

THE NEW TIMES

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ONE SHILLING & NINEPENCE FORTNIGHTLY

A NEW WAVE OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST

Wage Freezing No Answer To Inflation

Only a few weeks ago the Victorian Premier, Mr. H. Bolte, told the Premiers' Conference that his Government was opposed to abolishing automatic quarterly wage adjustments as a means of combating inflation. Writing in the Melbourne "Age", Victoria's Deputy Premier, Mr. A. Rylah, urged that people not let inflation worry them too much. He actually claimed that it was a sign of "healthy" expansion.

This attitude was in line with the recently much publicised views of the influential Mr. W. S. Robinson, who urges Australians to develop their vast continent and to accept inflation as part of the necessary price of development. There is nothing wrong with development so long as it serves the genuine requirements of individuals. But development for the sake of development and the making of work is a definite sign of the slave mentality. And this mentality is so strongly entrenched today that it could end with the complete destruction of what remains of Christian Civilization. It is certainly assisting the most militant opponents of that Civilization, the Communists.

It does not concern the Communists whether there is inflation or deflation. They can suitably exploit the conditions, which both policies produce. However, they must be particularly delighted with Mr. Bolte's retreat from his previous opposition to the abolition of automatic wage adjustments. When Mr. Bolte announced his recent Budget and said that his Government was now following the lead of the Federal Government concerning the abolition of automatic wage adjustments, he immediately provoked all the Unions into feverish activity. It is eagerly anticipated in Canberra that, following Mr. Bolte's reversal of policy on wage adjustments and the defeat of the Labor Government in Tasmania, the way has been cleared for the imposition of a nationwide policy of wage freezing. We predict now that this will result in growing nationwide industrial unrest with the Communists exploiting the unrest to the maximum. The developing situation confirms our past warnings that failure to deal with the basic cause of inflation, which is inherent in the present financial rules, could only further industrial strife and provide the Communists with an ideal environment in which to intensify class warfare.

All the talk in the world will not alter the truth about the cause of inflation. Mr. Bolte may as well have saved his breath concerning his appeal to businessmen to cooperate with his Government in defeating inflation. He claimed that having stopped wage increases, "There is now no justification for new price increases and any that have been foreshadowed should be withheld." While wage costs are an important element in total prices, they are not the only major costs, which businessmen must attempt to recover through the price system. We do not know whether Mr. Bolte understands this or not, but he does appear to be preparing the way for future developments when he warned that "We do not believe in or want price control, but unless private enterprise plays the game, it will be playing into the hands of the socialists, who have price control as a major plank in their platform". Private enterprise simply cannot stop prices from rising under present financial rules - - unless they go bankrupt.

As we have pointed out on numerous occasions in the past, preventing wage increases does not of itself stop prices from rising. Controlled wages do slow down the rate of price increases, but eventually prices increase to the extent where, in order to appease wage earners whose purchasing power has fallen, wages must be increased. This only intensifies the problem. Until this problem is genuinely solved by a change in financial rules in order that purchasing power can be genuinely increased without increasing prices, there will be increasing unrest and further centralised controls in a desperate attempt to deal with the situation. Recent statements by business men to the effect that inflation is so serious that price controls appear to be "inevitable", provides further proof of our contention that without a reform of the financial system Socialism must continue

to develop.

There is nothing very difficult about using the financial rules to reduce prices instead of increasing them. New financial credits for price subsidies can be made available to reduce prices with benefits to all. It is simply a question of a change of policy. If new financial credits can be created for capital production, which must, under present financial rules, increase total costs and consequently total prices, the same financial credits can be used to finance consumption

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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 to the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt. 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.

A new wave of Industrial Unrest

(Continued from page 1)

by subsidising prices. And until it is recognised by those in control of policy that consumption as well as production must be financed, we will go from one disaster to the next.

The tragedy of the situation is that the Trade Unions could force the issue, and subsequently end the Communist menace, if they had leadership concerned with truth. But not even the anti-Communist Trade

Union leaders show any desire to get to grips with the relationship of financial rules to inflation. And this is why all their valiant efforts to keep Communists out of official positions in the Trade Unions are doomed to failure unless the friction between employers and employees is removed. Will some of our readers please draw the attention of anti-Communist Trade Unionists to this matter?

SECOND SOCIAL CREDIT SEMINAR

Tomorrow, Saturday, September 22

We make a special last appeal to all Melbourne supporters to attend the Second Social Credit Seminar tomorrow at the Collins Room, Federal Hotel, Collins Street, Melbourne, and to bring as many other people as possible. The following is the programme.

THE HIDDEN ROLE OF MONEY IN HISTORY. 2 p.m.

