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A History of the Australian Communist Party



**RED
GLOWS
THE DAWN**

by
Michael Lamb

Red Glows the Dawn

By MICHAEL LAMB.

CHAPTER I.

RETROSPECT

"There is a school of thought in Britain which declares comfortably, 'Don't talk about the Reds. Don't give the Communist Party publicity. You're only advertising them.' It is true that the Communist Party welcomes publicity, provided it has control over the nature of that publicity. On the other hand, the Communist Party and the Communist International loathe accurate exposure of its real aims, its real methods of operation, and its real activities stripped of all the sham and camouflage in the employment of which the Left Wing shows such skill. That is precisely the purpose of this book." ("The Red Network," 1936.)

OUR WISHFUL THINKERS.

The phrase, "It can't happen here," trite and well-used though it is, really sums up the attitude of many Australians to the ever-present, and now rapidly growing, Red menace, in this country. In fact, the attitude of a very large number of one's fellow-citizens has been so transformed since June 22, 1941, that they seem to have altered the stance emphasised by my initial phrase to one which might be more adequately indicated by the words, "If it does happen here, there won't be much harm done, anyway."

All of which is very disturbing to those of us who have studied Communism and its philosophy, and its plan of action, and its atheism, its iconoclasm, its regimentation—and its bloody violence—over the years.

Particularly disturbing to those who know the Red record of murder and rapine in Spain, Mexico, and other unfortunate countries which have experienced the travail of ordered anarchy and inspired chaos, for a season, within their borders.

Many books, pamphlets and articles have been written on this subject during the last quarter of a century, for the purpose of drawing attention to the direful possibilities of the future; but, because the Reds are active and definite, and because they are possessed of the greatest—and the most unscrupulous—propaganda machine the world has yet seen, for every one of these publications a hundred have been published justifying their mistakes, extolling their virtues—or deftly decorating their policies.

My object in penning these lines, however, is not that I may discuss dialectic materialism, or the new Statology, or even the terrible and recent history of other tortured, and less favoured, nations; but rather that I may discuss the present position in this country, the popularity which the Reds are enjoying at the moment, and the dangerous trend which, if not checked, undoubtedly will deflect us along a path which every clear-thinking man and woman must wish to avoid.

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CAPTURE THE UNIONS!

In all countries where Communism has reared its ugly head, its first aim has been the domination of all Labour or Workers' Associations, and the effort of its "cells" and "fractions", as their units of penetration and organisation were named, have always been to this end. The average industrial worker is intensely loyal to his trade union, and will generally follow its decisions blindly. Besides this, it takes a brave man, and one possessed of considerable initiative, as well as courage, to defy the edict of a body which, if sufficiently tempted, or improperly governed, may drive him out of his industry, or away from his calling, by misusing the immense powers which have been granted to it by a modern community.

The cases are by no means rare where such a body has been as harsh and ruthless as any dictator in enforcing the decisions, either of the majority of its members or of the ruling junta. And, of course, to the factory worker (and it is in the factories where unionism exerts its principal influence) the union is his bulwark against unfair treatment on the part of his employer—and his advocate for higher wages and better conditions—and so may justly demand his loyalty.

It must also be remembered that the Red agent is never inactive. He is constantly pointing out real or imaginary grievances, and creating a casus belli where normally some mistaken action or fancied slight on the part of authority might have passed almost unnoticed. He is always discussing claims on, or indicating weaknesses in, the present economic structure or insinuating his political opinions. He is never lost for an argument, and rarely loses one, because of his astonishing versatility (for every Red is a reader, even if it is only of trash), and his cheerful disregard of veracity.

And it is precisely because of this combination of blind obedience, fear, loyalty, and demagoguery, that, even in countries where—with the vast majority—no love has existed for the materialist philosophy, Marxism has been able to control a very large percentage of the people, once its supporters have captured the trade unions.

THE NEW FRONT.

So that, when many of the Union Executives abandoned their passive resistance in 1932, and set about active opposition, the Reds, as I have said, suffered a serious rebuff. Their "cells" and "fractions" still continued to bore from within, but their tactics became too easily recognisable—and too readily frustrated. New methods were badly needed, and Dimitrov and the Seventh Soviet Congress provided the new methods with the "Trojan Horse" United Front idea. Instead of fighting their opponents, they were to collaborate with them, because, in the end, the energy and singleness of purpose of the Communists would mean control of the organisations of their enemies, as well as their own. The instruction was no sooner issued than each branch of the party in Australia (as was the case all over the world) held out the hand of friendship to all and sundry.

ENTER THE PINKS.

Many trade unions and Labour bodies rejected the offer with contempt, but the Reds achieved a good deal of success with their various subsidiary societies. As they had previously been almost con-

centrating their efforts on the unions, so they began to expand their attentions to cover these very useful adjuncts, designed in the first place to exploit popular sentiment. Probably the principal of these were the "League Against War and Fascism," which flourished in 1935 and 1936, and the "International Peace-Congress," which created a flurry in 1936. The latter was a really brave effort, and included amongst its delegates the now famous assortment of clerics, solicitors, politicians, doctors of medicine and what-not, professors, trade unionists—and quite a number of those ladies who, for want of a better name, must be referred to as public women. Congress meetings were widely advertised: Congress delegates listened to all types of speeches and speakers, carried resolutions on almost every current matter upon which a resolution might be based; and, after having served as an excellent propaganda medium (and, incidentally, after incurring the displeasure of branches of the political Labour Party), eventually faded into nothingness.

It might be mentioned here that Australian political Labour has always sternly set its face against the Reds, notwithstanding the strong opposition of some elements within its own ranks, and the possibility of a schism developing in consequence. This fact is particularly interesting, because of the policy of penetration which I mentioned earlier—a policy which naturally applies very much more to the Labour Party than to any other political party.

As far back as 1924 the Inter-State Australian Labour Party Conference agreed to this resolution:

"(a) Neither the Communist Party nor a branch thereof may be or become affiliated with the Australian Labour Party.

"(b) No member of the Communist Party may be, or become a member of the Australian Labour Party."

On February 16, 1928, the Party's Federal Executive further ruled: "That individual members of the Australian Labour Party are prohibited from advocating the policy of the Communist Party." In this latter aspect the original resolution has been from time to time endorsed or amplified, and, in 1937, the Executive further agreed to prevent any member representing it, or speaking in its behalf at any meeting under the auspices of any organisation at which a representative of the Communist Party—or even an auxiliary of the Communist Party—had been invited to speak. So that, whatever success may have attended the Red efforts with individual trade unions, they have made little headway with the political party to date. But, of this, more anon.

The persistence of the Reds in creating subsidiary organisations is shown by the fact that, prior to 1939, the following might have been listed in that category:

- The Friends of the Soviet Union.
- The International Class War Prisoners Aid.
- The Christian Socialist Movement.
- Spanish Aid Society.
- Unemployed Workers' Movement.
- The Young Communist League.
- Militant Minority Movement.
- The Young Pioneers.
- Society for Cultural Relations with Soviet Russia and the League against War and Fascism, and International Peace Congress as mentioned.

Besides these, a number of other societies (formed by citizens who were definitely not members of the Communist Party) obligingly advocated various Red policies. The advances made through these various bodies were seriously jeopardised in August, 1939, when the Russo-German Pact astonished the world, and the outbreak of the Second World War a few weeks later dealt a sudden and heavy blow to the Communist Party, which was apparently caught completely by surprise by Moscow's change of front.

Its members, however, despite the obvious and painful difficulty they experienced in explaining the international situation, continued their meetings, etc., although most of their subsidiaries collapsed, until June 15, 1940, when the Commonwealth Government declared the party to be an illegal association.

Since that date, of course, there have not been any Communists in Australia!

CHAPTER II.

THE SURRENDER TO FASCISM

"We have always held that a strong Germany is an indispensable condition for a durable peace in Europe." (M. Molotov, as reported in "The Guardian" two months after war commenced—November 7, 1939.)

SMOKE SCREEN.

Since the war has provided the Reds with their principal source of propaganda for the past three years, it is useful to contemplate the many declarations of leading Reds in relation thereto, prior to the entry of the Soviet Republics into the war on June 22, 1941, and subsequently.

This is, of course, at the moment, a rather delicate subject.

Hitler, in deliberately attacking Russia on that date, not only provided himself with a problem which he is finding extremely difficult of solution; he also provided the Reds with a theme which is being exploited to the utmost. The enthusiastic press despatches, and the fervent speeches of professors, parsons, politicians and others, in many instances have composed smoke screens behind which the utterances of other days may comfortably shelter. In fact, in many quarters, where formerly Red policy was emphatically foreign and subversive and only worthy of the greatest condemnation, it is no longer considered to be "the thing" to be even mildly critical.

When talking to a journalist friend, who might be fairly described by the preceding remarks, only a few days ago, I ventured the suggestion that the latest speech of a well known Leftist—filled, as it was, with mouthings about "the maximum of production"—was rather amusing when compared with his acknowledged deeds of eighteen months ago. The reply I received was typical.

"Don't you think that that remark is unfair, seeing the manner in which the Russian Communists are fighting for us?"

RUSSIA MUST BE HELPED.

Well, I yield to no one in my desire to see the victory of Russian over German arms. It seems to me a matter of cold logic that, disregarding the manner of entry (which, for this purpose, is beside the point), Russia's defence forms an integral part of the Allies' structure for victory. If Russia smashes the Axis forces, our position, at least, will be much easier. Conversely, if Russia is defeated, our position will be much worse, although not, as some would have us believe, by any means entirely hopeless.

Therefore, as a matter of common sense, we must give all the aid we can reasonably give to the Soviet Government in its hour of difficulty.

I yield to no one, also, in my appreciation of the gallantry of the Russian resistance in Leningrad, before Moscow, in Sebastopol, before Stalingrad, and in many other sectors.

I regard the defence of Sebastopol as being worthy of comparison with almost any other single episode in the war, excepting, perhaps, the defence of the island of Malta.

LET'S BE REALISTS.

But all this does not prevent me from taking a realistic view of the situation.

