

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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Why the Fight against Monopoly Capital? By Neville Archibald

Andrew Fisher is probably best known as one of Australia's early Prime Ministers. Many do not know much about the figures they often equate with, "Privileged Old White Men" as I have often heard them being referred to. A simplistic version of history often suits the "flavour" of the day rather than the realities of the time. I can see a time where the Constitution will be denigrated rather than considered, indeed it is happening in schools now when it is mentioned. The truth becomes the first casualty in any war; propaganda and the whipping up of indignation become useful tools for manipulation – by both sides! Our understanding of history is crucial in seeing through this, David Day's outstanding biography of Andrew Fisher, was the prompt for this article. I knew much of the intentions of our founding fathers from my previous reading but this brought home, just how far we have gone down a road I, for one, do not wish to travel.

In the lead up to Federation, the Australian colonies had their own battles they were fighting. Many of the newly arrived colonists were from areas of unrest and poverty. Unable to make a difference in their home country due to restrictive political practices and a wealthy political elite maintaining their monopoly of power, they emigrated to a new country that had the promise of being different. Andrew Fisher serves as an example. Being more vocal than most, or perhaps more convinced of needed change, his life story is an interesting reminder of what we could be striving for today. Not so different as he saw it back then.

Residing in the Gympie area of Queensland in the years after his arrival from Scotland in 1885, he took up the family profession of coal-mining. He became involved with the Church and the Australian Labourers Federation where he found common ground.

After growing up in Scotland and witnessing his father and grandfather fighting for better conditions, (private ownership of coalmines and the miners subject to repression and strike breaking abounded in Scotland) he recognised the similarity of the disputes with monopoly capital here in Australia. It is with this in mind that so many had come for a better life, only to find more of the same.

With the big Shearers strikes of the 1890s and various miners and other working class strikes, large sections of the community were wondering what lay ahead. Voting at the time was restricted, and not all workers had a right to participate.

Wealthy land owners, had the right to vote in as many electorates as they had land. Blacklisting of people for work if they dared to speak out was common.

The rise of the Australian Labourers Federation was on the basis that:

“delegates adopted a political platform which pointed to the ‘social wrongs’ suffered under capitalism by Australian workers and the increasing concentration of economic power in the hands of monopoly capital, such that the struggle to live is becoming hard and bearing its’ natural fruit in the extremes of wealth and want”

Delegates of the constituent unions were asked at the time to authorise the executive, *“to declare that the present industrial system, commonly called the competitive system, is destructive, pernicious, and altogether evil, and must be replaced by a social system which will not leave it in the power of one man to take advantage of the necessities or disabilities of another, and which will provide for all workers opportunity to avail themselves of the bounties of nature and to partake fully of the fruits of civilisation and to receive full benefit of their share of the common toil.”* These words could be seen as socialism and were indeed labelled as such by some at that time.

They make quite a mouthful, and yet nothing said then could not be said again today. In a truly Christian society looking out for one another is a duty. To exploit others is a sin! The people of this time were far more likely to attend a church or read a bible than now, far more likely to profess a Christian outlook on life, yet exploitation was rife. A corrupt system of government, largely attending to the interests of monopoly control had emigrated out with them.

The Queensland Samuel Griffith Government (Liberal/National) had sent thousands of heavily armed troops and police to suppress the shearers strike. The use of harsh prison sentences and the threat of non-European labour being brought in, was reminiscent of the action against striking miners in Ayrshire and elsewhere in the home countries.

This had a great deal of influence in the decision to wrest control of colony governments, so blatantly serving the interests of monopoly wealth.

Andrew Fisher would have seen all this – his role in the labour movement led to him being a part of the first labour convention in Brisbane as a representative for Gympie. Although not playing a leading role in debates, he took part and could see the benefit this would make if implemented. Such actions by a controlled government was Scotland all over again. He could clearly see the need to push for

better democracy.

The over-dominating upper house in Queensland (seen as undemocratic due to it being composed largely of representatives of pastoral companies) had no time for a vision of small farmers and workers who were seen as a potential workforce rather than individuals.

Fisher blamed a lot of Queensland's parlous state on being governed by banks, squatters and land gamblers. The banking collapse, following not long after the 1893 floods, saw banks and building societies close their doors. The collapse was a culmination of the property investment frenzy of the late 1880s and the subsequent drop in values, which if I dare to guess, suggests someone benefited. The use of this medium of control is still ongoing, we are seeing very similar monetary manipulation right now.

