Surrendering to Communist Strategy

Sir Edmund Herring's Defeatism
By Eric D. Butler

Every genuine patriot will sympathise with the most difficult task, which the Director-General of Recruiting, Sir Edmund Herring, has had in attempting to persuade Australians to join the armed forces. There is no disputing the fact that the recruiting campaign has been a dismal failure. But it is most unrealistic for those in authority to criticise the individual for his apparent lack of interest in what happens to the nation's defence forces, unless they seek to discover and remove the cause of the present lack of morale, which is so evident right throughout the community.

The Melbourne "Age" of May 17 reports that, in an address to the annual conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Sir Edmund Herring said: "We must make the people realise that tears and sweat may be all they can look forward to for the rest of their lives." Sir Edmund may not realise it, but this is a defeatist and negative statement, which can only serve to encourage the international Communist conspirators to believe that their programme for world enslavement is proceeding favourably. Sir Edmund's statement is similar to those of General Marshall and other American spokesmen who can offer nothing better than a state of crisis and tension for an indefinite period. If the Western Powers are merely going to continue their negative policy of "containing" Communism, they must eventually lose the present war. Sir Edmund Herring is correct when he says that we are already engaged in warfare.

No sane individual can be persuaded to make efforts and sacrifices in any field of human endeavour, unless he has a definite and, to him, a worthwhile objective. At the moment, the peoples of the Western Powers are without any objective, which stimulates them to action. Western leaders have given no indication that they have any definite and constructive programme to defeat Communism within a reasonable period of time. Students of the Communist conspiracy are appalled at the manner in which these leaders merely react to Communist strategy. They do exactly as the Communists desire. They appear to have succumbed to the evil proposition that Communism can be defeated abroad by adopting Communist policies at home. If the Western Powers continue to react to the Communist challenge by adopting more centralisation and compulsion in their own countries, they are creating the very internal crises which the Communists, aided by the Socialists, claim makes it "inevitable" that "capitalism" possesses the seeds of its own destruction.

If the West, the Christian West, is to rally the peoples of the world to the cause of individual freedom and independence, it must first state clearly just what principles it does stand for, and then proceed to ensure that these principles are made a reality in their own countries. The Western Powers cannot expect to influence the peoples behind the Iron Curtain if they themselves proceed to move further towards the totalitarian State. It is because the Governments of the Western Powers are moving steadily towards totalitarianism with their progressive centralisation of power, that the individual is losing faith in his Governments. The Australian Federal Government has set Sir Edmund Herring an impossible task, while it continues to destroy individual initiative and morale by its policies of centralism.

As far as Korea is concerned, Sir Edmund should not be surprised that Australians are becoming cynical about a campaign, which has, in spite of all wishful talk to the contrary, served the Communists far better than the Western Powers. How can Sir Edmund really expect Australians to be united and enthusiastic about Korea when in recent months the American people, whose forces have suffered enormous casualties in Korea, have been increasing critically of American policy in the Far East, and when the leader of the 'United' Nations forces, General MacArthur, has been 'sacked' because he claimed that the Korean campaign was becoming a blood bath without any definite purpose. The total result of the Korean incident has been a desperate effort by the planners everywhere to destroy the remaining freedoms of the Western peoples. This suits the Communist strategy admirably. It is respectfully suggested to Sir Edmund Herring and others that they face the fact that genuine patriotism is impossible while the Governments of the Western Powers continue to support and extend totalitarian policies. They might also ask how the peoples of the British Empire can be really loyal to King and Empire when, under various guises, they are asked to transfer their loyalties to an international organisation, U.N.O., which the Communists played a leading role in bringing into being, and which they and their agents still use to advance policies of nationalism which sap the spirit of local loyalties.

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.

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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.
Behind the U.N.O. Front

"Mr. Stettinius was Secretary of State for the United States at the time, and played a big part in the San Francisco Conference. His speeches at this Conference were written by one, Dalton Trumbo, who has since been exposed as a Communist by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. Can you beat that? Hiss, the traitor, Executive Secretary of the San Francisco Committee, and Trumbo, the Communist author of the speeches made by the U.S. Secretary of State."

—Mr. E. G. Hansell, Canadian M.P., in "The Canadian Social Crediter."

President Truman's Nonsense

President Truman, Mr. Dean Acheson's public relations officer, says that, "the free nations already had stopped the march of Communism in Asia, and had dealt a heavy blow to the Communist conspiracy all over the world."