By NOEL STOCK, Journalist and Contributor to numerous literary journals.

Money in Mesopotamia. China, Greece and Rome — Credit restriction and usury in Caesar's time — Byzantium and the Middle Ages — Gresham, tool of Dutch finance — Cromwell financed by Continental usurers — The establishment of the Bank of England, the start of the national debt in England — American Revolution caused by colonists' insistence that they issue and control their own money — American resistance to international finance, culminating in American Civil War - - the growth of the international power of the Rothschilds - - the financing of the Russian Revolution from Wall Street — the exploitation of the Great Depression to further centralisation of power — the struggle for complete world power through international organisations like the World Bank.

SOCIAL CREDIT AND "COMPETITIVE CO-EXISTENCE" 4 p.m.

By JOHN WELLER, Lecturer and Journalist with overseas experience.

Economic consequences of inflation in the West — the export mania - the question of automation — the wages-price spiral — the impact of monetary inflation on social organisation—Leninism and Mond Turnerism - Power politics and the legal "sausage machine" - philosophical implications of centralisation and monopoly — the false alternative to Communism—the genuine alternative—the problem of reversing direction.

SOCIAL CREDIT AND "COMPETITIVE CO-EXISTENCE" 4 p.m.

By ERIC D. BUTLER, Lecturer, Author, and Journalist.

The false presentation of Social Credit as a monetary reform scheme with purely material objectives — Social Credit the policy of a philosophy — all policies, including those of Communism, are rooted in a philosophy — the philosophy of Christianity and its impact on Western Civilization — Christianity and British constitutional developments — why Social Credit was originally put forward almost exclusively as a policy — the nature of the attack on the Christian philosophy - - the Welfare State and the centralisation of power — the Monopoly of Credit primarily a moral issue — the Puritan contribution towards perverting work and production from means to ends into ends in themselves—the surrender to functionalism and the future of Christian education — man the consumer — God's gifts and the Social Credit dividend — Christianity and private property — the Just Price and the Moral Law - - the role of the Christian Church in relationship to politics.

Admission Free — Collection

WITNESS

By Whittaker Chambers

Price 27/6, post-free.

It was the evidence of ex-Communist secret agent, Whittaker Chambers, before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which caused top Communist espionage agent in the U.S.A., Alger Hiss, to be indicted and convicted on a charge of perjury. Not only the American people but many people in other countries were startled by the disclosure that the official who advised President Roosevelt, helped draft the disastrous Yalta Agreement in 1945, and who was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation, was a Communist agent.

Before being finally convicted, Alger Hiss, aided by some of the most influential people in America, fought back against Chambers, who was subjected to a whispering campaign described by one prominent American writer as "one of the most repellent in modern history". Chambers replies to this campaign in one of the most important autobiographies of our times. Not only does this book deal exhaustively with the Hiss-Chambers battle before the Committee on Un-American Activities and the Courts; it is a moving human document which explains how Chambers first became a Communist, his work in the secret Communist apparatus, how he met Alger Hiss and worked with him, and how eventually he came to repudiate Communism.

Near the conclusion of his book, Chambers makes one of the most important observations yet made on the Hiss-Chambers case: "No feature of the Hiss case is more obvious, or more troubling as history, than the jagged fissure, which it did not so much open as reveal, between the plain men and women of the nation, and those who affected to act, think and speak for them. It was, not invariably, but in general, the 'best people' who were for Alger Hiss and who were prepared to go to almost any length to protect and defend him. It was the enlightened and the powerful, the clamorous proponents of the open-mind and the common man, who kept their minds shut in a pro-Hiss psychosis, of a kind which, in an individual patient, means the simple failure of the ability to distinguish between reality and unreality, and, in a nation, is a warning of the end."

"Witness" must be read and studied by those who want to know the truth about Alger Hiss and his part" in the Communist conspiracy in the U.S.A. Every student of Communism and international affairs must have this work on his shelves. No one with an unbiassed mind can read it without realising that Hiss was undoubtedly guilty of the charges made against him.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (1)

And Its Effect on Society

By JAMES GUTHRIE

The Industrial Revolution, which started humbly in the Eighteenth Century, has been kept moving forward with ever-increasing momentum by an army of workers solely engaged in perfecting machines and processes, and inventing new ones. The instruments of research at the disposal of this enthusiastic army are so massive and powerful in so many diverse ways that today a problem in production has little chance of survival.

The facility with which production problems are solved stands out in startling contrast to the most amazing lack of facility in solving the problems of the distribution of the products of automatic machines, and throws into bold relief the tragic poverty of the men and instruments used to solve our economic problems.