Interestingly at that time, the much maligned 'White Australia Policy' grew out of the fact that these wealthy manipulators were pursuing a policy of employment of non-whites and Europeans to "break" the common man, whether shearer, miner or other worker. People were disenfranchised and blacklisted (as Fisher was a number of times) for speaking out or standing up for their own rights. It is often said that much of this white bias was purely racial in nature – yet the obvious thing to me here, is the cheap labour brought in by the very manipulators, who used this tactic over and over again (and are still doing it in one form or another). Then demonising their opposition for being racist, an easy slander to make which doesn't fully cover the reasons, does it? Fisher had seen that in the use of impoverished Irish labour in Scotland, and later the cheap and plentiful non-European imports used for breaking miners strikes for better conditions or pay. Social manipulation brings with it these things, the threat of loss of livelihood by migrants who are prepared to work for less or in appalling conditions – consider those who push for this even now, and ask yourself why? It is a repeated observance in so many countries of the western world right now, with open borders and the subsequent repression of an increasingly fed up voter base. How much of this "so called" racial hatred, is created to give advantage to those doing the manipulation of society?

The important thing to realise here, is that many of these striking people came from a background of exploitation already and had been unable to fight successfully in a corrupt British country. The colonies had been used by the large trading companies, like the East India company, to exploit material wealth and increase the wealth and influence of the owners at home. Business's got bigger and the ruling elite grew more confident in their suppression of the "lesser beings" who worked for them. Almost a century of clearings and dis-possession was in the background of those who sought a fresh start. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highland_Clearances). They had come for a promise of a new life and found that the old was already firmly entrenched. They were not going to move again. The known world had been discovered and for many, this would be their last chance to escape the brutal restrictions they had already suffered.

Again, are we not seeing this same thing now? We have billionaire companies and groups of companies whose global presence and wealth, rule over a largely compliant workforce. While our standard of living is not as bad now, it is still within the “just able to put up with it” stage, is it not? Imported workers fill many jobs and are happy with lower incomes. The threats by big companies of moving offshore also hamper wages and conditions negotiations. Small business (especially agriculture) finds itself at the mercy of the consumers of their products, be it engineering or fruit growing. It is the big unaccountable global concerns that decide to buy or not in many cases.

As a resident of a fruit growing area, I have often seen plantings of a particular variety put in at considerable expense of money and time (more than a 5 year wait for any real production in many cases) only to find the company no longer wants it. The vagaries of fashion aside, a livelihood is ‘make or break’ in this way. The constant chase to stay ahead of changing demand, input costs and decreasing end value means leisure or community participation time has been reduced. The “nose to the grindstone” approach even with a huge production capability, still sees this leisure never realised. It is desirable to keep us too busy to push for change.

The capable people who create such a business (a family smallholding) would have been the ones previously, who would have used this leisure time in support of family /community betterment: the creation of local facilities, standing for council, or even being more politically engaged.

When time is scarce, you portion out what you have as you see fit. The good among us start with family first, local community next and there never seems enough time or energy left over to do more than vote when it comes to the important issue of state or federal government. Once again we see the wealthy, or those supported by the wealthy, being at the advantage.

This is what Fisher found. Elected to Queensland parliament in 1893 he was one of 16 MP s representing the common man, the worker. He had had to overcome gerrymandering and voter restrictions (they did not have full voting rights across the community at that time). Not only that, but in an effort to make it harder, the incumbent government had slashed the MPs’ salaries from £300 to £150, partly to dissuade working class candidates standing for the labour cause. Well off candidates or those backed by wealth, were well supported by vested interests (any different today?)

There will, of course, be those who look at Fisher and see “Labor Party”. The truth is he was also called a socialist, and a racist for his opposition to imported labourers. Labels are interesting things, the names one can be called during your lifetime and after, are often unrepresentative of reality. The lumping together of similar people to tar them or to degrade their intentions is a normal occurrence – we all like to be able to put people in categories.

Fisher was as far from today’s Labor party as he was from the pastoralists and big business owners of his day. To me, the intentions of the Labour Party of his day was

to overthrow the restrictive money powers. Jump to present time and we see a Labor party of bankers, and big business associates. Very few have ever been a ‘worker’ in the 1890s sense! The policies of this current party are a pale reflection of its original intent. Paul Keating’s deregulation of the banks, allowing open slather to milk us dry, is not in keeping with the actions of anyone involved back then.