President Truman is not reported as having brought forward any evidence to support his remarkable opinion that the Soviet has economic disaster for the Communists. It is true that the Korean incident prevented the American economy from collapsing internally. But this temporary averting of economic disaster has paved the way for even greater disasters. The Communists, so far from being dealt any blows, are in reality winning the battle for the world. They know that the Western Powers must eventually collapse internally, while they persist with their present political, economic, and financial policies.

The Burden of Government

The Commonwealth Statistician reports that there have been further increases in the numbers of the Canberra bureaucracy. Now that he has a Senate majority, it will be instructive to note what excuses Mr. Menzies makes for failing to honour his promise to reduce the size of the Government. Electors should not let their Liberal and Country Party representatives forget this promise.

The Communist "Line"

Writing in the Melbourne "Herald" of April 17, Barbara Ward, formerly of the London "Economist," furthers the Communist propaganda "line" concerning the Chinese situation. "Unhappily, his (Chiang Kai-shek's) regime was far gone in corruption and decay. A new chapter in the dispute over East and West opened with the triumph of Communism in China. The American Secretary of State, Mr. Acheson, the British Government and moderate opinion in general, concluded that Chiang Kai-shek was beyond help, and were prepared to recognise Communist China as an unpleasant but inescapable fact."

Miss Ward makes no mention of the fact that the Chinese Communists were victorious only because Communist agents in the United States Department had from Yalta onwards betrayed the Chinese Nationalists. It is true that she mentions Senator McCarthy's charges, but brushes them aside as being of no importance.

American Senate Resolution

It is encouraging to note that an increasing number of responsible Americans are urging that every effort be made to drive a wedge between the Soviet gangsters and the Russian people. The American Senate recently adopted a resolution expressing the friendship of the American people for the Russian people. This action must be followed up by all Western Powers, who should then realistically formulate necessary policies to take the initiative in the worldwide struggle against the Communist conspiracy. For a start, they should cease introducing Socialist policies in their own countries.

United States of Europe

Mr. Thomas Dewey, American Republican leader, recently put forward an eleven-point plan for containing communism. Point 7 advocates "a policy aimed at an eventual United States of Europe." This is exactly what the Communists advocate. Being a friend of the Zionists, Mr. Dewey should be aware of this fact.

An Anti-Communist Jew

Albert Kohlberg is doing everything he knows how to do to fight Communism. The Jewish journal and the Jew-controlled periodicals have made of Kohlberg virtually an outcast, because of his fearless attack on the Red menace and his exposure of treason in the Orient. During a recent visit to Los Angeles, Kohlberg said: "The major national Jewish organisations are run by a certain number of Communist Party members, together with a great majority of individuals who are either strong or mild sympathisers with Communism. Kohlberg is working with Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, who was kicked out of his synagogue for starting the American Jewish League Against Communism. As commendable as the efforts of these men may be, it is a known fact among experts that they have no influence whatsoever over the Jewish political machine."

This Russian Bogey

The first point is that so far as Western Europe is concerned, the American defence line as drawn by General Eisenhower is tolerably sound; but that so far as the Middle East is concerned we are wide open. In a race for Persia we would be left standing.

The next point concerns the Russian soldier. The Red Army despite its size, or perhaps because of its size, is not the formidable fighting machine publicised by Soviet propaganda. It is, in fact, the weak link in the Communist chain and for a good reason. That reason is the peasant Russian's hatred of everything Marxist, and his hatred of the police system, which enforces Marxism. Russians are about eighty percent agrarian with a single ambition—to be allowed to cultivate their homeland in peace. They have a great love of country. Their patriotism is such, however, that once let the Russian homeland be attacked as it was in 1941; and the Red Army will coalesce into the most dangerous land-fighting machine in the world.

The third point is that the foremost tactic of the Kremlin is to organise active Communist parties in all the non-Communist countries. This is the principal instrument of Soviet foreign policy. Its success is vital to the Kremlin in Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain. If the Red Army did roll west towards the Channel ports, as so many London observers expect, the Kremlin knows full well that the local Communist parties would disintegrate at once and their principal instrument of Communist expansion would have been destroyed.

The fourth point is that this particular foreign policy can only be properly developed and applied: (a) so long as a state of war does not exist between the Soviet Union and the west; but (b) so long as a state of war threatens between the Soviet Union and the west.

