

MISSING LINKS *and* LIVING FOSSILS

by Edward Roux

THE newspaper publicity which followed Professor Smith's discovery of yet another species of living coelacanth (following the one landed at East London some years ago) has produced the expected crop of letters to the editors on the pros and cons of evolution. It is now nearly a century since Darwin published his "Origin of Species" and since biologists accepted the concept of evolution as a fundamental principle of their science. I myself have been associated professionally with botanists and zoologists for thirty years, during which time I have met only one who did not believe in evolution. He is now a lecturer at Potchefstroom.

The fact that all mention of evolution is excluded from the biology syllabus in Transvaal schools and that the public (even the literate public) is deplorably ignorant on the subject enables obscurantists of all sorts to get away with the most misleading statements. A common line of attack by the Fundamentalists is the claim that many leading biological experts themselves criticise the "theory of evolution".

To show that this claim is false one may take an analogy from crime fiction. In the ordinary detective story we meet, usually in the first chapter, with a corpse. Someone has been murdered and the problem is to discover the murderer. We are now presented with various conflicting theories as to how and why the murder was committed. The fun consists in trying to "spot" the murderer before the final *dénouement* in the last chapter when the whole matter is finally cleared up by the brilliant detective.

EVOLUTION HAS BEEN COMMITTED

The problem of evolution is very much like that. The 'corpse' is the body of accumulated knowledge about plants and animals, their structure and physiology, their growth and development, their methods of reproduction and inheritance, their fossils which are found in the rocks. From all these facts it becomes clear that organisms are related, some closely, some more distantly and that "descent with modification", i.e. evolution, has taken place. This view, that evolution has occurred, is comparable, in our analogy, with the fact that a murder has been committed.

To "explain" evolution various theories are put forward. As knowledge increases more experiments done and new fossils found, old theories are modified or abandoned and new ones formulated. The biologists continue to argue among themselves.

When a "leading authority" says that Darwin's views "have been discredited", he does not mean that scientists have given up the idea of evolution,

On the contrary biologists are more convinced than ever of the truth of evolution.

All it means is that biologists no longer accept in their entirety *all* the hypotheses which Darwin put forward to explain the "how" of evolution. It would be surprising if the intensive work of thousands of scientists during a century had left matters exactly as they stood in Darwin's time. Unfortunately there is unlikely to arise a "master detective" in the field of biology who will tell us in a few short sentences how evolution has taken place. The "explanation", when it does come, will be extremely complicated and technical, and, like other scientific theories, still subject to further elaboration.

From this it should be clear that there is a great difference between *the* theory of evolution (which is not really a theory but a fact to be explained) and *a* theory of evolution, which is an attempt to explain it.

There is also a good deal of unclear thinking about "missing links". "Descent with modification" implies that animals (or plants) may produce offspring which are different from themselves and which may become increasingly different in the course of millions of years.

LIVING FOSSILS

But some of the offspring may not change or may change very little, so that their modern descendants are the same or almost the same as some of their ancestors which lived a very long time ago. Such types are often called "living fossils". The coelacanth fish is an example of this.

Coelacanths have been known to zoologists for a considerable time, but only as fossils. Professor Smith has now shown that at least two species are still living in the Indian Ocean. It will now be possible to learn something of the internal anatomy of these creatures. In fossils it is normally only the outer structure of the fish which is preserved.

The coelacanths are particularly in-

teresting because they were probably closely related to, though not identical with, the group of fishes which gave rise to the first land vertebrates, from which all the higher vertebrates (back-boned animals) including man, are descended. The coelacanths have peculiar lobed fins which, it is believed, may have given rise to the limbs of land animals. They therefore constitute a "link" between the fishes on one hand and the amphibians (most primitive land animals) on the other.

Of the amphibians themselves much is known. Most of them exist only as fossils, but a few small living types still survive as frogs, newts and salamanders. All, both living and fossil, have fully-developed limbs.

Between the amphibians and the coelacanths there must have been other links, for it is inconceivable that the lobed fin of the coelacanth was converted into the proper limb of the amphibian at a single jump.

From this it should be clear that there is no such thing as *the* missing link. Zoologists can sketch in general outline the course of evolution from amoeba to man. Parts of the record are fairly complete, others very sketchy. New fossil discoveries, such as those of pre-human apes made at Taungs, Sterkfontein and Kromdraai by Dart and Broom, have helped to fill in the record. South Africa has contributed much during the last generation to bridge the gap between man and the apes.