The giant industries born of the Industrial Revolution are bursting out of their ridiculously restricted financial framework—a framework built in the days when men wove cloth by hand in the same manner as women darn socks.

It may appear very elementary in this machine age to ask the questions: Why do we make machines, and, Why do we use them? It is certainly very important that we should be perfectly clear in our minds about the answers; it is also very evident that we are not at all clear.

From the beginning of history intelligent men have so organised their lives as to be able to obtain leisure to do those things they deemed important. They did this by making the tasks of mere living as simple, automatic and as little time absorbing as possible.

The ancient Greeks achieved this purpose by relegating all such tasks to slaves; moderns are supposed to achieve a similar purpose by relegating all such tasks to machines. The Greeks were very critical of anything which interfered with the full development of man; they considered that men whose bodies and minds were deformed by being "fettered to the process of work" and who had no time to straighten their backs, look around and contemplate the lives of men and Gods, were not members of a human society, but members of an ant heap. The Greeks considered that men whose minds were continually cluttered up with the minutiae of specialised tasks had no place for creative thought, and no time to help their friends, and were quite incapable of assuming the role of responsible citizenship.

Tagore, the Indian poet, speaks for countless generations of men when he reveals the purpose behind intelligent activity; this purpose has never been in doubt until modern times. "The rich man, out of his abundance, can purchase leisure. It is in fact a test of his riches, this power to keep fallow wide stretches of time, which want cannot compel him to plough up.

"There is another place where an open expanse is the most valuable of all, — and that is in the mind. Thoughts, which must be thought, from which there is no escape, are but worries. The thoughts of the poor and the miserable cling to their minds as the ivy to a ruined temple.

"Pain closes up all openings of the mind. Health may be defined as the state in which the physical consciousness lies fallow, like an open heath. Let there be but a touch of gout in the remotest toe, and the whole of consciousness is filled with pain, leaving not a corner empty.

"Just as one cannot live grandly without unoccupied spaces, so the mind cannot think grandly without unoccupied leisure, — otherwise for it truth becomes petty. And like dim light, petty truth distorts vision, encourages fear, and keeps narrow the field of communion between man and man."*

Obviously, something has gone amiss with modern man. Not only have machines failed to shoulder his worries, they have so undermined his only claim to security — the wage — and so increased the tempo of living and the strain on his nerves that modern man probably is much more a slave than was the Greek artisan; in particular, his mind probably is very much less free for constructive effort.

If we are going to free our minds, and acquire time to look after our own affairs, then we shall have to put severely into its place the economics of mere living. If the Industrial Revolution cannot make this possible then we can say that it is without rhyme or reason, and is but a rather grim joke imposed upon unsuspecting millions. Let us examine then the elementary mechanics of modern production, and find out if there is any possibility of escape from this grim joke.

MAN THE TOOLMAKER

It has long been known that by means of a lever a man can lift several times his own weight, and that by doubling the length of the lever he can double the weight lifted. A lever gives a man what is called a mechanical advantage of two to one, or ten to one, according to the length of the lever. Gear wheels can also be looked upon as levers, with the additional advantages of being more compact and more easily connected to the rotating parts of an engine.

1. "Thoughts From Tagore" (Macmillan, 1929).
(Continued on page 9.)

An Introduction To Social Credit

By Bryan W. Monahan

This excellent book is specially recommended to those who desire a clearly written, but authoritative introduction to the subject of Social Credit. Dr. Bryan Monahan is Chairman of the Social Credit Secretariat, a body established by the late Major C. H. Douglas.

Social Credit concerns much more than monetary reform, which was one of the reasons why Major Douglas established the Social Credit Secretariat. Dr. Monahan writes: "Social Credit is a way of looking at things, a point of view that seems to bring every branch of knowledge into a new and more clear perspective. Equally, all knowledge is relevant to Social Credit."

"An Introduction To Social Credit" is divided into four parts: Physics, Economics, Politics and Metaphysics. The chapter on physics shows how increasing leisure and security for every individual are physically possible. The author writes: "Clearly, only either leisure, or 'unemployment' outside production can dispose of the 'unemployment problem'. The problems of economics and politics are absolutely conditioned by the physical realities described: short of sabotage or cataclysm, the progress of the situation is inexorable..."

After dealing simply but comprehensively with the Social Credit A — B theorem in the chapter on Economics, Dr. Monahan points out that the emphasis in Social Credit has passed from purely technical considerations to the subject of credit control and policy. This leads naturally to an examination of the policy of Social Credit and the Christian philosophy from which it stems, as compared with the various totalitarian policies based upon an anti-Christian philosophy.