Firstly, the fact that we are allied with Russia does not mean that we should condone all the happenings, in the past, in that unhappy country. It does not mean that, because the Communist Party dominates the Soviet landscape, we should permit it to dominate ours. To spoil a favourite illusion of our Red friends, I would remind you that of a total population in Russia of between 170,000,000 and 180,000,000, only about 5,000,000 persons are actually members of the party. This is the latest figure provided by the Kremlin, which formerly claimed 3,000,000 party members.

So, it is fair to state that ninety-seven out of every hundred Russian soldiers, sailors and airmen are not Communists, no matter how subject to the party they may be. The 5,000,000 party members certainly provide the Government, the leaders of industry and commerce, the Army Commissars, and other notables, but alliance with the Soviet does not mean that we agree with, and will promote here, its form of Government or its beliefs—any more than our Chinese Pact should make us support Chinese totalitarianism, or the Kuo-Min-Tang, or the teachings of Confucius.

Our Red friends again would have us believe that the defence of Russia by the Russians, in such excellent fashion, is the result, and only the result, of the New Order produced by the ruling party.

I have often heard a pro-Left radio commentator insert the following in his address: "You have read, ladies and gentlemen, of the gallant struggle by the Red Army in the Ukraine. Why do the soldiers of the Red Army, mostly peasants from the Ukraine, and other parts, fight to the death for their homeland—fight as no other soldiers have ever fought before. Because, ladies and gentlemen, they have something to fight for. Because the Soviet collective farms have ensured to each of them, etc., etc. . . ."

But the plain fact is that the political complexion of Russia's Government has little to do with the Russian soldier's determination to fight and die, if need be, for his homeland.

RUSSIANS MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS.

This has always been his reputation. One hundred and thirty years ago, in the Czarist regime, a combination of undaunted heroism and an effective "scorched earth" policy almost destroyed a mighty Napoleonic host, and began the ruin of the French Emperor.

Does anyone who lived through the last Great War need to be reminded of the squandered, but almost incredible, bravery of the ill-led, badly equipped Russian armies on the Eastern front, a bravery which twenty Tannenbergs could never efface.

If it is an argument for Communism that the Russians have held out in this war for over a year, is it not an equally valid argument for the Czarist despotism that in the last war these same Russians, with the worst possible equipment, held out for more than three years.

Although Australian Reds would have you believe differently, the Soviet Government is itself aware that Communism is not the correct appeal in Russia to-day.

I have read several of Joseph Stalin's pronouncements, and I have not seen one which asked the men of the Soviet Army to fight **only** for the Soviets.

I have certainly read several which were indistinguishable from those of Mr. Winston Churchill, as an appeal to members of the armed forces to fight for hearths and homes, for the land which bore them.

Mr. Paul Holt, the "Daily Express" correspondent at Moscow, in a despatch published on Friday, August 8, 1942, writes: "The keynote of the Soviet's morale to-day is not Communism—what is driving Russia to the limit of its endurance to defeat the Germans is patriotism. The Russians measure their conduct by the fact that millions have died and millions are suffering for the great privilege of being Russians.

"The Government has gone deep back into Russian history to give the people this comfort.

"The most popular opera now running in Moscow is built around Catherine the Great's General Suborov. In the last scene, after singing a warning that Napoleon will raise the menace of Holy Russia; Suborov kneels and kisses a yellow silken flag on which is embroidered the double-headed black eagle of the Czars."

In a rather naive reference to the Russo-German Pact in a bulletin named "Action," issued in Coburg (Victoria) on September, 1941, Mr. M. Blackburn, M.H.R., who has pronounced Left views, explained the general position as follows: "It is now quite clear that Russia was doing her best to keep out of the war on any terms but those of becoming Germany's tool, servant or ally. It is now quite clear that Germany understood this, and that her anxiety about Russia kept immobilised upon the Russian frontier a vast force, which, if liberated for use in the West, could probably have mastered Britain. Russia was really helping Britain and hindering Germany. It is quite true that Russia's policy was, and is, determined by her own needs. In defending herself she fights for her own soil, her own great achievements, and her own greater future."

If you add, therefore, to the great personal bravery of the Russian soldier and the patriotism of the Russian citizen (a patriotism largely provoked by the ancient hatred of the national enemies of Russia) these items:

- (a) The fact that the Russian Army is one of the largest the world has seen;
- (b) the enormous area of Russia;
- (c) the concentration of effort upon Russia's war industries, under the several five-year plans;

you will discover reasons, other than Communism as such, for the Russian resistance.

BEFORE JUNE 22.

But to return to the point I made at the outset, it is useful to contemplate the declarations of Australian Reds on the present war, from its outbreak in September, 1939, to June 22, 1941. Declarations made, mark you, during the period when Poland, Holland, Belgium, France, Greece and other nations were being ravished, and British non-combatant men, women and children were being slaughtered in the most ferocious civilian war-time attacks on record. It is useful for at least two reasons. Firstly, because they demonstrate just how much respect the Reds had for the Liberty and Democracy we were fighting for, and how helpful they were generally to the cause. Secondly, because they assist us to properly assess the worth of current Red protestations.

RED PAPERS.

Let us commence by examining the pages of Red periodicals published in this country. Prior to the proscription of the party (half way through 1940) it published a bi-weekly paper named the "Guardian." On November 7, 1939, a special edition of this paper was issued for the purpose of giving the widest possible publicity to a speech by M. Molotov, which contained these comforting statements,

" . . . But there is absolutely no justification for war of this kind. . . ."

"It is therefore not only senseless, but criminal, to wage such a war as this for 'the destruction of Hitlerism' camouflaged as a fight for 'democracy' . . ."

"Thus the Imperialist character of this war is obvious to anyone who wants to face realities and does not close his eyes to facts. . . ."

"One can see from all this just who is interested in this war, which is being waged for world supremacy. Certainly, it is not the working class . . ."

"This war promises nothing to the working class but bloody hardships and sacrifice. . . ."

This speech was described by the paper as a "brilliant analysis of the international situation by one of the foremost thinkers in the working-class movement to-day."

All the articles subsequently published in this paper and in the other party periodicals concerning the war were in the same strain—until the party was proscribed, when these papers "ceased publication."

Strangely enough, other journals of similar make-up made their appearance after this event, and, strangely enough, these claimed to be the organs of the Communist Party. Any discerning citizen would know that this latter claim could not be correct, since the party was no more, but, nevertheless, these journals always presented the Red attitude on the matters which were discussed therein. Again, strangely enough, one of the principal of these was also called the "Guardian." The first issues of this paper were not printed, but roneoed; but later issues were printed. On page four of the edition of January 17, 1941, appeared an article on the political sympathies of soldiers in the Middle East.

The article concluded with this paragraph:

"Elsewhere in this issue of the 'Guardian' we publish facts about our troops in Egypt, amongst whom the Australian Communist Party is active, and with good results. They, too, are infected with the anti-war spirit.

"They are bitterly hostile to their reactionary officers, at the head of whom stands Blamey. (Here follows a most libellous statement.) . . . The Australian soldiers overseas are now realising that this is no war for democracy they are engaged in, but an imperialist war, and that their enemies are not the Italian or German soldiers, but the capitalists of Australia, Germany, Italy and Britain."

The "Guardian" printed on May 1, 1941, referred to the war as a "filthy imperialist slaughter" on page 2, and commenced its leading article with these words: "Twelve months ago the Communist International, in its May Day message, appealed to the workers of all lands to fight against imperialist war, which, it said, would increase their exploitation and bring only horror and suffering."

The "Pilot," also heralded as a Communist publication, of June, 1941, contained this invitation: "Australians, demand the return of our soldiers. Demand that not another man leaves these shores to fight in this boss's war."

RED "MARTYRS."

While the Menzies Government was in power, in 1941, Leftist bodies were greatly agitated by the detention of two admitted Communists, Mat Thomas and Horace Ratcliffe.

These two men had been arrested at Como, New South Wales, on November 26, 1940, and charged with being engaged in the production, teaching and spreading of illegal doctrines, and with committing many serious breaches of the National Security Regulations, while being members of an illegal association—namely, the Communist Party.

In accordance with the secret instructions issued to Communists, they conducted a hunger strike, and were promptly hailed as martyrs in the cause of Freedom by their colleagues and others. The agitation was so cleverly fostered, and so much public attention attracted to the case, that the then Minister for the Army, Mr. Spender, M.H.R., was compelled to issue a statement on July 21, 1941, explaining the Government's position. Mr. Spender emphasised that, in accordance with the tradition of Communist teaching, the hunger strike was being used as a political weapon, and an endeavour to secure public notoriety. He continued that "Ratcliff stated in his address to the court that he considered it to be his duty not to assist in the war, which he called an Imperialist War. Thomas stated, on oath, that he considered it to be his duty to struggle against the war. In the known actions and teaching of both men they were clearly inimical to Australia's war effort, and to the elementary security of the nation, and it was because they persisted in this attitude that they were interned." The Minister went on to say that "it was known to the authorities that even now the Communist Party in Australia, despite the alliance with Russia, was issuing secret instructions within Australia that Communists should work incessantly to bring about the eventual overthrow of constitutional government.

"Australians would be justifiably shocked and alarmed if they fully realised the Communist background of this case."

He added that both men had changed their opinions, in some respects, since Russia entered the war, but there were qualifications, and I will refer to this aspect later. Both of these men have since been released; each now figures prominently on Red platforms as one who was prepared to suffer and die for his convictions. (Exhibits A and B, so to speak.)

RED UNIONISTS.

An All-Australian Trade Union Congress was held in the Melbourne Trades Hall on June 2, 1941, and some interesting resolutions appeared on the agenda paper. For my purpose, the most interesting were those relating to the war submitted by four unions, each of which has a reputation for Red sympathies.

Now, Red collaboration in regard to conferences is generally distinguished by nice discrimination and orderly planning, but this congress was apparently one occasion when there had been some dislocation. Either that, or the members of the Hospital Employees' Federation, Victorian branch, and the Operative Painters and Decorators' Union, Queensland branch, are such kindred souls that, besides using the same

theme for their resolutions, they clothed their resolutions in language which almost word for word was identical. The resolution of the Hospital Employees sets out: "That the A.C.T.U. Congress declares the present war is the inevitable result of the increasing struggle of the rival groups who dominate the world's resources and markets. A continuation of this war means for the workers ever-increasing hardship and suffering. Victory for any of the capitalist Powers would mean the more complete subjection of the masses to imperialist exploitation in order that they alone might bear the huge cost.