Point five: active Communist parties in the countries of the west can only flourish where economic conditions lead to inflation such conditions can be produced if western economies are forced to carry the burden of rearmament.

The implications behind these points are tremendous. Each merits considerable thought.

—The Washington Letter.

HAVE YOU STUDIED THE COMMUNIST MENACE?

The following is a complete list of special publications recommended to those who want to study authentic, factual material on the Communist menace:

The Real Communist Menace, by Eric D. Butler."

This is an excellent commentary on the Canadian Report and Soviet Belgium. It also contains the most important part of the famous article "Red Glows The Dawn," by Michael Lamb

Red Glows The Dawn, by W. L. White... ...

This famous book is the one, which every student of Communism should own; it contains all the information we need about the Russian invasion of China. This book is available for those who choose to order it by mail for 2/9d.


A well-documented book dealing with the facts and fallacies of Communism. This book is available for those who wish to order it by mail for 2/9d.

The Answer to Socialism, by W. L. White... ...

This excellent book is a "must" for every student of Communism. All copies are available for those who choose to order them by mail for 2/9d. All prices listed above include the cost of postage. Order now from New Times Ltd., Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.
This Booklet on China Well Worth Reading

Some conveniently forgotten facts about the betrayal of the anti-Communist forces in China are revived in a handy and informative booklet, "The Truth about the Chinese Communists," by Eric D. Butler.

In view of the muddled thinking rife in Australia today concerning the Chinese situation, this booklet is well worth a wide circulation.

Mr. Butler disposed promptly of the fallacy that Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communists are not really Communists at all, but benign agrarian reformers.

Most important, Mr. Butler recalls that American Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, claimed China would be Chinese before Communists.

Acheson showed utter ignorance of the meaning of Communism or what the Chinese Reds intended.

There is the alternative answer that, like his father-in-law, Acheson is a secret anti-Communist, who, through ignorance, have advanced the Communist cause by lending their names to the Red cause in China.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission, through Professor Macmahon Ball and Professor Julius Stone, can always be relied on to help the cause of the Red Chinese. Great respect is held for the Communist appeaser, Pandit Nehru. Even the Australian Council of the World Council of Churches took an unrealistic view of the Chinese question.

Then there is Sir Keith Murdoch, newspaper power in Australia. He came out in favour of recognising the Chinese Red regime.

No wonder the spate of Left Wingers among journalists can get their thinly veiled Communist propaganda across if this sort of confused thinking comes from the top.

Let Mao Tse-tung speak for himself. In "China's New Democracy," written in 1940, he said: "It is by basing themselves on the correct theory of Stalin that the Chinese advanced this thesis. China's revolution is a magnificent part of world revolution."

Then there is the undermining of all democratic resistance to Communism in China by Communist and Leftist functionaries of the American State Department.


Marshall merely consulted the officials who believed Russia was a democracy in love with peace, and the Chinese Communists mere agrarian reformers having no connection with Moscow.

Sheng's prestige was so great that, on arriving in China, he succeeded in persuading Chiang to sign an armistice with the Reds. The Reds broke the armistice, of course. Marshall, a complete failure, returned to America to become Secretary of State and a Communist.

Marshall, through his blundering ignorance, did more to defeat the Chinese people than anybody else.

Mr. Butler recalls the shocking state of affairs in America, where Communist traitors were able to obtain the most secret documents. He mentions especially the traitor, Alger Hiss — supported even after conviction by Acheson — and the "Amerasia" case.

In his conclusion, Mr. Butler says: — "Christian patriots must realise while there is still time that they must fight as never before to retain their precious heritages of individual liberty and dignity. They must shut their ears against the subtle but deadly suggestion that there can be any compromise with the doctrines or advocates of Communism."


For Mr. Casey's Attention

Dr. Salvador de Madariaga, the celebrated Spanish philosopher, in a recent article in the Melbourne "Herald," made the following comment: — "The Fascist-Marxists of Moscow, carried away by the very momentum of their totalitarianism, have successfully destroyed the freedom of nation after nation.

"The rape of Czechoslovakia, after so many others, shocked the world back to its senses."

"There came a period of retrospective introspection. One began to wonder whether the colossal mistakes made at the end of his life by Franklin Roosevelt were not due to his naive trust in his chief adviser, Alger Hiss, as at Yalta, now convicted for perjury for having denied that he was a Communist."

We trust that someone brings this statement to the attention of Mr. R. G. Casey, Minister for External Affairs, who has publicly defended Alger Hiss.