It is interesting that Dr. Malan, leader of a party which includes prominently within its ranks an influential group which is working to impose the anti-evolutionary tenets of Christelike Nasionale Onderwys upon the country, should have played such a prominent part in securing the coelacanth for Professor Smith, so much so that the fish is likely to be named after the Prime Minister.

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The World Today

RED HERRINGS

by Ben Giles

J'ACCUSE! I accuse the ruling class of France! I accuse the militarists! It was the mighty voice of Emile Zola that rang out across the nineteenth century world, to strip the mantle of righteousness from the enemies of Captain Dreyfus, to expose the corrupting abyss of anti-semitism created by the rulers of France to assist their political aims, to divide and undermine the progressive opposition to French imperialism.

The mantle of Zola sits uncomfortably on the shoulders of a Tory party which raised no whimper against the anti-Jewish genocide of Hitler from 1931 to 1939. The cloak of fighter for liberty fails to disguise a State Department whose highest ethic is to use the atom-bomb "before they have got it." The speeches of sympathy and friendship for the Jews roll unconvincingly from the lips and pens of those who pardon Nazi war criminals and compensate Krupp suppliers of gas for the Jew-destroying chambers of Auschwitz.

It is the cloak of Zola which the "Atlantic Pact" advocates attempt to wear in their charges of anti-semitism, recklessly hurled against the Soviet Union. But the disguise fails. Zola fought against those who sought to use the Jews as a tinder-box to light the flames of aggressive war. He fought against those who, like Hitler, worked to arouse military frenzy and war hysteria by using the Jews as scapegoats. Had Zola lived, he would have fought the Nazis in 1931 — (not just in 1939 when they turned their armies West) — because by the incitement of anti-Jewish passions they were preparing the way for new aggressive wars.

And had Zola lived today, his voice would have been not with the U.S. State Department and the Tory Party, but against those in the West who seek to gather up the legions for a new aggressive anti-Soviet war, by recklessly hurling the charges of anti-semitism against the countries of Eastern Europe.

AWAKENING

Zola was no professional "friend-of-the-Jews" or defender of every Jewish Act. Zola was a militant, progressive fighter. So too the Soviet Government. Those who regarded the Soviet Government as professional "Jews-can-do-no-wrong" propagandists — (Hitler and Malan in their wilder moments both

professed to believe this essentially reactionary and anti-Soviet theory) — they have received a rude awakening. The Soviet Government, it now appears, like the Czech Government, regards Jews as citizens, indistinguishable from Slovaks or Russians or Georgians save for their culture, their religion, sometimes their language. And like Slovaks or Georgians, it is not inconceivable that Jews commit crimes up to and including the crime of espionage for a foreign power. And having been tried and found guilty, Jews are not exempt from the laws of the land.

This is the simple fact of what is happening in Czecho-Slovakia and the U.S.S.R. What then remains of all the wild and reckless allegations of anti-Semitism as a state policy now being peddled in the papers of the Western bloc, and most hysterically in the Zionist press? It remains only to be seen whether the trials which give rise to this outcry have been frame-ups, and whether the defendants have been charged with being criminals or with being Jews. In the Soviet case the answer is simple: the case has not been brought before the courts yet, the evidence against the accused is unknown, and charges therefore that the case is fundamentally anti-semitic is hysterical nonsense from the "Jews-can-do-no-wrong" theorists, or blatant, deliberate lying by those who will seize any stick, no matter how slimy, to beat the U.S.S.R.

FANTASY OR TRUTH?

In the Czech case, now completed, the verbatim record has been published in Czecho-Slovakia. The court was open to foreign journalists. Yet nowhere, in all the allegations of anti-semitism has there been a single journalist, scribe or Zionist leader who comes forward to challenge the evidence or the bias of the court. "Fantastic!" "Incredible!" "Lies!" This is all that the anti-Soviet

spokesmen can master to disprove the verdict.

Yet what is there in the Slansky case that is so fantastic? The allegation that Zionists in Eastern Europe can spy and have spied for the American intelligence service? What is fantastic about such a proposition? Zionists, the overwhelming majority of Zionists, are anti-Communist; they belong, as the Slansky indictment charges, to a "bourgeois nationalist" organisation, an organisation of a type (though not necessarily identical in character and policy) with the nationalist organisations of Ireland, India and South Africa, an organisation committed to the policy of establishing for the Jewish people a state in which they will rule, a capitalist state or a state moving towards socialism, the variety which the British Labour Party understands.

The Zionist organisation, in short, is opposed by its very being to the Communist ideas of the international brotherhood and unity of the working class against the bourgeoisie, and counters the Communist idea with the idea of the international, inter-class unity and brotherhood of Jews.