"In its own interest, the working class must refuse support for the war and take its own measures to bring it to an end.

"Congress declares that the only way of achieving this is the overthrow of capitalism by the workers of all countries and the introduction of Socialism as the New Organisation. We, therefore, call on the workers of Australia to participate more actively in the present struggles for improved conditions, thus preparing themselves to play their part in the coming fight for a better world."

With the exception of a few words, as I have said, the "comrades" from Queensland thought of exactly the same resolution. These resolutions suffered the fate you would expect, but they are symptomatic.

And now, to complete the picture, for one or two statements by leading Left personalities.

RED SPEAKERS.

Two of the principal members of the Communist Party, prior to its proscription, were Mr. Ralph Gibson and Dr. G. P. O'Day. There was no equivocation about their speeches. Mr. Gibson, as the Communist candidate for the Collingwood (Victoria) State election, on March 16, 1940, had this to say: "The other parties all support the war. The Communist Party opposes it."

Dr. O'Day was nominated as the Communist candidate in the Corio Federal by-election, and he was equally candid in a speech delivered on February 12, 1940. "My opponents stand for war, for the interest and profits of the big financiers, for the death of thousands of Australians. The Communist Party stands for peace."

All of these statements and resolutions make it quite clear that the Reds were very definite in their attitude to the war during the period I have mentioned. . . . Not theirs to worry over the fact that the British Commonwealth of Nations was engaged in the greatest struggle of its existence, that tens of thousands of its bravest and best were pouring out their life-blood in defence of all that civilisation holds dear. . . .

. . . . Not theirs to worry over the fact that we were fighting the very evils against which their fulminations were always directed—Nazism and Fascism. . . .

. . . . Not theirs to worry over the fact that defeat meant the end of trade unionism, the end of collective bargaining, and the end of democracy, as we know it. Not only were the Reds responsible for hostile and insulting declarations, but they sabotaged the war effort by every means within their power. Strikes, go-slow tactics on defence jobs—anything else which could be calculated to hinder and not to help—these were the Red contributions to victory. These, plus the villification of public men who urged the nation on to its utmost. What a pleasant contemplation for the parents and wives, and brothers and sisters of our Australian lads who died over the English Channel, or in the deserts of Libya, or the hills of Syria! And yet these are the very people who to-day pose as patriots of the highest quality!

CHAPTER III.

THE HOLY WAR

"We are sometimes accused of departing from our Communist principles. What stupidity, what blindness! We should not be Marxist and Leninist revolutionaries, nor disciples of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, if we were not capable of completely altering our tactics and our mode of action as circumstances may dictate.

"But all the deviations and all the ins and outs of our tactics are directed to a single end—the world revolution."

(M. Dimitrov, general secretary, Communist International; p. 1846, Verbatim Report No. 39, Seventh Congress.)

THE GREAT ABOUT-TURN.

As I have more than once inferred, there has been a remarkable change of front on the part of the Reds since June 22, 1941. The war is no longer a "filthy imperialist slaughter"; instead it has taken on all the properties of the Jihad—the Holy War. We are no longer fighting to preserve the interest and profits of the big financier; we are now participants in a holy war to preserve democracy.

The former saboteurs are aping the alleged "reactionaries" and "jingos" of the early months of the war; and the forgotten men of yesterday have become the feted of to-day.

Incense has taken the place of insults; and reprimands for "slacking" the place of refusals to help. With some, the change came grudgingly; with others it synchronised with the first news of the advance of Hitler's cohorts over Germany's eastern frontier.

THE MARTYRS . . .

"Comrades" Thomas and Ratliff, of the Old Guard, found it difficult to spontaneously renounce the old way of life. In the statement, issued on July 21, 1941, by the Minister for the Army (Mr. Spender, M.H.R.), he said: "According, however, to the evidence of both men, they changed their opinions in some respects when Russia came into the war—that is, on June 22, which was after they had been interned, but this change, according to their own solicitor, was by no means a change of heart, but a change of their opinion as to the best method of obtaining their ultimate aim—namely, a form of society based upon that obtaining in Russia.

"Both objectors stated that they were still Communists."

No false modesty hampered the overwhelming majority of Reds in effecting the transition, however. Most of them promptly changed their platforms, with a sangfroid which should be the envy of every politician worthy of the name.

THE SPEAKERS.

Dr. G. P. O'Day, of "the Communist Party stands for peace" fame, made the plunge with an easy grace which possessed all the charm of a

totally unsuspected quality. The doctor addressed a meeting in the Royal Hall, Footscray, Victoria, on Wednesday, July 16, which was reported in the Footscray "Advertiser" of the following Saturday. The report said:

"Dr. O'Day asserted that, up to a fortnight ago, Australians had a feeling that there was something peculiar about the war, but now they knew the Soviet Union was in it to liberate the world from tyranny."

In a separate article, in the same issue, the paper made this comment: "A large attendance in the Royal Hall, on Wednesday night, enthusiastically demanded greater co-operation with Russia, 'which was liberating the world from tyranny,' and metaphorically cheered to the echo every reference to the Soviet Union—so many thousands of miles away.

"Yet, paradoxically—and tragically, too—almost without exception, those present have been unmoved by entreaties to help our own Red Cross or Australian Comforts Fund, both of which are rendering wonderful service to our fighters abroad."

So far as statements by leading Communists were concerned, perhaps the most striking evidence of the conversion was provided by Mr. J. D. Blake, who has never attempted to "hide his light under a bushel," and who has always openly professed himself a Communist.

In a pamphlet published by the International Bookshop Pty. Ltd. on October, 1941, he is credited with this effort: "There can be no doubt that the war against Hitlerism, which is now led by the Soviet Union, is the most just and honourable war which civilised humanity has ever been called upon to conduct. The war for the defeat of Hitler is now the supreme issue before the whole of democratic and progressive mankind." You will notice that the word "now" in the last paragraph is nicely placed, so that there can be no confusion about the distinction being drawn.

THE PINKS AGAIN!

The momentous June news did not only influence speeches. It galvanised into activity certain Red bodies which had been almost dormant.

In Sydney the Friends of the Soviet Union took on a new lease of life.

In Melbourne and Adelaide the Australia-Soviet Friendship League passed out of the poor relation class and in a short time became a wealthy and influential member of society.

In Brisbane, the Australian-Russian Association bestirred itself in an endeavour to prove that it was honoured by others than the Russian-Australians who composed it. Throughout Australia the movement gathered momentum.

Societies which had been born in obscurity, and which had, until then, lived furtive lives, mostly spent in dodging the provisions of National Security Regulations, suddenly discovered that the war was a noble thing and as suddenly commenced to hold meetings and congresses and to establish subsidiary bodies in the best form of pre-proscription years.

The friends of the Soviet Union held a well-advertised congress in the Sydney Town Hall on the week-end of August 30-31, 1941. I am almost guilty of redundancy in writing "well-advertised," because any Red moves which are calculated to find favour with the general

public are always well-advertised. I have often been intrigued at the simplicity of the editors of some of our daily press organs in this respect. A number of them appear to be able to find space for the most trivial Red announcement, while important statements from the authoritative sources are abridged.

The congress agenda provided a most imposing list of speakers. As with the now-forgotten International Peace Congress, there were churchmen, professors, politicians, trade unionists, and doctors of medicine and others. There were business men and football League officials. There was even a radio announcer from one of Sydney's commercial stations.

With unconscious irony, the committee had bracketed him with a learned professor to discuss "Cultural Relations with the Soviet." Appropriately enough, this announcer conducts the children's programme from his station.

Following the usual tactics, as a necessary preface to the congress, letters were sent to leading New South Welshmen, inviting them, alternatively, to be present at the congress, or to forward a message to it. Few generous people can resist such an appeal, a fact which the Reds always capitalise.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.

Encouraging replies were received from the State Premier, Mr. McKell, M.L.A.; Archbishop Le Fanu, the Church of England Primate for Australia, and many others. Where possible, these were forwarded to the press, as so much preliminary advertising. As a final master-stroke, the group of non-churchgoers, atheists and free thinkers who dominate such bodies, arranged for Canon A. H. Garnsey to open proceedings with a prayer.

The prayer was composed by the Australian equivalent of Britain's Red Dean of Canterbury, Bishop Burgmann. I can imagine the sincere reverence on the part of most of those present when the prayer was recited. Knowing how quietly devotional the average hardened Red can be, I would find it difficult to reject the suggestion that the Canon's effort was received by many half-suppressed sniggers. Amongst those presented with the alternative who, unfortunately, chose to be present physically, was Mr. Blain, M.H.R. Mr. Blain was a particularly welcome guest, since he was also a gunner in the A.I.F., but his remarks showed a complete lack of appreciation of the fitness of things. According to the "Bulletin" of September 10, he said:

"If any of you have studied the virile literature of Australian Communism, what a purge and reorientation of Communist outlook there has been in the last few months!

"Six months or so ago a drive for new Communist members was announced. Canvassers were told they would be credited three points for every new member obtained in armament or sea-carriage industries, but only one point for others. This, it was explained, was in accordance with Lenin's slogan, 'Every mine, factory and workshop a fortress of revolution.'

"Now, those Communists have ceased trying to turn 'Imperialist war' into civil war. Now they want co-operation in that same 'Imperialist war.' They have stopped urging war-workers to strike. They are willing to co-operate with capitalists.

"Why shouldn't we co-operate with them? They seem to have made great sacrifices of principle. Some time ago, for example, one of the text-books described Anglican bishops—I trust his Grace and Bishop Burgmann will not think my references indelicate—as 'holy rollers

jumpers and crawlers, purveyors of religious opium.' But to-day I seem to see on their shining faces expressions which presage osculation rather than liquidation when their gaze rests on a prelate or a lord mayor."

You may be sure that his was the only speech delivered in this strain, and you may also be sure that he had had his one and only invitation to such a congress.