The scare of a successful rise of the working class led to some interesting tactics in the next election. Fisher was to lose his seat for a number of reasons. There were claims of neglect of his electorate, there were worries of the vote not being secret which could find supporters blacklisted from mining jobs, the loss of mines due to flooding and interestingly the accusation of socialism in the *Gympie Times* by the opposing candidate. Politics, is what it is, at all times. The use of sectarian accusations was also brought to the fore when an aspiring Catholic candidate hopeful was rejected in pre-selection. Fisher had been made out to have said he would rather run with a Methodist than a Catholic. His accuser confronted him on stage at one of his campaign meetings and what may well have been an off the cuff remark (Fisher was a strong protestant) was then used to increase sectarian hostility. This combination of scares meant he lost his seat.

In today’s climate these things are also easy to see. Unfounded claims of links to groups, or comments made and taken out of context, are often used in this way. Not much changes. (The Moira Deeming debacle in Victoria is a classic example of this, albeit in the Liberal party.)

The next election saw Fisher elected as a Labor MP in Gympie. All the drama of the time led to another hotly contested campaign and instead of giving up after his previous defeat he plugged away. Unable to get work in his profession of mining due to being blacklisted, he took other jobs and sold his house in town. There is much that could be said about the negative things we see when looking back on these times; arguments about race, religion, and political bent. Each one of you could find something that today you could be offended by. Is it really any different now?

Although we are tolerant in our outlook, in some ways we are even more intolerant when looking back. Each period in history, needs to be judged by the time it existed in; too often we find the attitudes of now, being used to interpret those times. A need to immerse yourself in the thinking of the day and in the previous history of their forebears, is a must to understand them. (Highland clearances and the resultant Scottish immigrant attitudes paints the picture very well).

The intent and progression from bad to better is what you should be looking for. Was the overall change during that period for better or worse? During this time many factors influenced outcomes and many dubious claims were made on both sides; but, the end result was furthering of the democratic principles of a vote for all and increased support for votes for women. The reduction in manipulation by the wealthy elites of the time and a fair go for all, in the Aussie way, was being created. A vision of reducing class privilege and economic control over ordinary Australians so that we could develop as individuals.

Fisher's general push for restrictions on monopoly control of all things, also included banking. Part of his continued platform was that of the establishment of a Commonwealth Bank. The depression of the 1890s and the ability of Australia to manage its own monetary affairs, rather than continually being manipulated by outside sources was one of the main early policies of the fledgling Labour Party. There was concern of many of his colleagues that he should not mention Commonwealth banking for fear of election loss and more. Billy Hughes predicted that, "the men who lend money will be aroused & desperate: credit will become alarmed. Overdrafts called in: every string pulled that goes to make a financial crisis. Or the fear of one which will be so far as we are concerned the same thing" David Day: *Andrew Fisher* pg167.

How far have we come? How far are we to go back? Fear of monetary restriction drives us even now. Our current "Treasurer Jim Chalmers says he will no longer push ahead with the idea of abolishing the federal government's power to overrule a decision by the Reserve Bank Board." (ABC News) Up to this point his desire and that of many in parliament is to remove the governments ability to control our finances, that is so far from the intention of the original Labour Party it is not funny. It appears that they want us to be controlled by international finance with no democratic ability to reflect what we want or need, we will be at the whim of the Globalists if they end up achieving this.

In reading history we see that not much changes, monopoly control is never associated with individual freedom or the betterment of a society. Monopoly capitalism such as we see today, is only destroying us and taking us back to the very things our early activists tried to change when creating this Nation. Do we need to revisit these bad times before we react? Surely our vision for the future should be similar to that expressed by Fisher, (during a speech in Gympie in the late 1890s) he was about developing the continent's "natural resources ... to make and sustain a happy and prosperous people" and "the makings of a race that will probably equal any other seen on the globe." David Day, *Andrew Fisher* pg 84

These next two quotes come from a small booklet on Social Credit.

https://alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Stones_W-Social_Credit_Text_Book.pdf

I do not need to rewrite anything here, What C.H.Douglas was saying in the 1930s is still as relevant for the problems we face today as they were then. William Stones, the author, is pointing out what we, Social Creditors, believe DSC to be the solution. The "real" next step to free the Individual to achieve his/her full potential.

"What are we aiming at? What are we trying to get? We are endeavouring to bring to birth a New Civilisation. We are doing something that really extends far beyond the confines of a change in the existing financial system. We are hoping, by various means, chiefly financial, to enable the human community to step out of one type of civilisation into another type of civilisation, and the first and basic requirement, as we see it, of that is absolute economic security."