"Those Who Control the Ration Books"

The British Housewives' League issued the following bulletin to newspapers on April 12: — "The four officers of the British Housewives' League, who recently made a stand against the steady encroachment which threatens certain fundamental rights and liberties are grateful for the sympathy and moral support given to them by such a large section of the public. To the Press also they are indebted for the widespread and accurate reporting of their activities. They make this opportunity of stating that this is only a beginning. The fight must go on, at every level, until the homes of Britain receive the attention which is their due."

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Eliminating the British Empire

If in 1913 anyone had predicted that, 38 years later, the great British Empire would be reduced to its present pathetic plight, he would have been treated with derision. But today no realist can deny that every day brings forward evidence of the decline of British sovereignty and prestige everywhere. The Persian oil crisis is the latest in a long series of events which have consistently harmed British influence in a world which moves more and more towards a controlled totalitarianism. We feel that there is more behind the expropriation of British oil interests than has yet been made public.

The London "Economist" indicates in the following comment that "Washington" rather approves of the latest blow against British sovereignty — unfortunately, as many far-seeing observers pointed out, vitally dependent upon oil supplies from an area in which British prestige has been undermined: "The Economist" says: "It is regrettable if Dr. Mossadegh should be acting in the belief that a team of American technicians would be quickly available to take over and run an industry expropriated from its British owners."

Having played a vital role in winning the Second World War, the British peoples have gone from one disaster to another. But till these disasters total up to one major result: British policy has progressively become more subservient to Washington policy. And Washington policy is determined by powerful Zionists like Bernard Baruch and Professor Frankfurter. These power-lusters seek world conquest just as much as Stalin seeks it. But their methods are much more dangerous than Stalin's, because, under the guise of defeating Communism, they and their agents have been active in advancing policies designed to bring all countries outside Moscow's control under Washington influence. The success of these policies may be judged by the fact that the British Empire, still in possession of most of the world's essential raw materials, should be reduced to a position of economic servitude. The Persian oil crisis will, no doubt, be used to make the position worse.

There is still time for the British peoples everywhere, if only they will throw off the yoke of their local traitors, to stand on their own feet and to play a decisive role in preventing the arrival of the threatened World State. Co-operation with genuine American patriots is necessary, but these patriots, who are now attacking relentlessly the Baruchs and Frankfurters, are not likely to have any faith in people who allow the Socialists of all parties to drive them down the scale of human existence. The British peoples can only regain the respect of others by first restoring their own self-respect.

From Jam to Jam

Did you read the story of the strawberry pulp? The Food Ministry in June, 1949, decided to buy from Holland 7,380 tons of this nourishing mush at £126 a ton, and in August of that year, buying on with enthusiasm for delicious strawberry jam, the Ministry raised its order to 9,500 tons — to be sold to British manufacturers. Did we all wallow in strawberry jam in 1949-1950?

Well, no. For it became, frankly, a drug on the market. By February, 1950, the Ministry asked the Treasury's permission to cut its losses, and on the best terms possible get rid of some 3,200 tons of pulp which had not been shipped from Holland. AND THEY PAID THE DUTCH £63 A TON FOR NOT DELIVERING IT.

THE COST

"Jam tomorrow, jam yesterday, but-never, never jam today" was the old nursery saying. Yes; we have no strawberry jam and pay £63 a ton not to have it. This is the higher economics with a vengeance. This is the planned State in which—as Mr. Douglas Jay once observed—"the gentlemen in Whitehall really do know better."

It may be both unkind and unkind to rub their Whitehall noses in it; but in dealing with this sort of crazy folly it is no longer possible to be kind and tolerant. This sweet caper cost the country £201,758.

It was inaugurated during the regime at the Food Ministry of Mr. Webb's predeces-
sor, Mr. John Strachey, who is now politi-
cally responsible for raising, equipping and training an up-to-date, efficient army.

BIG SCALE

This is the man who must marshal our armoured divisions, our infantry, our anti-
aircraft artillery. This is the man at whose behest hundreds of thousands of reservists must put on uniform this summer.

Successful military operations depend, let us admit, on planning. We are all for plan-
ing in this sphere, with the not unimport-
ant proviso that it must be efficient plan-
ning, conducted by persons with foresight, vision and proved experience. Mr. Strachey planned a groundnut operation. It ended in a desolate waste, a handful of sunflower seed and a great many broken hearts. The cost was—do you recall it?—£36 million. That is what Mr. John Strachey can achieve on a big scale.