These were not the only distasteful remarks for which Gunner Blain was responsible. At a recruiting rally on the Sydney Domain on September 14, he said that recently he had attended a public meeting called allegedly to aid Russia. On the platform were men of eligible age who were deep in the Communist Party and subversive propaganda last year. "When I said at that meeting," he added, "that it was always part of the Australian Communist creed that the British Empire was rotten, men of eligible age shouted, 'so it is!' There was not a good word of protest from the large crowd present, which afterwards gave an ovation to a Communist leader, who was recently punished by a court for a seditious offence."

THE OPPORTUNITY SEIZED.

Generally speaking, however, from the Red angle the congress was a huge success. It provided reams of publicity—a vehicle for the dissemination of all kinds of thinly veiled Communist propaganda. Because of the support of many prominent citizens—who never before having experienced Red duplicity and guile were very easy victims—it lent an air of respectability which enabled still further inroads to be made on the public confidence. Aid Societies and Red Cross Auxiliaries (with infinite tact the non-Christian counterpart—the Red Crescent—was side-stepped) were formed, and quickly flourished on the tender susceptibilities of the multitude. The State became a stump for the recently reformed, and much grist flowed into the mill, and has been flowing in ever since.

What has happened in New South Wales has also happened in other States. The Australian Russians in Queensland, and the Australia-Soviet Friendship Leagues of other States, have been holding congresses and conferences, meetings and demonstrations, concerts and appeals, in high style.

In Victoria the Australia-Soviet Friendship League was guilty of a slight indiscretion. It is the practice of these bodies, whenever general circulars are being issued, to have these sponsored by professional men or clerics, whose politics are innocuous. (You see the idea, of course. Some of those persons, whose support is desired, are timid, and the use of the names of well-known Communists would probably disclose the snare.) But the local Australia-Soviet Friendship League, in a sudden excess of enthusiasm, published a circular, modestly entitled "An Appeal from Leading Citizens," which was supposedly signed by the usual conglomeration—this time including, amongst a bunch of camouflaged Reds, several avowed spokesmen for Communism.

These included Mr. Ralph Gibson and Dr. G. P. O'Day, whose love for all things Australian has been so noticeable in the past.

This League held its conference on August 23, and the principal addresses were advertised to be given by Mr. Lloyd Edmonds, billed as an ex-member of the International Brigade; the ever-faithful Mr. R. Gibson, Mr. Ian Milner (Mrs. Ian Milner was later the secretary of the ill-fated Civilian Air Raid Defence Association, which was included

amongst the "slaughtered innocents," when the Curtin Federal Government banned Associations bearing such names as this, as being likely to prejudice civilian morale), and Canon Murray, who was to oblige with "Why Christian people should co-operate with the Soviet."

The objectives of these bodies were briefly stated to be: (a) The establishment of friendly relations with, and all possible aid for, the U.S.S.R.; (b) the exchange of diplomatic representatives and the development of trade between the two countries; (c) the removal of all restrictions upon the entry into Australia, and of all bans upon Soviet literature ("Soviet" reads better than "Communist"); and (d) the removal from all positions of influence in our national affairs of all persons who in any way disrupt Anglo-Soviet co-operation. (A touch of the O.G.P.U.)

There is no need to tell you that the judges of the latter would be the Reds themselves. In pursuance of these objectives, the members of these associations were just as zealous, inconsequential, flamboyant, illogical, shrewd, and contradictory as you would expect them to be.

FREEDOM—BUT NOT FOR OUR OPPONENTS.

Here are two examples of their work which are entitled to notice. A moving picture called "Comrade X." was shown in several of the State capitals.

It was a humorous portrayal of life in the U.S.S.R. and immediately provoked a howl of wrath in certain quarters. In Melbourne, the Australia-Soviet Friendship League expressed the opinion that the picture "should bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of every decent Australian . . . One wondered how the censor allowed this film to be released, and, as patriotic Australians, the proprietors of the theatre should immediately withdraw it from circulation." Neither the theatre proprietors, nor the Government, were moved in Victoria, although some local citizens, rather skittishly, suggested that the Australian Natives' Association should request the banning of "The Sentimental Bloke," the "Dad and Dave" broadcasts, and the "Ben Bowyang" cartoons, since, by the same process of reasoning as that adopted by the Reds, these could be considered offensive to Australians. In New South Wales the first shot fired found its mark—a considerate Minister banned "Comrade X."

The other example is provided by two letters addressed by the League to the Melbourne Trades Hall Council. The first, dated September 5, 1941, drew the attention of the Council to the ban on "Moscow News" and other periodicals, and asked the Council to help to have the prohibitions lifted. The second, dated September 9, 1941, referred to the Council's notice several articles, condemnatory of the Reds, which had appeared in the "Bulletin," and invited the Council to approach the Government with the request that the publication of such matter be prohibited.

You see, the Freedom that they screech about on the Sydney Domain and the Melbourne Yarra Bank is not the Freedom which you and I and tens of thousands of other Australians believe in: it is Freedom for Reds only.

OFFICIAL LABOUR NOT DECEIVED.

But while their energy, added to the present favourable circumstances, has certainly advanced their cause with many sections of the general public, there have been a few sections which have received their protestations with coldness. Foremost of these has been the

Australian Labour Party, which (as in pre-war days) has not been hesitant to express its opinion. A meeting of the Federal Executive of the party was held in Sydney on September 20, 1941, and the question of the "Aid to the Soviet" societies was thoroughly discussed. The Federal Executive consists of two delegates from each State in the Commonwealth, and each has had, naturally, wide political experience.

No band of neophytes—this—in dealing with Left movements, but a group of seasoned campaigners, well versed in all the tricks of the Red trade; and, above all, Australians.

The Executive carried this resolution, without a dissentient:

(a) This meeting of the Federal Executive of the Australian Labour Party calls public attention to the attempt of members of the Communist Party (to which our attitude is one of hostility) to capitalise for their own purposes the magnificent effort of the Russian people.

(b) Our attitude to the Communist Party's "Aid to the Soviet" meetings is one of warning and suspicion. We warn members of the A.L.P., those assisting Communist organisations, and the public generally, against Communist subsidiaries, which have purposes of their own to serve.

(c) We declare the Australia-Soviet Friendship League to be dominated largely by persons having political objectives contrary to the Australian Labour Party, and, therefore, no member of the A.L.P. can become, or continue to be, a member of the said League or other kindred organisation similarly dominated and retain membership of the A.L.P.

In carrying this resolution the Executive was influenced, no doubt, by the unequivocal statement made by Mr. George Gibson, the President of the British Trade Union Congress, when speaking at the conference held in Edinburgh on September 1, 1941.

In expressing a warm welcome to Russia as an ally, Mr. Gibson said:

"But this does not imply the least sympathy with the British Communist Party leaders, for the astonishing gyrations of these people have placed them in the lowest category in the esteem of the British working class.

"For them the war ceased to be an 'imperialist war' at 4 a.m. on June 22, and became a righteous one."

Notwithstanding these forthright declarations by Labour leaders, who really know the Reds, many of the dupes of the latter still insist that these bodies are entirely disinterested and non-political.

Let us read what another interested party has to say. In Melbourne, the Clothing Trades Union was one of the earliest supporters of the Australia-Soviet Friendship League.

The union delegate, a Mr. Smith, moved a motion favouring the lifting of the ban on the Communist Party at the meeting of the local Trades Hall Council on Thursday, June 25, 1942, and the "Labour Call" of July 2 reported his speech in this fashion: "Continuing, Mr. Smith said that if the ban was lifted, the Communist Party could function openly instead of having to work underground, a state of affairs which was not desirable in a country like Australia. He averred that the proof that the Communist Party was 100 per cent. behind the war effort was best judged when it was taken into account that the Australia-Soviet Friendship League had only recently raised more than £7000 for the food appeal."

And yet they say . . . Oh, well!

CHAPTER IV.

THE FIRST STEP

"The proletarian vanguard has been ideologically won over. This is the most important thing. Without this, we cannot take even the first step towards victory." (Lenin, "Left Wing" Communism, p. 72.)

WHY THE NEW SOCIETIES?

We have developed an intriguing position in the Commonwealth.

We now have numerous national societies promoting the cause of, and aid for, their respective countries. We have Chinese societies, officered and controlled by Chinese; Greek societies, by Greeks; Free French societies, by Free Frenchmen and women; Dutch societies by Dutch citizens, and Russian societies . . . by Australians.

It is true that these latter have succeeded in securing the assistance of a handful of Russian citizens; but these are more or less ornamental evidence—to be produced to convince the sceptical. It is also true that many of the people—Australians—who yell from the soap-box that we must send medical goods or fur coats or condensed milk to our gallant Ally, didn't lift a finger to help our own boys for the first twenty-one months of the war.

Now, what claims do the Reds advance for their Friendship and Aid associations?

Any of them, when questioned, will become exceedingly voluble about the matter. When you clear away debris, it appears that two prime claims are made.

Firstly, the associations are encouraging Governmental and public sympathy and support for Russia and dissipating many misunderstandings, and—

Secondly, they have gained much financial and other aid for Russia.

In order to assess properly the value of the first claim, we must examine the general attitude of Australians to our Ally. The impression the Reds are endeavouring to foster is that there is considerable public feeling against the Soviets, as a partner of ours in the war, and that this must be countered.

Discussing English-speaking people, Mr. Blackburn, M.H.R., at the Australia-Soviet Friendship League Conference, is reported by the Sydney "Sunday Telegraph" of August 24, 1941, to have said: "Some people prefer to see Britain allied with Russia; others would welcome every reverse that Russia suffered. Existence of that opinion is the reason for the League."

ARE THEY NEEDED?

In another part of this pamphlet I have indicated my personal views in this direction. I do not flatter myself when I write that they are undoubtedly the views of the average Australian. In fact, I have yet to meet one citizen who disputed these views, which I restate:

(1) Hitler's judgment was extremely faulty when he attacked the only European nation with a population and an army big enough and resources great enough to withstand his forces.

- (2) Russia's victory probably will mean our victory, and its defeat may be disastrous to us, as well as to the Soviet.
- (3) Therefore, we must exert ourselves to the fullest to send all the aid we can spare to our Ally to ensure his success.

