieting to hear an economist of repute tell the Farmers' Club recently that the limited resources available to home agriculture should be used for intensifying production on our better lands rather than for the improvement of our marginal lands and hill grazings. The lecturer, of course, was employing purely economic criteria and could hardly be expected to appreciate either that even the best of land can be over-worked, or that land unattractive in a financial sense may nevertheless possess valuable latent fertility. The significance of his verdict lies in its probable coincidence with official views, even within the Ministry

of Agriculture; and what makes it so depressing is the premise that, even at this date, we are deemed able to afford only *one* of two equally important forms of agricultural development. Urgent as may be the need to construct more factories, houses, schools, airfields, and so on, the upgrading of our inferior grazings and the rehabilitation of our remoter, depopulated areas is even more urgent, if only because it will take longer to bring the work to full fruition; and of the two forms of social investment, the value of the first may well depend upon the returns from the second. We have far too few acres to be able to afford the neglect of any of them.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to an intelligent land policy in this country is the fact that so few people can yet envisage food supply in terms of land; they have for too long been accustomed to regard food and industrial products as freely exchangeable, and hence as interchangeable equivalents. But the day may not be far distance when industrial products will *not* be exchangeable for food, except on the most unfavourable terms.

Most timely, therefore, are two authoritative articles, which appear in this issue. One, by Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton, demonstrates how valuable the neglected resources of the Scottish Highland could prove, given the time and money—in effect, men and materials—with which to develop them. The other, by Mr. J. O. Steed, points out that home food production can no longer be treated piecemeal on party lines but must be integrated at the highest level with other aspects of our national economy.

The capacity of the land to feed us tomorrow depends very much on how we treat it today. As "The Farmer and Stock-breeder" observed a few weeks ago:

"It may seem paradoxical to maintain that the present moment, when exhortations for higher production are daily events, is the time above all others in this country when the soil of Britain may most conveniently be brought back into full health...

"It is even unnecessary to bring in high moral arguments of duty to the land and to posterity. From the material viewpoint alone, the times are ripe for any debit balance to be wiped out and more than wiped out ... to build up reserves against whatever the future may hold; and if the future has hard times in store, as well it may, then a little bit in the safest bank on earth is the best way to meet it."

Fertile acres are a more effective safeguard for the future than any gold or dollar reserves; we could wish that they were being husbanded with as much zeal.

## Earthworms

"Darwin on Humus and the Earthworm" ..... 17/7

A description of the original investigation of the habits of earthworms and the role they play in soil building.

## Books Dealing Mainly with Principles

"An Agricultural Testament" ..... 27/1

By Sir Albert Howard. The original description of the principles and practice of the "Indore" method of organic manuring.

"Farming & Gardening for Health or Disease" 21/7  
By Sir Albert Howard. A later book advancing his previous findings. Lively and provocative.

"Thoughts on Feeding" 21/7  
By Dr. L. J. Picton. A doctor of the Chesire Panel stresses the virtues of naturally grown food.

"Soil Fertility, Renewal, and Preservation" ... 26/1  
By E. Pfeiffer. An excellent book by the leader of the "Bio-dynamic" school.

"The Earth's Face" ... 21/7  
By E. Pfeiffer. Landscape and its relation to the health of the soil.

"Nutrition and National Health" ..... 10/10  
By Sir R. McCarrison, M.D. Comparative experiments of the diets of various Indian races.

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## Mr. Attlee's Inconsistency

Mr. Attlee, British Socialist leader, said last week that Communist China should be admitted to the "United Nations" "as soon as her support aggression has stopped." Mr. Attlee claimed that the fact had to be faced that the Communists ruled China, not Chiang Kai-shek. When he was asked whether Spain, for the same reason, should not also be admitted to the "United Nations," Mr. Attlee said he would regret it personally. "I do not think Spain would subscribe to the general principles of the United Nations." This confirms our contention that this international organisation is primarily a Communist-controlled instrument.