The Dutch strawberry pulp resulted in a hearty laugh and a mere trifle of some £200,000. Quite a small-scale flop. But if this is the mess which the Secretary for State for War can make of some Strawberry jam, what, oh what, would he do with a mobilisation order?


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Deakin Campaign

The Liberal Party can probably thank Mr. Eric Butler for the retention of the Deakin Electorate by a very small majority. The Liberal Party won Deakin at the 1949 Elections with a majority of over 4,000. At the recent Elections the Liberal candidate, Mr. Davis, finished with a majority of just over 1,000 after Mr. Butler's preferences had been allocated.

A surprise feature of Mr. Butler's preference votes was that, out of the total of 7,598, nearly 1,000 went to Labor. It is understood that the majority of Mr. Butler's preferences, which went to Labor, were in areas where Mr. Butler's voting cards were not distributed. Mr. Butler's cards indicated that his second preferences should go to the Liberal candidate. An analysis of the figures indicates that if Mr. Butler had not stood, a considerable number of those who voted for him would have voted Labor. But, having voted for Mr. Butler, they then followed his advice concerning second preference. It is certain that the Liberal Party will be hard pushed to hold Deakin at the next elections.

At the declaration of the poll on May 14, Mr. Butler said he was pleased with the results of his campaign. He warned the successful candidate, Mr. Davis, that the present Government was heading for disaster if it continued with its projected programme, and that the rank and file of the Government Parties would, in their own political interests, have to take appropriate action.

On Saturday evening, May 12, approximately 40 'New Times' supporters, most of them Deakin electors, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Butler at "Runnymead." Pantoon Hill. Mr. Butler gave an outline of what had been accomplished during the short election campaign, and indicated that it was to be continued. All those who had assisted expressed keen desire to help further.

The following letter by Mr. Butler has appeared in newspapers circulating in the Deakin Electorate:

"Now that the election figures for Deakin have been nearly finalised, I would like to thank those electors who were courageous enough to give an independent their first preference votes. The fact that, after a short campaign of only a few weeks, approximately two and a half thousand voters in the Deakin electorate were prepared to vote for fundamental principles and for the individual instead of a party indicates that our community has not yet completely surrendered to the collectivist menace. I have been so impressed with the response to my campaign that I desire to announce now that it is my intention to continue it until the next Federal elections.

"As there are many electors who, while agreeing entirely with what I had to say during the election campaign, felt that the re-election of the Menzies-Fadden Government with a Senate majority would help further the principles I outlined, I desire to go on record as predicting that if the Government continues with the programme of centralism it has been progressively adopting, it can only attempt to deal with inflation by advancing more and more along the very totalitarian road which the extreme Socialists openly advocate.

"It becomes clearer every day that what remains of western Christian civilisation is not going to survive the collectivist challenge, of which Communism is the most extreme aspect. There is a re-creation of a strong faith in those principles on which our whole way of life has been erected. Unless effective action can be taken to protect the sovereignty of the individual against the growing demands of governments and their soulless bureaucracies, there is no hope for us.

"As we were told a long time ago, we do not gather figs from thistles, and I feel that every individual who understands the fundamental issue confronting the human race — centralisation versus decentralisation of power — must attempt to preserve his own integrity by taking whatever action he feels necessary to restore the supremacy of the individual in all spheres of human effort. This is the major reason why I am continuing in Deakin the campaign I started during the recent election.

Flight From The City

By Ralph Borsodi

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

Flight From The City is the story of an experiment, which will stimulate the reader. Price 2/6, post-free. Order from New Times Ltd., Box 1226L., G.P.O., Melbourne.

Does It Fit The Facts? . . 5/ C. H. Douglas's correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Sallis Burches concerning the "authenticity" of The Protocols.

The Mysterious Protocols. 2/9 Full text of "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

Does It Fit The Facts? . . 5/ C. H. Douglas's correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Sallis Burches concerning the "authenticity" of The Protocols.
Rock-Bottom Apples
By Norris A. Jackson

Proponents of rock mulching of bramble fruits and vegetables have said a great deal about the method during the past few years. The advantages of the system are apparent, and illustrations of its benefits add further proof to its value. But what about the values of rock mulching below the ground, rather than on the surface? No, this is not the harebrained idea of a would-be Burbank, but is being used successfully by a home orchardist near Hugo, Oklahoma.