There is also widespread and sincere appreciation of the valiant efforts of the Russian armed forces, and a unanimous disposition to contribute to the provision of any amenities which the Russian soldiers, or those of any of the United Nations, may need.

I have yet to meet a fellow-citizen, too, who is opposed to the institution of diplomatic and trade relationships with Russia, and we have been assured by Federal Ministers that the only barrier to these has been the apparent reluctance of the Soviet, a barrier which has been removed only recently.

I have never read one statement by any Australian publication, or by any Australian public man, which was not in support of all possible aid, etc., to Russia, and I would challenge the Friends of the Soviet Union and the Australian Soviet Friendship League and the others, to produce any evidence which disproves what I have written. As to the dissipation of misunderstandings, this plea covers a multitude of things to which I shall refer later.

In regard to the second claim, it is correct to say that these Leagues have raised money and goods for Russia, but it is also correct to say that the already existing societies, such as the Australian Red Cross, would have worked just as hard for the Soviet as for any other Ally, and, in fact, have worked as hard.

After all, those who have made contributions to appeals by the Leagues certainly would have responded as generously to the more official body. Despite this duplication and its commitments to other nations, the Australian Red Cross has sent more aid to Russia than its competitors, and enjoys the advantage of an expert transport staff and an established system, which enables it to be much more effective in forwarding supplies.

I have heard some bitter complaints by Red Cross workers about the Leagues "pushing their wares" to the detriment of other patriotic appeals. Any unbiassed observer must admit the force of this complaint.

THEY SUIT THE COMRADES.

But whether these Red claims are justified or not, there can be no doubt whatsoever about other claims which may be made for these bodies.

First, they are aiding the Reds to spread their propaganda without hindrance. Second, because of the sympathy of the general public with Russia, and the adroit exploitation of this sympathy, many more receptive audiences can be secured for this propaganda than was formerly the case. Third, by shrewdly capitalising the patriotic motive, personal and active support for Red objectives has been gained from the most unlikely quarters. Fourth, they have assisted the Reds to discredit their opposition.

In other words, they are a splendid "stunt," and the "stunters" are profiting daily. In almost every town or village of any size in this country, there is now a branch of one or the other of the Friendship or Aid Societies.

The branch members are always busy, either appealing for this or that fund—or distributing literature on some Red policy of the moment.

The Second Front agitation is a good instance of this work. Somewhere, in some part of the world, it was decided that a Second Front in Europe was necessary, in order to relieve the Nazi pressure on Russia.

SECOND FRONT—SUDDEN CLAMOUR.

Immediately the cry was taken up in England, and the Communist Party sent its emissaries up and down the island, urging the people to demand a Second Front. A meeting of 60,000 persons, in London, in July, 1942, chaired by a Communist, and addressed by the "Peace at Any Price" advocates of eighteen months ago, was part of the campaign. The agitation reached the United States and other Allied countries, to become the matter of the moment with Left politicians and publicists and the Communist Parties of the countries concerned. It reached Australia, where there is now no Communist Party. Instead of this party sponsoring it here, it was left to the Australia-Soviet Friendship League, the Friends of the Soviet Union and the others. They've done the job excellently.

Every branch—or where no branch existed—every agent, became an advocate of the proposal; inviting signatures to a monster petition to the Prime Minister urging his assistance, or circulating literature on the subject. Radio broadcasts were pressed into service, and meetings held wherever a few people could be assembled. In fact, the Communist Party was scarcely missed.

Mind you, the tactics have been first class. Not content with exploiting Russia's part in the war and the obvious loyalty of Australians, various tricks are utilised in order to work up local interest in Red functions. A favourite device is to promote a concert in a town-ship, and advertise that the bulk of the proceeds will be handed to the local patriotic society. Thus the co-operation of the local society will be guaranteed—and an audience assured.

Invariably during the concert some Red speaker will be introduced to say a few words on "What are the Soviet People Fighting For?" or "Our New Order," or some other subject which will permit the introduction of some comments on the "beauties of Communism." Not that the speakers will mention the overthrow of the Australian democratic system or any strongly controversial matter.

No! . . . that would be foolish. However great the temptation, it must be resisted; such a faux pas would only scare people away from future functions. Perforce, speakers must be content with a slighting comparison or two, and the usual reference to the almost heavenly conditions of living which impel "Soviet soldiers to fight much better than any other soldiers." That there is great temptation to go further than this is evidenced by the types of speakers usually employed.

WE GO ALL RESPECTABLE!

In a big majority of cases, including the capital city meetings, the speaker—or where there are several—the principal speaker is an ex-member of the former Communist Party, or a Left who has never been courageous enough to join the party, but has consistently played the party's game. The local mayor or shire president or a local clergyman is always asked to preside. There is an indefinable air of respectability given to the meeting if either accepts.

Preference is shown for one or the other, according to the subject chosen by the speaker, or the principal speaker. For example, there is

nothing nicer than a clergyman as chairman, when "The Christian Church in Russia" is to be discussed, particularly if, at the conclusion, he can be induced to help the cause along by making some such remark as that attributed to the Red Dean: "The things I want my Church to stand for lie behind what Russia has done."

Now, the average Australian is no more gullible than the citizen of any other country; but he suffers from the same failing as the citizens of every other country.

If a statement, made with the appearance of sincerity, is repeated to him over and over again he will begin to believe that "there is something in it," no matter how much his critical mind may have wished to reject the statement in the first place.

As a rule, his reasoning faculties are not highly trained. He goes to a meeting expecting to listen to about ninety-five per cent. of truth, with an allowance of about five per cent. for pardonable exaggeration.

Under present circumstances the major portion of audiences have had little or no experience of Left methods, and, in any event, the average man cannot conceive it to be possible that a speaker, at what purports to be a patriotic meeting, will deliberately present him with the mess of half-truths, suppressions and "romances" which make up Red propaganda. . . . And these factors are recognised and used to the utmost.

I have twice mentioned the "Comrades" Ratliff and Thomas. If these men had had their way as Communists we would have laid down our arms and submitted to the Axis Powers long ago—or our "imperialist" war would have been transformed into bloody civil strife.

But instead of this, they have been feted as apostles of freedom, and publicised as defenders of democracy, to such an extent that the man in the street vaguely connects them with Eureka or Magna Charta, and is almost entirely unaware of their true mission.

SENSATIONALISM, PLUS!

Many of our daily papers have assisted the process of illusion. With these, not only are Left writers and Left opinions at a premium, but from time to time ridiculous extravagances mar their columns. These occur, in particular, in some of the reports of "our Moscow correspondent." Our Allies are making an undoubted impression on all Australians, because of their dogged resistance to German attacks, and their vigorous counter-thrusts, but this impression is not helped, but rather the reverse, when a correspondent "lets his head go," as some of them have.

Here is a story, published in the Melbourne "Age" on August 1, 1942, in a description of a five-day battle: "One Russian trench mortar man alone killed 100 Germans and destroyed seven lorries, eight machine gun nests, and a mortar battery."

The Melbourne "Herald" printed this note on the fighting on the Bryansk front, on Friday, October 9, 1942: "Snipers in this area have been very deadly. They claimed in the last few days to have killed 285 Germans with 285 shots." I am afraid that I cannot accept the explanation of Red inaccuracies given by Mr. Ralph Ingersoll, the Leftist editor of the American periodical, "P.M.":

In a cable from New York on Tuesday, October 29, 1941, Mr. Ingersoll summed up a friendly criticism of communiques with these words:

"It is not that they lie consciously; it is that they dream so intensely that their dreams have reality for them."

I am more inclined to accept the view of the journalist, Mr. Geoffrey Tebbutt, who, in a similar discussion on November 27, 1941, wrote: "But, out of this war, experience is that no misfortune drops with a duller thud upon public morale than that which has been preceded by claims of fabulous slaughter of an enemy who, nevertheless, keeps coming on."

Yet, I am not so much concerned with these extravagances as I am at the ready acceptance of articles which deftly promote the Red angle, whenever suitable material is being dealt with. I wonder what some of the directors of certain of our newspapers would say if a proposal was put forward to open their columns to, say, articles praising political Labour. I am a poor judge if their replies would not be unprintable.

Some of our radio commentators have also entered the game. One Sydney announcer goes out of his way to introduce Red propaganda whenever an opportunity presents itself.

These things, joined with the general desire to help an Ally and the existence of bodies which were formed to exploit every favourable opportunity which presents itself, have given prospects to the Reds which they have never previously possessed in this country. Nor do they rely solely upon positive action: upon speeches, radio talks, press articles or pamphlets which describe the glorious palaces in which the workers are supposed to live in the Soviet Republic—or the splendid creches which are provided, so that mothers of families may be able to work in a factory unconcernedly . . . in order to better their political position.

OPPONENTS CRUSHED.

They place almost as much reliance upon negative action. Negative action, which largely consists of providing a label for those unhappy people who still insist upon differentiating between supporting Communism in Australia and Russia as an ally.

The label is generally that of "Fascist." Dare any inquisitive citizen rise and ask a pertinent question at an "Aid" meeting, there are scowls and whispered mutterings of "Fascist." Should a local citizen query the presence of Communists on the "Aid" platform, he is "attempting to divide the people in their war effort"—he is doing the work of Fascism.

If a public man does not smirk his assent to every puerile Red suggestion, he is a fifth columnist for the Fascists. I have before me a set of Speakers Notes, issued by one of these societies. On page 3, under the heading, "The Fifth Column," there are several paragraphs which contain the "information" that there are men in high positions in Britain and in Australia who do not want the Soviet to defeat Nazi Germany. The stand to be taken by Red speakers in this connection is succinctly indicated in these lines: "Some of these people are aiding Hitler. They continue to slander the Soviet Union. Actually some statements that have been made clearly warrant action under the laws of the State. Often they carry on their work under an anti-Communist smoke screen.

"We have a duty to expose and isolate them. The statement made by the new British High Commissioner, Sir Ronald Cross (he is reported to have told interviewers on his arrival in Sydney on July 17, that the

Russian system was hated throughout the length and breadth of England, and only a tiny minority thought it better than a dictatorship) should be recalled. It should be pointed out that this was his first public utterance in Australia. Remember, too, that Mr. Menzies hastened to spring to his defence when Mr. Hughes criticised him."