Dr. Monahan's book is well produced, has a comprehensive index, and contains two appendices: one giving Douglas's analysis of the financing of a long-term production cycle in order to present a simple and convenient formal proof of the Social Credit theorem, and the other outlining the reasons for the establishment of the Social Credit Secretariat.

"An Introduction To Social Credit" is obtainable from New Times Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. Price 5/5, post free.

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Automation

To whom are we indebted for this new term "Automation", applied to the progressive mechanisation of productive process, which has been a constant and familiar element of industrialism since its earliest days? Surely its sudden and universal adoption requires some explanation? Is it too much to hope that it may herald the dawn of a change in the official attitude towards the chronic state of internal economic crises to which modern society has been compelled to accustom itself? Is it possible that under the immense pressure, in Great Britain, particularly, of the need to export, in combination with the crippling handicap placed upon our efforts to compete in the world market by the internal inflation, orthodox political economy is preparing to loosen-up in its views on national accountancy?

To take the recent case of the Standard Motor Works as a significant example of this new atmosphere—superficially there was nothing sufficiently novel to account for the sudden increase of public and official interest it caused. Employees to a considerable number were to be laid off while the tractor-plant was being completely re-equipped with automatic machinery at a huge capital cost, and except for the unusual scale of the operation, and the request on the part of the displaced operatives for a guarantee of re-employment, there seemed little that was exceptional in the situation. But what was, to the best of my knowledge, absolutely unprecedented, was the particular form in which Mr. Dick, the managing director of the Standard Co. refused to comply with the men's request—as, in view of the conditions imposed on both parties by the system under which they operate, he was forced to do.

Instead of the customary economic equivocations and assurances regarding the value of automatic machines as a means to creating additional work for those in search of a job, Mr. Dick is reported to have replied, "We don't instal £4,000,000 equipment to employ the same number of men."

Now that statement may be blunt; no doubt there are many to whom it appeared tactless and undiplomatic, even brutal, but beyond all possibility of contradiction it is a relatively factual statement, and to be welcomed as such by all who love truth. It provides a firm basis, however apparently small, for the hopeful examination of differences between the contending parties; admitting a draft of fresh air into the positively suffocating atmosphere of orthodox economic discussion.

In speaking as he did for organised capital, American scientific business management really, Mr. Dick enunciated a valuable truism.

Generalised, it might read, "The ultimate object of installing labour-saving machines is to save labour".

It requires considerable courage to pronounce the truth publicly, and Mr. Dick is to be congratulated, even if his is to some extent the courage of desperation; a condition that applies equally to the men, confronted by this enigmatic word "Automation", which, read backwards, that is in terms of our present monetary system, spells redundancy, unemployment.

It is only a step from this to another far-too-long ignored truism pronounced by Adam Smith some hundred and fifty years ago, to the effect that, "The sole object of production is consumption"—not the provision of jobs, be it observed. With these two truths alone inscribed on its banner, and interpreted with realism, modern industry, with its almost incredible technological facility, could go almost anywhere, and have almost anything it chooses.

—Norman F. Webb, in a letter to "The Belfast Newsletter", June 4.

Production and Purchasing Power

The following letter appeared in the Melbourne "Age" of September 10:

"Sir, —From time to time I have read with due respect the statements by politicians, economists and leaders in finance and commerce regarding the present inflationary spiral in Australia, all of whom claim that there is 'too much money chasing too few goods.'

"I seem to find it otherwise. I can purchase an adequate supply of food, clothing and household effects. I can buy sporting goods for my leisure time; I see cars advertised for sale every day; and if my inclination turns to a weekend house by the sea, building materials are available. And all these are available at current retail prices.

"There is certainly a very definite limitation—but it is certainly not one of supply. The limitation is that I lack the money to buy these things.

"I think, therefore, it is pertinent to ask our economic experts exactly where is this surplus money they keep talking about and what precisely are the shortages. If they can answer this clearly and concisely, it may assist me and others to understand the position and to play my part accordingly.

As I see things at present, the sickness we are suffering from is inflation by auto-suggestion."

E. WINNEY (Mt. Evelyn).

RED HAND ACROSS THE WATERFRONT

Although the Australian waterfront strike of January-February, 1956, is now generally regarded as past history, it provides a classic example of how the Communists exploit the legitimate economic grievances of the workers to further their own objectives.

"Red Hand Across The Waterfront", written by one of the best authorities on Communism in Australia today, should be closely studied by all those who desire to understand how the Australian Communists are applying Lenin's teachings on political strategy and tactics. The author of this important booklet shows how the waterfront strike was a major victory for the Communists. He shows how even the daily press and the radio capitulated to Communist tactics.

"Red Hand Across The Waterfront" is a most valuable weapon for those endeavouring to oppose Communism at the industrial level.