"The Weed Problem" 15/3

By F. C. King. By the author of "Is Digging Necessary?", this book is an extension of the no-digging idea, and points out the vital relationship of weeds to the organic health of the garden.

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## Japanese Farming

### A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As a strong supporter of the compost method of agriculture, steadily advocated in your newspaper, I was very interested, during several years of residence in Japan, to observe how efficiently and admirably these methods are put into practice in that country. Consequently, I have been very disappointed to see an article in "The New Times" under the title "Japan's Inefficient Food Production", which totally misrepresents the true situation. Your authority, Mr. Clune, spent only a very few weeks in Japan and it is obvious that his study was of the most superficial kind. When he says that only the coastal plain is populated, it is clear that he never left the ports for the intensely cultivated mountain valleys of the hinterland. When he says that the Japanese farmers know only of rice growing, it is clear that his observation was limited to the rice-planting season.

The position, briefly, is this: All the flat parts of the country, and those slopes which can be terraced profitably, are put under rice during the monsoon and late summer, when the weather favours this crop. As rice has a far greater yield per given area than any other crop, it is obviously most sensible to grow it where and when it can be grown. When the rice is reaped and winter comes, these lands are planted with barley and various other crops, which are harvested before the next monsoon. How can the land be used so intensively? Only by the most efficient use of compost and natural manure.

On the more difficult slopes immediately above the rice land, every effort is made, again by the use of compost, to obtain the greatest possible crops of legumes, root-crops, fruit, soy beans and others which Mr. Clune has never heard of. The results, often on rocky and sandy hillsides, are marvellous in both quantity and quality.

There remain the highest and rockiest uplands, towering above the valleys and coasts almost everywhere. By a well regulated system of afforestation, these also

are made to play an essential part, for where would a country be without wood, without fuel or building material? Your article suggests that the Japanese "send spies to Switzerland or Albania, or even Tasmania". Japan is far more densely populated and cultivated than these; all three, in fact, being very thinly peopled. What has Japan to learn there? Rather, I would say, let us send spies to Japan, and see how great the possibilities of cultivation are. Then there would be no more scope for Malthusian fears, and your paper could well expound many new lessons on agriculture if you took the trouble to learn something about Japan before making pronouncements on its "inefficiency in food production".

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE A. OATES, 55  
Durham Street,  
Heidelberg.

(We thank Mr. Oates for his valuable comment.—Editor).

## "The Cost of Production"

The following letter appeared in the Melbourne "Age" of September 3:

SIR, —Writing on Australia's "appalling cost position", A. A. Watkins (25/8) urges the nation's leaders to take "an unbiassed look at the facts".

The facts concerning real production costs are quite clear. Measured in terms of units of production per man-hour worked, real production costs in Australia have been considerably reduced even during the past few years, when the critics of Australian secondary industries have been claiming that Australian manufacturers are not efficient.

In our factory production has been increased by over 75 percent, over the past two years with little increase in man-hours worked.

I have spoken to many fellow businessmen in both small and large industrial undertakings, and I have not met one who does not agree that his real costs of pro-

duction have been considerably reduced in recent years.

But this increased efficiency has not resulted in that automatic decrease in the price level which most of our politicians tell us can only come from reduced costs of production. In fact, the price level still continues to rise.

I would be grateful if any of the advocates of lower cost of production as the cure-all for inflation will explain in simple terms why the facts continue to contradict them.

N. WHITE (Managing Director, Enwite Pty. Ltd., Collingwood.)

No financial "experts" came forward to answer Mr. White's question!

## Australia's Trade Surplus

The Commonwealth Statistician recently announced that Australia had a trade surplus of £358 million in 1952-53. This has been hailed as a great accomplishment by all advocates of present "sane" finance. In actual fact it means that Australians sent away from the country £358 million more than they received. It is indeed remarkable when a nation's "prosperity" depends upon giving away more than it receives.

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### 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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