So that the British High Commissioner is distinguished by being regarded as worthy of State action. At least one of these Leagues has demanded his withdrawal as a preliminary.

No, even taking these bodies at their own valuation, their formation was, and their continuance is, entirely unnecessary.

There can be no gainsaying the aptness of the remarks of the Prime Minister of New Zealand. "Those advocating or holding meetings proposing further help to Russia are simply trying to force the already open door. I am quite certain that the United States Government has taken the same attitude as Britain and is doing everything possible to help.

"Neither the United States Government nor the British Government nor any British Dominion requires any urging to help Russia, or any Ally. Strategic and tactical considerations make it essential that Russia should be aided."

Actually, their attempts to confuse aid to Russia with support for Communist doctrines harms the very object they claim to be working for.

But whether it is harmful or not, it is essential to the real purpose that this confusion should exist. No thoughtful person with experience of Red tactics doubts that, with the principal and most influential members, the Friendship and Aid societies are mainly vehicles for Red propaganda.

And to those members the attitude of Australians who value their free institutions and their family life should be that emphasised by the British Prime Minister.

Replying to the lone Communist member during a debate in the House of Commons on September 11, 1941, Mr. Churchill said:

"I am not prepared to receive guidance from a member who notoriously has to change his opinions whenever he is ordered to do so by a foreign body."

CHAPTER V.

THE RADICALS

FELLOW-TRAVELLERS TO MOSCOW.

I have said that the Reds are gaining support from the most unlikely quarters.

Perhaps I should have added that this is no phenomenon, but there has been a vast increase in this patronage in recent months. Those to whom I refer are not in the fold, but hover around the fringe, and like to be called radicals. Thus we have radical bishops and barristers, radical parsons, radical politicians, radical medical men, radical military men, and—just radicals. Since most of them are citizens of considerable standing, they are very useful adjuncts to the cause, because they remove it from the Domain (when it is deemed necessary) and obtain a hearing for it in Pott's Point and Toorak. They dress Communism in the clothing of respectability, and help to make it agreeable to that mysterious section of the community known as the "intelligentsia," that section which decided long ago that, unless a man has a university degree, he is unable to think. Many could recite "Das Kapital" backwards, others know little about Karl Marx, beyond the fact that he was probably a member of a family of notable American theatrical personalities.

Communism is not the only child which the radicals have fathered. Included amongst a numerous family have been birth-control, the elimination of the unfit, and "easier" divorce laws.

The radicals are always great "reformers" while they are radicals, but, in due course, large numbers become conservatives. However, this is by the way. There are three distinct types of radical—the fashionable, the romantic, and the convinced. It is from the first two that the ranks of Conservatism are generally recruited.

THE FASHIONABLE.

The fashionable radical is he who "adopts" any movement which seems to be capable of granting the boon of publicity to its adherents, and which might be considered bizarre or unusual. There is a singular attraction in being picked out amongst your fellows as the devotee of a newly-discovered cult. There is satisfaction in going to a meeting to be cheered by people, when you have never enjoyed the experience previously.

There is a peculiar thrill in seeing your name advertised as an associate of persons whose reputations are just a little "wicked." These are largely the reasons why some clergymen and some politicians, and many others, lend their support to the Reds at the moment. Some of the politicians, with poor discernment, imagine that because the Reds shout louder than anyone else (and there is no doubt about their shouting ability), and because they are very abusive to opponents—and they don't appear to have much opposition these days—it is safer to agree with them than to disagree. And so they help the Reds, these radicals, since the Reds are very fashionable.

They have selected Communism with the same nice discrimination as the frivolous female exhibits in selecting a new hat. It looks well, will bring distinction to its wearer and probably envy from others . . . and, as soon as the novelty wears off, will be discarded without a qualm.

THE ROMANTIC.

The romantic radical is a man of the same colour, but a different type. He is an omnivorous reader of books, especially those published by the Left Book Club and other Left organisations. He is comfortably placed, and fully conscious of the fact that Communism is synonymous with revolution. But though he has everything to lose (except chains), he cheerfully accepts the possibilities of the future, confident that, whatever happens to anyone else, he will be safe. He will be a kind of Citizen Egalité in the new State, and will go down to posterity as a leader of the oppressed. Because of his present support, there will be a place of honour for him in the future. He is frequently a snob, who prates of the wrongs of the working class, but treats his own employees as no better than the dirt beneath his feet.

He is too certain of himself to think that he could be used as a tool by his newly-found friends. Too certain of himself to think that, if a revolution ever did distress Australia, his would be the fate of his class in Spain, Hungary, Mexico, and the other countries which have been through their vale of tears. He has probably never read the bitter complaint of ex-radical Premier Lerroux, writing, during the civil war, of the fate of Spanish radicals who, in pre-war years, had flirted with the Reds.

"There are many of whom nothing has been heard, and of whom one fears to have tidings. In the city and province of Valencia, not only the radical deputies have been murdered, but in certain villages all the members of the Radical Party have been exterminated. At Malaga and Alicante the radicals were literally hunted down. The blood toll taken of the Radical Party in Spain is far greater than that taken of the Church, and, perhaps, than that taken of the Civil Guard, which was so savagely sacrificed."

No, if Communism ever develops the turmoil and tumult of a revolution for us, there will be no chances taken by the Communists.

THE CONVINCED.

The convinced radical is of a different calibre. He sincerely believes that Communism is a spontaneous people's movement; that it is essentially a democratic movement, that it is striving for a New Order of all things, economic and social, which will bring peace and contentment to the multitude. I, as sincerely, disagree with each belief.

Communism is, first and last, a political movement, which aims at the complete destruction of modern society and its replacement by a condition of affairs where the Communist Party will rule as a dictatorship, mainly for the benefit of members of the Communist Party. In Australia its members talk and write glibly of the wrongs of labour, and, as a matter of securing mass support for their doctrines, they assert themselves in all workers' organisations. The Programme of the Communist International says (on page 76): "When revolutionary enthusiasm is non-existent, Communist parties should use the daily needs of the workers as a basis for partial objectives and demands, which should be linked up with the fundamental objectives of the Communist International." The type of cant they employ is illustrated by the first few lines of their Leaflet No. 1 issued in connection with the 1937 Federal elections. "The policy of the Government has favoured the rich against the poor."

"High prices, enormous profits, low wages, bannings and censorships have raised the anger of the masses against it."

But discussing the wrongs of labour is a different matter to attempting to right those wrongs, and I have yet to learn of a single instance where, prior to its proscription, the Communist Party took the lead in securing a concession of any real value to the people.

AUSTRALIAN PROBLEMS IGNORED.

And, since the proscription, I have not known of any of the Red societies concerning themselves with anything in this direction. They have agitated for a Second Front, for the removal of bans upon Soviet literature, and for the release of detained Communists. Their members have talked loudly of the control of society by "the working class" and freedom and democracy, in the abstract. They have issued pamphlets by the million on each of these matters. But I would be surprised if a Red could show me the report of one speech, or a copy of one pamphlet, solely devoted to the need for better social services, slum abolition or housing proposals, the conditions of rural workers, child endowment, or widows' pensions. On occasion, one or all of these may have been mentioned in a general statement to maintain the pretence of concern for them, but, if this has been so, they have only been utilised as so many means to a political end. Even when they have been paid lip service with every appearance of sincerity, they have been completely discarded when the political commissars have decided upon a change of tactics.

For instance, favourite Communist stalking horses for years were; "No conscription, no monopolies, no taxation on low incomes, and higher living standards." There has been a complete reversal of form in regard to these matters, a reversal which has dismayed many of the party's erstwhile supporters.

This was the subject of a striking lament in the journal, "Unity," published in Sydney by the Australian Boot Trade Employees' Federation on January 15, 1942. The article, headed "The Betrayal of the Left," says: "During times of international crises one can expect many drastic changes in policy on the part of governments, political parties, and individuals; but, generally speaking, such changes are more or less changes of approach to the various problems which arise from time to time. It is seldom that one finds a complete change which not only registers an entirely different outlook to the particular crises, but which also prepares to allow every principle upon which an organisation is allegedly built to go by the board.

"Yet such is a fact in the case of the Communist Party, its leaders and its supporters. Where formerly the Communist Party could be recognised as a militant organisation, prepared to fight for the workers, we now find that organisation competing with the profit-making jingoistic element in our community to prepare the workers for wage cuts and higher taxation. . . ."

"To-day the Communist Party has gone from ultra Left to reactionary Rightism. . . ."

Then, after detailing instructions issued by the party, the article goes on:

"Here we find the Communist Party quite brazenly instructing its members and supporters:

- "1. Not to oppose conscription;
- "2. Not to advocate the nationalisation of monopolies;
- "3. Agree to further taxation being imposed upon the workers; and
- "4. Agree to the lowering of the standard of living of the workers."

On page 13 of the same journal, Mr. L. Aarons replies to this contention, on behalf of Communists.

Characteristically, this reply is devoted to international politics. The name of Australia is scarcely mentioned—and its problems not at all.

THE POLICY OF CLASS HATRED.

The leading part taken by Reds in industrial disturbances has often been advanced as proof that they are considerate of the workers' best interests. It is said that because they induce the employees at some establishment to strike for better conditions in some direction or another, and the strike is as successful as any strike may be, that this is evidence of their desire to help the under-dog. But it is not the achievement of better conditions which counts with the Communist: it is the strike itself, for which any objective, spurious or real, is sufficient. The strike is "the thing" for two reasons—firstly, because it helps to foment class bitterness, and secondly, because, if it is prolonged, it will tend to bring about that state of hopelessness and despondency, which is the party's hunting ground. For the Communist seeks not peace and well-being, under the existing scheme of things.

The contented citizen is not a good mark, as a rule, for the party's propaganda. It is when he, or his family, is ill-clothed or ill-fed, that revolution appears to be a roseate solution of difficulties. That is why Red strike leaders are never prepared to negotiate a settlement while there is any prospect of the strike continuing.

COMMUNISM VERSUS DEMOCRACY.

Red mouthings about democracy are scarcely entitled to be considered seriously.