Price 1/3, post-free. Orders of one dozen or more, 9/- per dozen, post free.

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

(Continued from page 3)

With this combination of engine and levers it is possible to raise heavy weights higher, more quickly and more easily than with a manhandled lever. By means of various combinations of levers practically any desired movement can be imitated; these can be seen operating in the sewing machine, the weaving machine and the motorcar.

The development of the weaving machine is instructive: "The most important of these early inventions was Kay's flying-shuttle (1733). Before Kay's time the weaver had to use his shuttle (containing the cross-threads very much as a darning needle is now used for darning stockings. He had to pass it carefully under and over the threads in his loom. But Kay devised a method by which the shuttle was jerked through a space made by alternately raising and lowering alternate threads. The weavers could then work nearly ten times as fast . . . In 1785 Cartwright made a set of looms which were driven by a water-wheel, so that one weaver could attend to two or three looms instead of one. In 1789 steam-power was used for working looms, and from that date it has always been possible for one weaver to attend quite well to four or even five looms, each one working many times faster than any hand-looms."

Here, in the Eighteenth Century, we have a development in weaving which increased the output per man by about 50 times. Needless to say, the modern power-driven loom has progressed greatly since 1789, and the production is not only much faster, it is much more varied. I always think that the modern pattern-weaving loom is one of the most ingenious works of man, and I sometimes think that those journalists who speak so glibly of Automation would receive a liberal education if they viewed, probably for the first time, a power-loom in operation.

The harnessing of solar energy (energy supplied from coal and oil) to mechanisms of all kinds provides a combination where the muscular power of man is multiplied several hundred-fold and the tedious repetitive work (such as weaving) is done with an accuracy and speed, which is quite beyond human powers.

Let us switch now from weaving machines to machine tools; these usually mean tools for machining the metal parts of machines, tools such as lathes, milling machines, boring machines, etc. These are the machines used to make machines, but not only do these machines make automatic machines, these machine tools are themselves automatic. In other words, we have automatic machines making automatic machines — in-breeding with a vengeance.

The development of the electrical generator was probably as important as the development of the steam engine. By transmitting electrical energy over cables to farms, homes and small townships, a great economy of human effort has been

achieved—first in the elimination of the handling and cartage of coal or other fuel, and secondly in the elimination of the need for a multiplicity of power units with their skilled and semi-skilled attendants.

"When Watt invented the steam engine and Faraday made the discovery which started the electrical industry, these men set in motion an endless strain of technological developments, the end of which, even now, we cannot even dimly envisage. When we realise that a 1 h.p. electric motor is the physical equivalent of 10 men, occupies a very small space, costs less than 5/- a week to feed, and doesn't stop for meals or sleep, we can see that the industrial revolution has a much greater potential than we have been lead to believe."

Apart from steam trains, petrol and diesel-driven vehicles, and kerosene tractors on the farms, the Australian family has working for it over 1 h.p. of generated electrical power, or the equivalent of over ten mechanical slaves working 14 hours per day. The number of petrol, kerosene and diesel tractors used on Australian farms is enormous and is increasing daily.

ELECTRONICS

Electronics embraces such devices as the radio valve, the photoelectric cell, and associated electric circuits. Some of the advantages of these circuits over mechanical devices are that they have much higher speeds of response, greater sensitivity, the ability to operate at a distance, and the ability to store up information and instructions, and to carry out these instructions at pre-arranged times. Just as a weak signal arriving on the aerial of a broadcast receiver can be amplified several thousand times so as to operate a loud-speaker, so any variation in a mechanical process can be detected, changed to an electric signal, amplified, and used for any purpose whatever. In particular, such an amplified signal can be used to sound an alarm, or stop, or reverse, or change the speed of a machine, compensate for any error, or set in motion a complex mechanism similar to a modern telephone exchange.

In automatic factories a maintenance staff is retained, but mostly for emergency purposes; in many such factories complete automaticity would make very little reduction in the staff—if any. In some factories complete automaticity would probably be just silly, and nothing would be gained but unnecessary complication. In other factories the repetitive operations are so simple and monotonous that they are degrading and dehumanising, and the sooner such tasks are removed from human beings and given to machines the better.

The harnessing of solar, and now nuclear, energy to mechanisms controlled automatically by electronic devices represents only part of a long story; probably as important as anything else has been the discoveries made in the art of making new materials of all kinds, ranging from synthetic rubber to tungsten-carbide cutting tools. In fact, if it were not for the use of the latter it is doubtful if the automatic machine tools, which

caused such a political stir in the motor-car industry, would have been a practical proposition.