From such a clash of ideas and class interests spring the anti-Communist phobias and practices of Afrikaner nationalism. Can there be any grounds, other than hysterical, for believing that anti-Communist actions could not arise amongst the Zionists?

ESPIONAGE UNLIMITED

And if anti-Communism is possible, nay likely, why not espionage? Why not service for the U.S. Intelligence or M.I.5? Perhaps if principle forbids, hard cash will talk.

In 1951, the United States Government passed the so-called "Mutual Security Act". 100 million dollars were set aside for "selected persons *who are residing in or escapees*" from Eastern Europe, "either to form such persons into elements of the military forces for supporting N.A.T.O. or for other purposes." (My italics. B.G.). Wisconsin's Representative Kersten, moving the Act in the U.S. Congress, described it as "a method whereby the U.S. can render aid for underground liberation movements in Communist countries." And the same Mr. Kersten, in a letter to the U.S. representative at U.N.O. objecting to a portion of the U.N. Code which forbids the organisation of terrorist acts in foreign lands, complains that the code might prevent "... groups in this country, as well as our Government, from assisting in the liberation of peoples enslaved by the Communist tyranny . . . One of the

(Continued on next page)



Resolutions of the World Congress of

PEOPLES FOR PEACE

WE hold that there are no differences between states that cannot be settled by negotiation.

We call on the Governments of the Five Great Powers, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, the People's Republic of China, and France, on whom so largely depends the peace of the world; we call on them at once to start negotiating to conclude a Pact of Peace.

We call for all hostilities in Korea to cease immediately. While towns are shattered and blood flows, agreement becomes impossible. When hostilities have ceased, the parties will more easily reach agreement on the questions at issue between them.

The Congress of the Peoples for Peace proclaims the right of all peoples to self-determination and to choose their own way of life without any interference in their internal affairs, whatever motive be invoked in justification. The national independence of every state constitutes the essential condition of peace.

We protest against all racial discrimination which, an insult to the human conscience, aggravates the danger of war.

We have heard the reports on the use of bacteriological warfare and demand the adherence of all states to the Geneva Protocol of 1925. The great achievements of science must not become a means to destroy millions of defenceless human beings. At the same time we demand an absolute ban on atomic, chemical and all other means of exterminating civil populations.

We hold that the Charter of the United Nations offers a guarantee of security for all the countries of the

world, but this Charter is being infringed in spirit and letter. We urge that the People's Republic of China be enabled to take its rightful seat at the United Nations. We urge likewise the admission of the fourteen nations who have as yet been unable to raise their voices there.

We call on the peoples of the world to struggle for the spirit of negotiation and agreement, for the right of man to peace.

THE necessity of renouncing the use of force as a means of settling international conflicts becomes daily ever more urgent.

Six hundred million men and women throughout the world have already put their names to a demand that the five Great Powers should negotiate and conclude a Pact of Peace.

The representatives of important sections of opinion have also expressed their desire that resort to force should be abandoned in favour of negotiation.

The Congress of the Peoples for Peace, meeting at Vienna, December 12th, 1952, expressing the will of mankind, solemnly invites the Governments of the United States of America, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of the People's Republic of China, and of Great Britain and of France to open the negotiations on which peace depends.

Agreement between the Five Great Powers, the conclusion of a Pact of Peace will put an end to international tension and will save the world from the greatest misfortune.

This is the demand of all the peoples.

(Continued from previous page)

main objectives of a real liberation movement is to strike terror into the hearts of the Communist tyrants Liberation will not be achieved merely by propaganda and parliamentary manoeuvres"

After that, what grounds can there be for declaring, without any reference to the evidence, that Zionists could not spy for the U.S. Government, not even the weak, money hungry Zionists, not even those who like Slansky could be blackmailed into it by threats to expose a 'deal' made with the police in the 1920's, whereby Slansky went free and his comrades went to jail?

THE COLD WAR BUSINESS

The protests ring too hollow; we have heard them all before. Can you recall the case of a certain American, claimed by the U.S. Government to be a "business man," one Robert A. Vogeler. Arrested and charged in Hungary with espionage, he was sentenced some two years ago to a 10,000 dollar fine or imprisonment. The world echoed with the Western protests of his "innocence", with shouts of "frame-up", until the U.S. Government, 'under protest and duress'

paid the dollars and brought Vogeler home. This "innocent business-man", victim of an Eastern frame-up is in the news again. Listen to this: "*Peekskill Military Academy, a preparatory school, will offer a new course called "Techniques of Espionage" in the autumn. One of the lecturers will be Robert A. Vogeler, who spent seventeen months in a Hungarian prison*" This is an Associated Press dispatch from Peekskill, New York. Sometimes, they protest too much.