The whole set-up of Communism is undemocratic, as is its general policy.

There is no open membership, as with other political parties.

Members are admitted by the junta in control, and only after keen scrutiny. Actually, outside of Russia "membership" in the ordinary sense is non-existent, since each person admitted is expected to be an organiser for the party, or a leader in some special activity. According to the American "Time," the membership of the English Communist party grew from 20,000 to 53,000 in the first few months of 1942. Not many in a population of millions, but when we reflect that this means 53,000 organisers, each with his or her own circle of disciples and followers, each of whom, again, has a sphere of influence, we gather some idea of the party's mammoth reach. It is because of this system that a mere recital of the party's numbers, without further explanation as a guide to its power (an argument used so frequently by its apologists) is worthless. When the Spanish Republican Government was completely dominated by the Communists, there were only three party Ministers in it. Again, party leaders are not elected by the membership, they are appointed by the ruling Executive. There never yet has been a Communist controlled country with a democratic constitution.

CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENT.

Parliamentary Government, as we reckon it, is not recognised by the Reds, as, with them, there can be only one party; and only one opinion is permitted to be expressed. Lenin has devoted many pages

of his pamphlets to his views of the future of Parliaments, and provides a fair sample on page 43 of "Left Wing Communism." "It has been proved that participation in a bourgeois-democratic parliament even a few weeks before the victory of a Soviet Republic, and even after that victory, not only does not harm the revolutionary proletariat, but actually makes it easier for it to prove to the backward masses why such parliaments deserve to be dissolved, facilitates their dissolution, and facilitates the process whereby bourgeois parliamentarism becomes 'politically obsolete.'"

Then we have the famed New Order. In the Communist State this means only one thing—complete subservience to the super-State. It means the absolute loss of individualism, of modest property rights, of our citizenship as we know it. It means the abolition of religion, the right of free discussion, and an unfettered judiciary. It means the dictatorship of the so-called proletariat, and if a definition of this were needed, it has been supplied by the chief architect of the Communist edifice on page 441, volume XXV. of his Collected Works: "The scientific concept, dictatorship, means nothing more nor less than power which directly rests on violence, which is not limited by any laws, or restricted by any absolute rules."

Their New Order is a thing of secret police, mock trials (if you are fortunate), concentration camps and firing squads. A people in chains, and a new aristocracy of party members, ruling with a cruelty which the Black Emperor of Haiti would have scorned. Lenin declared that he had no objection to any number of parties existing in the Communist State as long as the Communist Party was in power and the other parties in gaol.

It suits the Communist who will reign in this world of New Order—but it is not to my liking—nor, I hope, to yours.

CHAPTER VI.

PREPARING FOR THE REVOLUTION

"Street fighting, aiming at the physical extermination of the enemy, should be absolutely without quarter. Any sign of human feeling from the proletariat to its class enemies during the armed struggle merely creates fresh difficulties, and may, if circumstances go against us, lead to the failure of the movement. The attack should be made by surprise, and all the leaders on the other side should first be assassinated, and all who might oppose the success of the undertaking exterminated." ("Armed Insurrection," by A. Neuberger, 1936.)

THE WAR OPENS DOORS FOR COMMUNISTS

In other chapters, I have attempted to describe the attitude of the Reds to the war—both before and after June 22, 1941—and their shameless political exploitation of the natural desire of Australians to support Russia, as an Ally, to the utmost. I have also inferred that this exploitation has been successful enough to create at least one of the conditions requisite to the establishment of a Communist State in Australia.

By this I mean that literally hundreds of thousands of our fellow-citizens have been taught to think kindly of Communism, and to regard it as the panacea for any particular community-disease which might be mentioned. Communism is no longer an Ishmael in this country and, strangely enough, it has been welcomed into many of the gilded palaces of the wealthy, as well as into many of the cottages of the poor, so strong are the influences of the moment. The finest home in the district in which I live is given over, periodically, for social functions designed to cultivate local support for the Soviet system. One of Australia's few reputed millionaires announced to an interested circle of friends the other day that he had received a charming invitation to lend his aid to a new Red venture, and had agreed to do so.

It is admitted that most of these people will be beseeching help to save them from their friends, should to-day's pleasant game develop into something more tangible—to-morrow.

It is admitted, also, that some of the active members of the Friendship and Aid Societies take no more than a dilettantish interest in the cause which they have espoused. But the exploiters, the purposeful, single-minded Reds, have no doubt about their ultimate objective, and push on relentlessly towards it. One has to debate the Sovietisation of this country with them, as I have done, in order to properly understand their fanatical zeal, their feverish energy.

Your modern Red is not only a dreamer—as was his predecessor of thirty years ago. He has certainly developed a new religion, for, having no other God, he has created one in the Communist State; but he differs from the Socialist of other times in that he is the personification of practical activity, working always in accordance with a set plan to help accomplish his end. The methods to be used to obtain that end have been well defined by scores of Communist leaders and at innumerable conferences.

In Australia, those methods are kept sedately in the background. They do not form subjects for discussion, except in the most exclusive

circles. Abroad, no such sense of modesty has hampered the leaders of the movement.

LENIN ADVOCATED MASS-VIOLENCE

Lenin—founder of modern Communism as we know it—has left many records of his implacable determination that the new State can only be achieved by the violent revolution of an armed proletariat. Many of his statements in this regard have been published, and, although they are all unambiguous, I think that those made in "The Revolution of 1905" are crystal clear. In a series of articles in this book, he recounts incidents in the "dress rehearsal" of the Russian October Revolution of 1917, and, besides drawing conclusions, very concisely lays down policies to be adopted by the future revolutionary proletariat of the world.

Here are a few extracts:

On page 32, as "the first lesson of the December events," he says: "The time has come when we must at last openly and publicly admit that political strikes are insufficient; we must carry on the widest agitation amongst the masses in favour of an ARMED UPRISING, and make no attempt to conceal this question by any preliminary stages, or by throwing a veil over it."

"To conceal from the masses the necessity for a desperate, sanguinary, exterminating war as the immediate tasks of future revolutionary action—means to deceive both ourselves and the people."

Page 35 contains this passage: "We must proclaim from the housetops the necessity of a bold offensive and armed attack, the necessity of exterminating at such times the persons in command of the enemy. . . ." On page 36, he asserts that "we must help them and our fighting detachments to obtain supplies of explosives, fuses and automatic rifles"; and, on page 46, "the task is to keep the revolutionary consciousness of the proletariat in a state of high tension and to train its best elements, not only in a general way but concretely, so that when popular ferment reaches the higher pitch, they will put themselves at the head of the revolutionary army."

These dicta have formed the basis of Communist activities in all parts of the world, but, as I have said, they have received little advertisement in Australia. The collection of arms and physical preparations for internecine warfare have not played a part in the general organisation of Communism in the past. But the Red never neglects chances. He is always ready to profit by circumstances, and these latter have created another condition—prerequisite to his millenium.

Australia is a combatant in another World War. This time, because Japan is an enemy, the threat is more personal and immediate than has ever been the case previously. To meet this possible threat, Government and people are feverishly collaborating in the construction of necessary defences. Manpower has been mobilised on an unprecedented scale, and distributed amongst either the fighting or productive services. Recruiting for the Australian Imperial Forces has been accelerated, and a sister army, known as the Australian Military Force, or the A.M.F., has been created.

WHITE-ANTING THE V.D.C.

Side by side with these armies, and strictly for home defence, a Volunteer Defence Corps has been enlisted from returned soldiers of

the 1914-18 War and men working in "protected" industries. These men of the V.D.C. are uniformed, and are trained in the use of, and equipped with, military weapons, so that, should Australia be invaded, many battalions of skilled, auxiliary troops may be able to reinforce the actual field armies. The V.D.C. is well controlled and efficiently officered, and I have no doubt, knowing the record and character of many of its members, would acquit itself with courage and distinction, if ever the unfortunate occasion arose. The more the pity, then, that the Reds should attempt to use so fine a force for their own purposes; for that, undoubtedly, is what is happening. Every effort is being made by the Communists and their supporters to infiltrate into the V.D.C., because membership means the possession of arms, and because rifles and cartridges are necessary to the future of the movement in this country.

In every factory or annexe where there is a Red employed, you may be certain that there will be a campaign in existence for enlistment in the Corps.

All pseudo-Communist publications are filled with appeals to "join up." Witness the "Guardian" of March 27, 1942: "The Australian people can determine whether they will, even at this late hour, prepare to assist the regular forces and extend the value of the V.D.C., based on the experiences of China, Spain and the Soviet Union. . . ."

"Let us be prepared. In addition to stronger armies and more modern equipment, the people must train and get what arms they can. The aim will be more effective defence and victory. Anyone who says the aim will be any other will sell out to the enemy, if he is not already an enemy agent.

"Because the Paris of the Commune (1871) was armed, the victorious German army was kept at bay. Because the Paris of 1940 was not armed, but deliberately disrupted by Reynauds, Weygands, Blums and Laval, not a shot was fired.

"Let us have the way of the Commune, China, Spain and Russia."

Wall-signs have already appeared in Melbourne bearing the inscription, "Arm the Workers."

THE GLOVES OFF

At a meeting held in the Ingersoll Hall, Oxford-street, Darlinghurst, a few weeks prior to the last statement being circulated, a Communist speaker was even more explicit when he said: "Therefore, it is in the V.D.C. that we must work. Naturally there will be many problems to be overcome, but they will be solved as the occasion arises . . . as in the past. To begin with, the V.D.C. is at present very limited in size; women are not eligible, and in many cases men working in essential industries are barred. In the past we have gained much useful experience by our activities in the trade unions, and it is in precisely the same manner that we should work to gain control of the V.D.C. Those of you who are eligible should immediately transfer to the V.D.C., while representation should be made for the remainder to be attached to their local bodies as auxiliaries. This would indirectly bring our women members into the movement also. This has been done at the Kuringi-Gai detachment, where the whole body was affiliated.

"A campaign is also to be conducted in factories for the workers to be trained and, if possible, equipped. All party members should convince their fellow workmen of the necessity for some practical training, and on obtaining permission from the shop manager should contact the local V.D.C. C.O.