... *“if we clothe the skeleton of Economics with living flesh; if we humanise it, make it what it should be - an examination of the circumstances of our daily lives, the reasons why we are poor or rich, employed or workless, well fed or undernourished, free to choose or regimented to serve, armed for war or stripped for peace - in short, the why and wherefore of how we live and move and have our being - then economics becomes one of the most vital and engrossing studies that can occupy our minds and give direction to our activities.”*

To this end I implore you to seek to understand more about the true reality of the wealth and plenty that surrounds us and how we can take back our inheritance for ourselves. <https://alor.org/Storage/navigation/Library1.htm>

Editor’s Note: We see today’s Liberal/National as Libertarians: Peter Dutton insists on not being called conservative, as Laissez-Faire, of the same type as the Protectionists during the Andrew Fisher era. The question is of ‘social responsibility’ in this ‘machine and advanced technology age’, of providing a living wage for all while these machines do the work- the National Dividend proposed by CH Douglas. This must be answered, or we will repeat the same failed lessons of history. Modern Labor is aligned with the Socialist International, the flip side of a dialectical path to the same destination; both misnamed liberal or labor, I call totalitarian-communism.

Economic Control - What Does it Look Like? By Neville Archibald

You have a lovely coloured card in your hand, maybe through the blood, sweat and tears of a large mortgage, it's silver, gold or even platinum. Everywhere you go you tap or swipe this piece of plastic or maybe even the very phone in your hand is now your square of plastic.

One day, in the not far away future, you find it doesn't work. The machine throws up an error code. Maybe you are going to fill your car with petrol, the code reads insufficient credits. You know you have money in the account, how can this be? After an indeterminate wait online, you find the code is for carbon credits. You have used your allotment, to get more, the price goes up, or to cover your current need, a one-off payment is allowed this time only.

Or you are shopping for a party perhaps, you’ve been careful not to exceed your allowance, but it has been arbitrarily changed due to bird flu. The roast chicken you are having tonight is no longer your right, they killed 400,000 birds yesterday and now you must wait till next month for a further update on chicken availability. They're still on the shelf, just not for you.

What is it about money that people don't seem to equate with reality do you think?

We have come a long way from Barter, or even a cash economy, to a point where I now think it's safe to say, a great percentage of our community no longer handles cash on a daily, or in some cases even a weekly, basis. Their faith is in the electronic,

the unseen of a bank. Do they ever check their purchases with their accounts do you think? In the early days I did, religiously! I know I have slacked off somewhat, but I still look carefully at the list when I get it. When you are tapping everything, how do you remember if you bought three coffees that week or four?

The other part of this continual tapping, of course, is the unseen charges that are regulated at the whim of the banks. A consumer charge to the buyer, only a small percentage, higher on coffee than on supermarket food, and then the provider charge, a percentage for this transaction too, so as that goes up, so too does the price of your coffee to cover these costs. Who controls this? Who allows this taking of a few cents from each of you, consumer and provider. For no apparent reason do you think? or do you justify it by saying some things must always be paid for, the convenience to you.

Do you imagine that in some back room at the Bank headquarters, there are hundreds or thousands of little fingers, scanning credit card documentation to make it all legitimate. That they must be paid, it's a service after all, give us pay for that! No it is Automated! As a service fee, it is charging you for using your own money. Banks are continually making obscene profits, despite poor performance and they would appear to be no stopping them. They are de-regulated! Thanks Paul!

What do all these examples, and more, add up to? It is a picture of economic control! Each time you use this plastic it is recorded. The date, time and place as well as the item purchased. There is no anonymity! If your wife regularly checks the accounts to keep the budget, how do you prebook an anniversary surprise? If you just want to get away for a while or you are fleeing domestic violence with only one account, how are you ever free of a controlling spouse? By your purchases you are visible, by the very taking out of cash, you become visible (if cash is still a thing).

I so often hear the words, "if you've got nothing to hide ..."
When in your life have you felt restricted by legislation, by government imposed controls? If you have tried to go camping in New South Wales parks and found you needed to book beforehand. Even if there is no one there, just to go into the forest. Fines apply if you don't. So you sneak in and sleep overnight, (no reception to book online, server down or phone flat) or you move on.

Did you put up an illegal small shed in your back yard, because council wants planning permits, building permits and engineering reports. (All for a small bike shed for your kids). Do you comply?

You wish to drive home from a party, but you're not entirely sure what blood alcohol level you are. You swear it would be okay, but that nagging legislation makes you get a taxi only to come back and pick up your car later, not worth the risk.