The reasoning behind the system is simple. Dig up a rock and note how moist it is, even in mid-summer. Note also the looseness or pliability of the soil around the rock. That rock will have moisture around it the year round, even in the driest of summers following normal spring rains. The idea is one reportedly used by early-day apple growers in the Arkansas Ozark apple region. A travelling stove repairman told L. R. Allen, of Hugo, of the system several years ago. It involves the use of a huge stone at the bottom of the hole dug for the setting. Mr. Allen pondered over the idea for several years, and decided to try the method in the fall of 1945. He had ordered settings of Red and Yellow Jonathan apples. Under the Yellow Jonathan he placed a huge rock, as large as he could carry. It measured about two feet by one foot by eight inches — a pretty big load for an aging man. The Red Jonathan was planted by normal cultural practices.

The Yellow Jonathan produced its first fruit last year — about one-half a bushel. The Red Jonathan will not bear even this year. This spring the Yellow Jonathan was approximately 14 feet tall, and had a drip-area of only six feet. Mr. Allen also used the system on two trial plum seedlings. The setting that was placed over the stone bore more plums last year than its test-mate, and is more than three feet taller than the unfortunate plantling. The less variation in the sizes of the two plum trees as compared to the variation in the growth of the apple trees is explained by the fact that plum trees have more inherent ability to find and obtain needed moisture.

Unlike the plum, the apple tree is known for its shallow root system. Therefore, the addition of the rock beneath the apple planting will not retard development of the system. Rather, it gives added strength through added moisture availability.

Cultural requirements and care of trees planted with the rock method are no different from those for trees planted in the orthodox fashion. However, the scope of the system naturally limits its use to trees having a shallow root system.

The orchard should be planted on gently sloping lands, in order to provide good drainage, and the trees should be established on deep, sandy loam soils, ranging from sandy clay loams to coarse sands or gravel mixtures. In Oklahoma, trees may be set in the fall, winter or spring. However, fall settings bring earlier root development, the soil has time to settle, and growth begins earlier in the spring. Pruning activities also are the same.

Mr. Allen's experience indicates that cultivation of the orchard or of the area near two or three settings should not be more than three or four inches deep. "It is a mistake to think that deep cultivation forces tree roots downward," he says. "Trees will grow roots in all of the soil that is open and porous enough for root growth, regardless of cultivation — more reason for the rock beneath the setting."

Organic matter for orchard soils also should be maintained at a high level. It improves the water-holding capacity of the soil, prevents wind and water erosion, and also supplies some plant food elements. Rotted barnyard manure or compost is suggested as the best supplier of plant food, and may be applied at a rate of 300 pounds per tree.

--- "Organic Gardening."

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In this small book, the Victorian Compost Society has tried to give the latest results of experience in compost making.
Critical Review of T.V.A. Publication
"FOOD AT THE GRASS ROOTS"

The book depicts the vast area of the Tennessee River catchment as one, which has been ruthlessly despoiled of its natural forest cover, and largely denuded of its soil by erosion. The fertility of the soil has been debilitated and the incidence of erosion increased by the unintelligent, long-term, monoculture of corn, cotton, and tobacco. Such row crops having followed up the retreating forests on slopes of such degree that they should never have been cultivated at all, or, of course, ever, have been despoiled of their forest cover.

Such was the gloomy state of affairs when T.V.A. commenced to consider the problem. And it would appear to be fact that consideration of the catchment problems was not undertaken until after major dams had been completed, or, at least, nearly completed. One wonders, therefore, how much the life of T.V.A.'s vast reservoirs has already been curtailed by siltation, and what effective life remains in them.

Having started the investigation, T.V.A. pushed it ahead with vigour. It was decided that the great need of the area was the replenishment of minerals — especially phosphorus and lime; and that there must be a return to grass and legume culture. Though the biological problems of the matter are said to have been studied, it is important to note that only the slightest indications are given of the necessity to rebuild the organic content of the soil, and no consideration whatever appears to have been given to the importance of re-creating a balanced and thriving soil life. An outlook that affirms the necessity of collaboration with nature and at the same time appears to ignore such essential matters as these does not seem to make sense, especially when the major problem has been the rehabilitation of a catchment area for the control and conservation of water on a huge scale.