"So, then, our policy must be to build up the V.D.C. . . . to broaden its constitution to cover all sections of the community . . . as well as factory and other organisations. And only by doing this will we achieve leadership."

Of course, this howl for the arming of the "people" always forms part of a patriotic tirade. According to Communist literature, they want a mass enlistment in the V.D.C., so that the Corps will become a strong defensive unit, capable of adequately protecting our hearths and homes against the invader. In a pamphlet recently issued by Mr. R. Dixon, for the Political Rights Committee (the name under which the banned Communist Party works), he writes: "We must inspire the people of Australia to still greater efforts and achieve national unity in the struggle." Further on, in the same pamphlet, he writes: "We want the V.D.C. organised in the factories; shop committees, workers in industry, should take this question and demand that they be admitted to the V.D.C., that they be trained in the use of arms and in the waging of war against the enemy who now threatens us. This will mean that we will succeed in:

- "1. Maintaining the production of war materials; and,
- "2. Training the workers, so that when the time comes they will be able to take their places in the struggle against the Fascist enemy."

All this, coming from people who, eighteen months ago, wanted us to sue for peace, or, in other words, to surrender to the "Fascist enemy," would be amusing, if such deep possibilities were not inherent in the proposal. It is true that the excellent citizens who officer the V.D.C. and compose the majority of its rank and file will certainly not tolerate the use of the Corps as a training ground for Communists, if this use can be proved. But the present mood of friendly interest in Communist matters will be exploited to the full, in an endeavour to prevent such proof being given. And the Reds have gone further than mere enlistment in already established Companies. A number of the most militant Unions have actually suggested the formation of special battalions of armed and trained union members, and, in one organisation, over one thousand members were actually recruited for the purpose.

What could be more useful than Red regiments, which, when the call came, would be able to march straight over, as one unit, into the ranks of their friends. That is, after any troublesome members, such as the officers, had been "taken care of."

But, with the Military Command this proposal is apparently suspect, since, although one such unit was actually recruited, after further consideration, the authorities declined the offer made and have not countenanced any such offer since. This setback has not deterred the Reds, however. Half a loaf is better than no bread, and the process of enlistment in the regular Corps goes on—and with considerable success. In view of our knowledge of Red tactics, how comfortable we should feel over this enlistment. As one friend remarked to me, "I know of no more re-assuring sight than that which I saw on last week-end—a bunch of tough-looking Reds hard at work practising the correct method of throwing hand grenades."

I have written that enlistment in the V.D.C. is open to persons employed in "protected industries." By some strange chance, these industries—munition works, aeroplane factories, and the like—are simply teeming with Reds, as every worker in them knows.

A FURTHER MENACE

Some of the great swollen unions associated with war work—such as the Iron Workers and the Arms and Explosives Workers Unions—are completely dominated by Reds, and include amongst their “paid officials” well-known subversive agents of the past. This provides a twofold danger. Firstly, it means that large numbers of workers, who were more or less immune to Communist propaganda, are now directly under its influence and will doubtless become—if there is no counter-action—in due course blind followers of the Party.

Secondly, it means a lessening of organised resistance to Communism, since this resistance in the past largely sprang from the smaller unions—many of which are now in grave danger of dissolution, since so many of their former members have been drafted into war work.

This condition does not operate only with munition manufacturing industries. The Allied Works Council has been charged with the job of constructing Air Force and Military establishments wherever they are needed throughout the Commonwealth. A large percentage of its impressed and “free” workers will be required to undertake building construction work, and will join the unions which cater for this. The majority of these are controlled by Communists or tools of the Communist Party, many of whom scarcely know a pick-axe from a trowel, but who, by dint of concentrated energy, have succeeded in worming their way into the foremost councils of the organisations concerned. In consequence of this position, the recruiting field is constantly widening, and the danger rapidly increasing.

As I stated, this latest move is paraded as a genuine attempt to improve the home defences of Australia. With some, this is probably true. But what of the fanatical supporter of Communism—and these form the vast majority of the Party’s friends—who now finds himself for the first time with lethal weapons and the ability to use them? He believes in violent revolution, and has been taught by a score of Red leaders that it is only by this means that the Soviet system will come to this or any other country. He has been taught even the methods of civil warfare; and, more than all else, he has been taught to regard those who oppose him—to use his own phrase, “on ideological grounds”—as class-enemies to be exterminated.

Sooner or later, before this war ends, or after its conclusion, it is probable that “Der Tag” will arrive and, if the Reds are armed and ready, even the politically inexperienced must be aware of the possibilities.

CHAPTER VII.

THE NEED FOR ACTION

THE AFTERMATH

“Red Spain is not a constitutional democracy. It is an inferno. Since last July (1936) some 350,000 non-combatant men, women and children, living helpless in that corner of the Iberian peninsula, subject to the rule of what is euphemistically called the Valencia Government, have been butchered in cold blood under conditions of indescribable horror.” (Arthur Bryant, historian, some months after the Civil War commenced.)

A SUMMARY OF COMMUNISM

In other pages I have explained, briefly, what Communism stands for.

In an interesting pamphlet, L. A. Toke has summarised the teachings of the Communist Party as:

- (a) That there is no God and no such thing as an immortal soul.
- (b) Therefore, there is no future life: as man differs only in degree from the animals, he has only his life in this world to live.
- (c) The individual man or woman, as such, is of no importance: only the community matters and everything is to be valued solely by whether it is useful to the community or not.
- (d) No individual, therefore, has “rights” against, or apart from, the community; he counts but as a cog-wheel in the State machine and can be “scrapped” whenever necessary.
- (e) No individual, therefore, can claim liberty, nor has he any “rights” to indissoluble marriage, to the control of education of his children, to the ownership of property, to worship publicly, to spread his religion, or to express his opinion on the policy of his rulers.
- (f) The ideal to be arrived at is a State in which all material goods are produced for and owned by the community, to be distributed by the State officials to all individuals according to their needs; in which all folk think alike in politics and in philosophy of life; wherein religion is disregarded as “the opium of the people”; wherein “right” and “wrong” are simply expressions for the service or disservice of the community; wherein men and women may be comfortable, but certainly not free.
- (g) In order to bring this ideal into being (though Lenin himself has admitted that “it has never entered the head of any socialist to promise that the highest phase of Communism will actually arrive”) all power must be concentrated, at any cost of compulsion, even by torture or massacre, in the “dictatorship of the proletariat”—i.e., the absolute rule of “the workers,” as directed and expressed by the Communist Party: all opposing or criticising bodies, such as Churches, or political parties, being swept out of the way; this dictatorship to continue so long as the Communist Party shall think it desirable.

MEETING THE THREAT TO LIBERTY

If this materialist philosophy is not to create a new and soulless regime in Australia, the citizens of Australia who reject its base imputations must bestir themselves at once. They must rally to the banners of the life they love and the hope they cherish without delay. By every word and deed they must assist to undo the harm which has been done to the standards of our civilisation by the propaganda which has been streaming forth in recent months, all directed to the one objective. If they do assist, they will find that the way is hard.

Communism has a long start, and, seemingly, commands a large section of press and radio, as well as the good-will of the unthinking. The present reward of opposition will be sneers and scowls—perhaps even worse. Carefully-fanned prejudice bursting into flame will tax their hardihood, and life will develop into a constant struggle.

Theirs may be even the path worn by the feet of the countless martyred heroes of other lands—the men and women who, having convictions, were prepared to offer their lives in an endeavour to uphold them. Because we must not underestimate the possibilities. Australia is a singular continent in many respects, but most singular of all in the fact that, until Darwin was bombed on February 18, 1942, war had never come to the country.

We had sent a small contingent of soldiers to the Soudan during the last century, and to the Boxer and South African Wars. Large armies of our sons had left these shores for the first Great War and the present War, many of them to leave their bones abroad; but no hostile, warring shot had ever reverberated through the land of the Southern Cross. Always excepting our lone struggle at Eureka, now a famous subject for metaphorical allusion by the non-Australians in our midst.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

To-day, invasion is a constant threat, but it is not the only one we have to face. Just as menacing is the threat of internal revolution, which is the logical outcome of the strivings of Communism. I do not mean a more or less innocuous coup-d'etat, during which the democratic system will be changed for a dictatorship. I mean an uprising of the type which forms so prominent a part of Red teachings, foremost in which is the tenet, "turn Imperialist war into Civil war." I mean a violent, bloody, terrible uprising, which will commence with the slaughter of those who still love the institutions their fathers made sacred. There will be many hands raised in a species of holy horror at such a notion, but the history of other nations should be a warning for us. All the symptoms are developing here which preceded the horrors of civil strife in other lands, and we cannot afford to ignore those symptoms.

I give another warning. All over the Continent of Europe Communist agents have been at work in their underground, white-anting way. Instead of supporting the democratic parties which were trying to get justice for the workers by regular steady advances, they worked to foment hatred and class-war. They poured bitter scorn on British labour leaders, on German Social-Democrats, as mere "reformists." They told the workers not to be satisfied with higher wages or better homes but to strike and toil for the "red revolution." . . .

And what happened? . . . In almost every country the red revolution came—in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Spain, Austria. The Com-

munists appealed to force, shot their opponents, staged street battles . . . to what end?

They brought down a terrible reaction of vengeance on the heads of the workers of these lands. The middle-classes grew angry and alarmed. They, too, took to bayonets and bombs. They formed shock-troops and blackshirt detachments; they massacred the brave but unfortunate dupes of the Communists; they destroyed their unions and smashed the fruits of decades of solid working-class effort.

The old saying is true: "Those that take the sword shall perish by the sword." Those who preach hate and follow the path of slaughter will perish by those very weapons. The surest way to bring the scourge of Fascism into our midst is to build up powerful and threatening forces of Communism here. The average Australian, who prefers his democratic rights to the wild promises of these totalitarian monsters, wants neither Communist or Fascist dictatorship.

In this new land we have erected an edifice of Freedom, Justice and Toleration, which we must never allow to be torn down. But torn down it will be in the day that is breaking, unless you and I and those who hold our beliefs are prepared to gird on our armour and enter the conflict before the dawn of that day glows red over the hill-tops.