And if this be fact, why then the agitation? How explain the outcry of the Israel Government, and its reckless charges of 'extermination of the Jews', 'finishing the work of Hitler.' Perhaps they too protest too much. Perhaps their own hands, like the hands of every Western Government which has received the dollars and the strings of Marshall Aid, are not clean enough to bear close scrutiny.

But in all probability the reason lies deeper. Much of Israel's population emigrated from Eastern Europe; and if they know nothing else about politics, they know that the Soviet Government both by law and by action outlawed all race discrimination, including anti-Jew-

ish discrimination. Hard, almost impossible to draw those Eastern European emigres into an aggressive anti-Soviet North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Difficult too, to draw in those Israelis who still remember that the arms with which the very state of Israel was built came not from Britain (who placed an embargo on arms to Israel but supplied Glubb Pasha and the Transjordanians), not from the U.S.A., Greece or Turkey — all gallant allies in N.A.T.O. — but overwhelmingly from Czechoslovakia, from behind the journalists' Iron Curtain.

So once again, the big lie comes into its own in the sphere of world politics. Once again the Jewish question becomes part of the preparation for new aggression, new wars of world conquest. But this time the anti-semites have dropped the hoary "Protocols of Zion", the old "Jewish capitalist conspiracy" lies. This time they have joined the ranks of those reactionaries "some of whose best friends are Jews", who use reckless and lying charges of Soviet anti-semitism to prepare for war against the East, and to beat down the popular Israeli resistance to Israel's participation in the NATO drive to war.

BOOK REVIEW

POWER WITHOUT GLORY

A Novel by Frank J. Hardy

THIS is the first of a series, intended to depict the main streams of Australian life in the Twentieth Century. The author proposes to complete the series shortly.

First published in Australia in 1950, apparently by the author himself, the book has reached its fourth edition. It is printed on cheap paper, badly bound and, although containing fourteen illustrations by Ambrose Dyson, gives the impression of coming from the pulp magazine press.

For all that, however, it is a novel well worth reading. Not because it is good literature — it is not well written — but because of its content and the wealth of incident and detail of some aspects of Australian life. It has both a sociological and a political interest.

Covering the period from 1890 to 1950 and divided into three parts, the story describes first the nefarious and devious struggles of the central character, John West, to achieve wealth as a means to power. The second part shows him at the height of his power, using it for petty ends since he has acquired it simply for the sake of having it. This

part shows too the effects of this on himself, his associates and his family, all of whom he looks upon as his personal possessions. The final part deals with the decline of his power, arising out of the rebellion of his paid henchmen and his family, coupled with his inability to understand the changing world and his failing interest in it due to the processes of old age.

That is the story. The real interest, however, is in the incidents and details exposing the corruption and racketeering obtaining in Australian Federal, State and Civic politics, and in the exposure of the ruthless and criminal exploitation of all spheres of Australian Sport. Interest is in the incidental stories of the

insidious and sometimes overt corruption and bribery of the various politicians, labour leaders and trade unionists, whom John Kent required to protect his own peculiar and narrow interests. Interest lies in the incidents of dishonesty on the part of some of them, the unscrupulousness and cynicism with which they exploit their positions as members of parliament and Cabinet Ministers to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

Despite all this, one is left, not with an impression of the futility and hopelessness of the struggle of the common people of Australia, but with the consciousness of a growing and powerful force for progress.

The author shows a keen sense of the psychological, dialectical and sociological processes. Perhaps it is because of the scope of the book, the abundance of detail and incidence crammed into its 669 pages, that the majority of the characters fail to emerge clearly.

It is a book you must read if you can get your hands on a copy. You may be inspired to write the same story for South Africa.

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“INALIENABLE RIGHTS”

EARLY in January a group of European liberals formed in Johannesburg a new democratic organisation called the “South African People’s Congress.”

For the information of our members and their friends, we publish the aims and objects of the S.A.P.C.

The Society shall work for the attainment for all South Africans of:—

EQUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

the freedom of thought, speech and press;
the freedom of movement and assembly;
the freedom of organisation.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

the right to vote in and to stand for elections to state and local law-making bodies.

EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

the opportunity to qualify for and engage in all trades, crafts, occupations and professions;
the opportunity to acquire and own land and property.

EQUALITY OF SOCIAL STATUS

in every field of state and church, culture and recreation, public activity.

Members in Johannesburg who wish to join the society or to get more information should write to the Secretary at 36 Waverley Court, Smit Street, Johannesburg.