Nobody, having read through the 100 pages of "Food at the Grass Roots," could possibly fail to grasp that, in the opinion of T.V.A.'s agricultural advisers, the essence of good farming for both increased and better quality food production in U.S.A. depends almost solely on the application of larger and larger quantities of available minerals to the soil. Phosphorous is the most emphasised one. It is produced by T.V.A. in the form of 48 percent, triple superphosphate. And it is interesting to note that, looking ahead to the present world shortage of sulphur, T.V.A.'s technicians have, long since, developed several other methods of manufacturing superphosphate, which completely obviates the use of sulphuric acid.

The book gives some general glimpses of the results of this policy over the decade preceding 1947. To sell the policy and/or the products to T.V.A. and other phosphatic rock processors (with whom a close liaison is maintained), a remarkable network of demonstration stations has been set up. Quote — "On January 1, 1947, there were about 31,400 active test-demonstration farms in the Tennessee Valley, with another 9800 outside it, in 26 States. That is a mere fraction of the total number of farms where a similar design could be applied with great advantage, both to the farmer and to the national food economy — once adequate supplies of phosphate and other life-giving soil minerals are made available.

Under the urgent necessity to repurpose the Tennessee Valley area as quickly as possible, it would appear to have been reasonable to use phosphates and every other artificial aid to promote initial growth for which there was none. Though no mention of the matter is made in the book, it is obvious that something had to be done to steady up the heavy siltation of the T.V.A. reservoirs, quite apart from the general rehabilitation of the valley's fertility. And here again we are led to believe that soil fertility and a stable soil is merely a matter of building up the soil's mineral content.

It will be the experience of many Australians that the application of superphosphate alone generally stimulates pasture growth. This is especially noticeable in our lighter soils. But it is also appreciated that, unless the stimulant is continuously applied — and very often in increasing quantity — the pasture and the soil soon revert to a worse state than they were in originally.

It would appear that the T.V.A. concept of soil fertility is that soil is to be regarded as merely a medium for the reception of externally applied plant nutrients in mineral form. Supply these, and such (and in increasing quantity), and all will be well with the soil, plant, animal, and man. But will it? A further period of experience of these methods may begin to show something of nature's reactions to this form of "collaboration."

In the meantime, it is useful to ponder this summarised version of words spoken by that well-known scientist, Dr. E. Pfeffler, during a lecture in London last year: — "Mineral deficiencies are directly associated with biological imbalance. It is no use adding this or that element to the soil; they have to be assimilated."


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Superphosphate Shortage

The following letter appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" of May 14: —

In his article on the sulphur shortage (9/5), R. K. Gerrand says a lack of superphosphate "threatens to rock the Australian economy." But there is a growing volume of opinion, which condemns the treating of ground phosphate rock with sulphuric acid.

In America and Great Britain, finely ground phosphate rock is being used in preference to superphosphate, with great success.

The greatest threat to adequate world food production is not a possible shortage of superphosphate, but the lowering of the organic content of the soil by bad farming techniques.

—ERIC D. BUTLER, Alma Road, Panton Hill.

There were international and domestic objections to the plan, said the Association secretary (Mr. S. Ick-Hewins). The Havana Charter sought to assure consumer interests equal representation with producer interests, and an International Wool Study Group was set up under the Charter. The group offered membership to all countries having an interest in the production, consumption or trade in wools. This fact laid any Wool Marketing Plan open, ultimately, to powerful and persuasive international pressures.

He said the United Kingdom sought equal representation with the Dominions on the Central Authority to be established if a plan was accepted. Even if this was not arranged immediately, there was real danger that consumer interests, whether British or foreign, would ultimately gain equal representation with those of producer countries.

Not one of the United Kingdom representatives would represent the grower. It was assumed, in fact, that of 10 members of the Central Authority, only four would be producers, said Mr. Ick-Hewins.

There were cogent objections to the domestic arrangements of the Wool Marketing Plan. However, the objections were made to those points of the plan known to date. Full details of the proposed plan were not at this stage available to the Association.

Although the Minister would not apparently take power of veto over the decision of the Australian Wool Organisation, this decision could not bind subsequent governments. There are strong grounds for believing that the Ministerial veto would ultimately become a feature of the arrangement.

Staff of the Australian organisation would be subject to Public Service Board regulations.

Mr. Ick-Hewins added that the plan was not a grower-controlled plan.

—"The Leader," (Melbourne).
May 16, 1951.

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.

—"The Leader," (Melbourne).
May 16, 1951.