These few remarks should help us to realise that as far back as 1789 the knowledge and resources were available for the production of abundance on a large scale; by 1914 the Industrial Revolution, pioneered and developed in England, had spread to Europe and America, and the mighty flood outpouring from the steam-driven machines was found everywhere; the mark 'Made in Germany' followed the mark 'Made in England' into the highways and byways of the world.

(To be continued.)

Heritage Bookshop

Here are some more titles available at the Heritage Bookshop, Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne. All prices quoted are post-free.

The Struggle For Europe, by Chester Wilmot (36/3). Masterful work, which shows how the Americans, towards the end of the Second World War, accepted Russian predominance in Europe and Asia. Wilmot claims that this anti-British attitude of the Americans provided Russia with the greatest of her victories.

Searchlight on Britain, by Thorburn Muirhead (21/9). An examination of the poorhouse Britain has become under the present political party set-up. The author believes Britain can once again become great, that she has the resources, if only the British people will be roused from their present sleep.

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JUSTUS VON LIEBIG "FATHER OF THE CHEMIST IDEA"

By J. I. RODALE in "Organic Gardening and Farming"

During a trip to Europe with my wife in May of this year, we were touring Munich, Germany, when the guide suddenly said, "And to our left we see the statue of Justus von Liebig, the great German chemist." At the mention of the name of the man who was the creator of the chemical fertilizer idea, my pulse must have jumped at least 10 points, and the rest of the tour was spent in attempting to reassemble in my mind the part that Liebig had played in the fertilizer revolution of the nineteenth century.

The next day found us back at the statue where my wife took my picture standing "at the feet of" the great chemist, for great he was even though he had made so many errors. Had science been more advanced at the time, the story no doubt would have been different. Liebig was a great genius but he was not aware of the wrong push he was giving to agriculture.

Liebig was born in 1803 and died at Munich in 1873. He was the originator of the laboratory method of teaching chemistry. He was the discoverer of chloroform and other chemicals. He isolated the first amino acid, tyrosine, and was the developer of baking powder. At that time it was said, "Liebig is not an operator in chemistry. Liebig is chemistry itself."

Quoting Todhunter in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association (May, 1952): "Liebig's character was a complex one. He excelled in the laboratory and was loved by his pupils to whom he always gave full credit for their share in research. He seemed always filled with ideas and had contagious enthusiasm, but he was impulsive, hasty, and dogmatic and on many occasions wrote vitriolic attacks on his contemporaries whose theories and findings did not always agree with his own. Liebig made many mistakes, but his spirit of investigation, the stimulation he gave to independent thinking and research by his students, his ideas and his voluminous writings had great influence on all phases of chemistry and especially on all the early work in nutrition."

References: Shenstone, W. A.; Justus von Liebig, His Life and Work. New York: Macmillan and Company, 1895; Liebig and

after Liebig—A Century of Progress in Agricultural Chemistry. F. R. Moulton, ed. American Association for the Advancement of Science Publication No. 16, 1942.

The teaching of chemistry at that time was loosely organized. At Oxford, for example, no credit was given to students who attended chemistry lectures. Chemistry was taught by a clergyman who came up from the country once a year to give a few lectures.

For 28 years Liebig taught at the University of Gressen where he saw to it that every chemistry student worked in his laboratory. From this he developed the first textbook on qualitative analysis, which enabled students to analyze minerals and to determine their chemical composition. This was to be very important in the field of geology. It led to researches, which furnished the basis for the development of organic chemistry. Students came from all over the world to study under Liebig, and to be inspired by him, and then went forth to head the departments of chemistry at Harvard, Yale, and other higher institutions of learning, as well as to head the United States Department of Agriculture, and other educational organizations.

Liebig was very much disturbed at the London sewer system, which sent such valuable fertilizer elements out to sea, and did not approve of England's appropriation of bones from other nations in an attempt to restore the breach. In reference to this he said, "England is robbing all other countries of the sources of their fertility. In her eagerness for bones, she has turned up the battlefields of Leipzig, of Waterloo, and of the Crimea; already from the catacombs of Sicily she has carried away the skeletons of generations. Annually her ships remove

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"Protection from Polio"

A most illuminating summary of the causation of Polio and an expose of the failure of orthodox drug methods to solve this problem is contained in a new book under this title by Australia's well-known Health writer, Mira Louise of Adelaide.

We are reminded that during the past 2 or 3 years, while the newspapers have been concentrating upon a build-up for vaccine, not a single paragraph has been published concerning the cause of this much-dreaded complaint. Indeed Organised Medicine, whilst admitting that it did not know the cause, has gone as far as to say that there is no known cure for Poliomyelitis.