As much as you would like to think that this last one is justified, there is a reason I included it. At what point is the limit for something enough? Who decides what that limit is? and why? Maybe there were too many drunk drivers on the road, maybe it was time that particular problem was addressed. Who then decided on the zero

alcohol required for truck-drivers, taxis, forklifts and heavy machinery? These were imposed as a decree, not as a scientific study. I guarantee that there are more things that can affect the driver than a simple glass of beer the night before. Emotional state for one, deadlines imposed by employers or work quotas to be met.

While I agree you shouldn't be allowed to come to work under the weather, you never have been! Now if you're in this position, you cannot have even one beer the night before. If you're on a possible call out, that is your restriction for that whole time. At what point is this acceptable control over your life? This is a small example and one you may or may not agree with but now extrapolate that into other areas.

Once a law is imposed – each can be revised and there is nothing to stop these restrictions from being made harsher until you are doing exactly what they say, because it is your job or a large fine if you don't. Creeping, creeping towards complete control over our lives.

Again I bring up enforcement, it is one thing to say “you've got to be caught first” or “I'll take the risk, I never see them at work or on the road.” You have to have a card to swipe onto a forklift now in many places, this is linked to your licence, you can be cancelled. Your credit card status can also be cancelled out of certain areas! You camp overnight without paying or do something that the powers that be decide is not appropriate and you find yourself on a 90 day ban from camping anywhere in the New South Wales.

Perhaps due to some agreement between states or federal it stops you from camping in any public related place. It is all there waiting for you, if you comply with this digital control, this economic control.

We have established that it is possible! Now we ask who has that control?

There are several versions of this, banks, bureaucracy and parliament are included. Who has control over these? We most certainly do not, I think that is fairly well established. Who will have control is the better question. The way it is going it will be global concerns, the UN, the WEF, the International banks, all working together for their often stated dream, “you will own nothing ...” These are the people who will control you.

Welcome to the Future!

So when you go home to your respective electorates, local, state or federal, you must organise and vote differently. Anyone who has a party affiliation is out! You must avoid these people like the plague. You have seen how they come together when we protest their overreach, they join together to implement what we have said we don't want. So we don't want them!

Independent, strong-minded individuals who you would gladly invite around for a meal. People who do not want any more centralisation or UN involvement. People who do not want to see a digital ID/credit card system. That is probably the biggest issue.

While they control your very spending (and they will under the guise of climate

change and/or carbon credits) they will control you. I can see a time coming when they'll declare that they are bankrupt, or the banks, one by one will claim insolvency. To get your money back, or some portion of it, you'll need to sign up for this digital credit and lock yourself into it, then they'll have you. There will be no alternative.

All you really need to is to look at the direction we're headed. What each law they have introduced does to the individual. It is all about control over us. Do not, for a minute, think otherwise. They had the police with rubber bullets at the Shrine of Remembrance, shooting into the crowd. All over some people who refused to be coerced to taking the experimental vaccine. We can pretty much all see it was a failed vaccine, one that caused and is still causing a huge amount of damage in the community.

Those who saw the dangers and tried to warn others, were treated with contempt by all parties and political activists. A good look at who was the nastiest is a good start to realise just who we cannot trust.

Forceful control over us is not always going to be visible, when it comes it won't always be the police or stazzi knocking at your door. It might just be (will be) the refusals of credit at your next restaurant booking. Looking into it will probably throw up a given code for the refusal, too much red meat, carbon related, or at the petrol pump, swipe before filling, it's coming don't say it's not. You've exceeded your allowance of carbon credit for this month.

It could well be at the supermarket, some items won't scan, the code will pop up. All these things are possible now, they have prepared them before. Credit cards issued in some areas, the chronically unemployed, limited what it could be spent on. No cigarettes, no alcohol, the system is already set up and proven to work. There are ways around it, they know this. If cash is allowed to be refused at some places now, it will multiply. The workarounds will become very limited and many will just throw up their hands and comply, just like last time. While we do not push back, while we continually re-elect party machine candidates we will continue to get more controls placed over us.

Think very carefully about what you should be doing for your future. ***

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Essential Reading:

Communism is Treason

https://alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Lang_JT-Communism_is_Treason.pdf

Communism in Australia

https://alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Lang_JT-Communism_In_Australia.pdf

An Introductory Course on the Real Communist Conspiracy

https://alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Butler%20ED%20-%20bew0Real_Communist_Conspiracy.pdf