In striking contrast to this "don't-know-don't-want-to-know" attitude that typifies orthodoxy in this country, comes the welcome news of the outstanding results obtained by the well-organised chiropractic associations overseas. Men, we are told, who have worked unceasingly without endowment or subsidy for an ideal until their reward came in the remarkable results in such methods as the "Dunn Five-Day Polio Cure" which makes it possible for the worst cases of crippling polio to be completely recovered in a week or less. The same cures are being made in the Mills Chiropractic Clinic in Burlington, Kansas; in the Spears Hospital in Denver and elsewhere.

Dr. Mills has discovered that the cause is generally faulty nutrition, and adds as contributing causes, fatigue, falls, tonsil surgery and D.D.T. sprays while Dr. McClosky of Melbourne Children's Hospital who investigated 375 cases of polio in 1949, disclosed a definite relationship with injections against whooping cough and diphtheria.

A personal friend of Madame Louise's, on a recent tour of U.S.A. writes. "I am having a wonderful time here, investigating the chiropractic five-day polio cure . . . have already been to 3 clinics and seen acute victims restored to complete, normal health, with no paralysis or distortion, in three to five days."

In conclusion, Mira Louise touches on the subject of Animal Experimentation, or Scientific Research as it is known, and after reading these details we thoroughly agree with Mark Twain who declared, "Man is the only animal that blushes . . . or has cause to."

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Justus Von Liebig

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from other countries the manurial equivalent of three millions and a half men while she takes from us the means of supporting them and squanders it down her sewers to the sea. Like a vampire, she hangs around the neck of Europe — nay, of the entire world! And such the heart blood from nations without a shadow of lasting advantage to herself."

This reminds me of Victor Hugo who in *Les Misérables* spoke so eloquently in his immortal essay on the sewers of Paris, in which he said, "We fit our convoys at great expense to gather up at the south pole the droppings of petrels and penguins, but the incalculable element of wealth which we have under our own hand we send to the sea."

At this time the agricultural world believed in the humus theory. Agriculturists were certain that plants "ate" humus, but when Liebig published his "Chemistry of Agriculture and Physiology" he dealt a deathblow to this idea. This book was the beginning of agricultural science, as we know it today. In it Liebig asked, "If plants get all of their food from humus, then where did the first plant get its food — since humus is composed of decayed plants." But Liebig overlooked the fact that the first plant was only moss or lichen that grew on rocks, and that at the beginning of the world, nothing grew but this moss which received its nourishment from the air and the rock. The decaying lichen, plus admixtures of rock pulverized by the elements, made the soil in which plants began to grow—first ferns, then the higher developed ones. The original lichen could not produce seed but reproduced by spores flying in the air.

Actually it has recently been proven scientifically that plants do feed directly on humus, and for further reference on this point I can refer you to:

Hutner, S. H.—Comparative physiology of heterotrophic growth in plants.

Also: Growth and Differentiation in Plants, by W. E. Looms (ed) chap. 18 pp. 417-446, The Iowa State College Press, Amer. Iowa 1953.

Sir Albert Howard in his *Agricultural Testament*, regarding Liebig, said, "He followed the science of the moment. In his onslaught on the humus theory he was so sure of his ground that he did not call in Nature to verify his conclusions. It did not occur to him that while the humus theory, as then expressed, might be wrong, humus itself might be right. . . . He was unable to visualize his problem from two very different points of view at one and the same moment—the scientific and the practical. His failure has cast its shadow on much of the scientific investigation of the next hundred years . . . During the period (1840-1900) . . . the use of artificial manures became firmly welded into the work and outlook of the Experiment Stations; the great importance of nitrogen (N), phos-

phorous (P), and potash (K) in the soil solution was established; and what may briefly be described as the NPK mentality was born."

Liebig made many errors, but that was easy to do at a time when chemistry was in its frontier stages. Here is a typical one. He and his students gathered rainwater and found that it contained a certain amount of nitrogen. He jumped to the conclusion that this nitrogen came from decaying plants, which sent nitrogen-containing vapor into the air, not being aware that the rain contained much nitrogen fixed by lightning into the nitrate form that can be used by plants.

At one time Liebig started an enterprise to manufacture beef extract, making all kinds of claims for it. In the January 10, 1953, issue of the "Journal of Nutrition," Dr. Clive M. McCay, says about it, "In 1873 von Bunge also shared in the widespread interest in the nutritive value of Liebig's beef extract. He concluded that it had no special merits except that it lasted and smelled good to man. Others had used rabbits and injected this extract, but von Bunge concluded that the rabbit was not a satisfactory animal for such studies since it so readily responded by changes in pulse rate to so many influences."

Sir John Russell in "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth" describes some of the errors of which Liebig was guilty. For example he says that by burning a turnip and analyzing the ash von Liebig noted that this vegetable contained an extremely small amount of phosphate and that therefore in fertilizing it, not much phosphate need be used. But, as was found by later investigators, turnips require large amounts of phosphates. Sir John says, "Many of Liebig's statements were shown to be wrong."

He was guilty of the error of believing that the plant can get its nitrogen directly from ammonia, although what actually takes place is that the ammonia must first break down into the nitrite and then the nitrate form before the plant can use its nitrogen. French scientists later discredited Liebig on this point.

It is too bad that bacteria had not been discovered before Liebig began his work. Had this been the case he might have come to the conclusion that chemical fertilizers injure the bacteria and other soil organisms and prevent their natural operation and functioning. Von Liebig invented superphosphate, which is made by mixing sulphuric acid with ground phosphate rock. Had he been aware of the injury that superphosphate inflicts on the soil's microorganisms he might have stuck to the ground phosphate rock as such without adding the acid. But his main idea was taken hold of so enthusiastically by the agronomist, that later, when Pasteur came upon the scene and wrote about bacteria, they could not be budged. These new fertilizers had already furnished millions to

the chemical industry. Von Liebig had handed it to them on a silver platter.

Dr. Selman A. Waksman in his book "Humus" (Williams & Wilkins Co., 1938; out of print) says in regard to Liebig: "in the absence of oxygen, the organic substances interact, giving rise to reduction processes, namely, those of 'putrefaction,' as a result of which there is a greater amount of residual organic matter than by the aerobic process. The two processes were believed to exclude one another. With such primitive ideas concerning the decomposition of organic matter in nature and without the proper recognition of the activities of living organisms in these processes, it is not surprising that the importance of humus in the soil was not sufficiently appreciated. Liebig's influence upon the subsequent development of the science of plant nutrition was so great that even at the present time many chemists have not freed themselves from some of his opinions on this subject."

Sir John Russell describes how it was discovered that bacteria play such an important role in various soil processes. In 1877 Schloesing and Muntz were studying methods of purifying sewage water by land filters. Quoting from Russell, "A continuous stream of sewage was allowed to trickle down a column of sand and limestone so slowly that it took eight days to pass. For the first twenty days the ammonia in the sewage was not affected, then it began to be converted into nitrate; finally all the ammonia was converted during its passage through the column, and nitrates alone were found in the issuing liquid. Why, asked the authors, was there a delay of twenty days before nitrification began? If the process were simply chemical, oxidation should begin at once. They therefore examined the possibility of bacterial action and found that the process was entirely stopped by a little chloroform vapor, but could be started again after the chloroform was removed by adding a little turbid extract of dry soil. Nitrification was thus shown to be due to micro-organisms — 'organised ferments,' to use their own expression."

In other words a "strong chemical" stops certain bacterial processes in the soil. This is a fact we of the organic school of thought have always stressed. Many chemical fertilizers are strong enough to seriously interfere with the soil's microbial population and because of it, set up a train of action which leads to plant disease, destruction of the soil's structure, and many other serious effects.

Liebig's ignorance of the facts of biology was described by Professor Otto Rahn in his book "Microbes of Merit" (Jacques Cattell Press): "These facts are now known to every high school student, were so revolutionary 100 years ago that such an outstanding man as the great German chemist Justus von Liebig absolutely re-

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Justus Von Liebig

(Continued from page 11)

fused to accept them. To him, fermentation and putrefaction were purely chemical processes, and he gave vent to his scorn of these new-fangled views in a sarcastic parody published in his own scientific magazine in 1839. He pretended to have seen, through a new type of microscope, animals hatching from the yeast, which represents the eggs of these animals.

"The form of these animals is different from that of any of the known 600 species, they resemble a Beindorf distillation apparatus . . . Teeth and eyes could not be observed, but one can plainly discern a stomach, intestine, anus (as a rose-colored point) and the organs of urine secretion." Science is riddled with error, but it seems that out of error comes truth. However, it sometimes takes a long time for people to see the light. When the farmers will wake up to discover what dupes they have been made God alone knows.

Even today medical science is making the error of recommending the fluoridation of our drinking waters, to reduce the number of cavities in the teeth of children, a procedure so fraught with danger to other parts of the body that one shudders at the unscientific recklessness of medical science. Again, as in Liebig's day, there stands by the chemical industry, which is being handed fabulous wealth on a silver platter. But today we have a far more powerful chemical industry, an industry that is terribly hungry for profits. It has millions of stockholders to feed, the very stockholders that it is killing with these chemicals. What fools these mortals be!

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