Members in other parts of the country who might be interested in forming similar organisations or keeping in touch with the S.A.P.C. should also write to the Secretary, address as above.

“ALL HONOURABLE MEN”

by *ELWOOD C. CHOLMONDELY*

[T] just goes to prove what I've always said: you can't be too careful these days. I know a lot of you have scoffed. But now you can see for yourself, these Bolsheviks worm their way in everywhere, and no-one's safe these days from their dirty plots. Not even if you look under the bed every night, or join in the Moral Rearmament. If they can lay their hands on a fine upstanding man like Senator MacCarthy, well, then nothing's sacred.

I mean, just think of it. A fine man like that, who's spent his whole life preserving the American way of life. Even Truman picked him as just the right type of man to keep the U.S. free of Communism. And believe me, being Chairman of the Un-American activities Committee has been a full-time job, and then some. But he stuck to his hundred percent democratic job through thick and thin — you can't deny that — and uncovered some of the most dangerous of the Kremlin's agents. All those dirty reds trying to overthrow the Government, but he caught them, yes sir: Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin, Theodore Roosevelt and I don't know how many more.

You can see what scum he's got to deal with that they even turn round and try to undermine a man like that. Making all this fuss just because MacCarthy was patriotic enough to bum a few rides on planes in war-time to qualify for the D.F.C. And when a man deserves the D.F.C., what's wrong with getting the press photographers along to photograph the presentation ceremony anyway? After all, fair's fair, and the seats in those damn superforts were pretty hard on civilian bottoms.

But the reds are gunning for him. Just like they did when I was sweating it out at War Records. There was this Commie fellow, see, who thought he knew everything just because he'd been through the desert campaign. Should have heard the performance he put up

when Dr. Malan applied for the D.S.O.; deserved it too, for the way his arms had suffered holding all that wool for Mrs. Malan to make into socks for O.B. internees. Fit to bust, this Commie was, but I let him have it straight from the shoulder. He got his way in the end — Malan's medal was turned down flat, like that. Goes to prove what I've always suspected, that that fellow Poole was a fellow traveller at least. Fair makes me mad to see these reds worming their way in to our democratic institutions under the very nose of the Government.

Same sort of dirty trick they played on Ebenezer Donges. Now there was a man deserved a medal if anyone did. Showed the greatest courage and devotion to duty right through the war, he did, taking all the dirty cracks that came his way without flinching, not even losing his nerve when they nabbed those stormjaers with the gelignite on the railway tracks. But the way those reds carried on, not even Robey Leibrandt got a medal, not even the Atlantic Star, and him crossing hostile waters in a German U-boat and all.

We need a MacCarthy here, that's what. And mark my words, we're well on the way to getting one. Take this De Villiers Louw chap for example, “liquidator”, or whatever they call him. Now there's a fellow whose carrying on the fight against these reds, and getting precious little for it except fifteen hundred nicker a year. But they'll try and get him too, mark my words, just the way they're getting MacCarthy. Those reds will gun for him, just see if they don't.

So what if MacCarthy did use the Government anti-Communist funds for his own expenses? He's fighting Communism, isn't he? So what's wrong with that? Same blooming red trick that they played against the last chairman of the Un-American Committee — old whats-his-name-er, Parnell Thomas. Hounded him they did, and finally framed him too. Defrauding the government, they said, using the Yankee OHMS stamp for his own election propaganda. I'm telling you, these reds make it tough for a fine upstanding man these days.

But we'll fix them yet, mark my words. Blackie Swart knows how to deal with them. Now there's another fine man, as good an anti-Communist as MacCarthy or Parnell Thomas any day. And what does he get for it but catcalls and slander? Those reds will try to get him too, but this time they won't get away with it, because we've got our grips on them now see. This time we're going to settle them for good. And I should know if anyone does, seeing as how I've been fighting to preserve South Africa from Communism ever since I finished my last stretch, see.

LIVING CONDITIONS.

In September 1949 Italy had 34,580 unemployed young farm workers. Five months later this figure had risen to 54,831. This mass unemployment brought about a rapid sinking of wages, as labour became very cheap. Today in 20 districts boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 15 years are earning less than 40 lire (about 8d.) an hour. In 11 of those districts the wages range from 21 to 33 lire. In Cremona farm workers earn only 30 per cent. of the wages of an adult. In Salerno it is only 42 per cent.

If you are not already a regular subscriber of “Fighting Talk,” let us remind you that this magazine is one of the few progressive, militant anti-Nat. monthlies left in the country. Why not become a subscriber?

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[I]t seems to me that when bigger and better warmongers are made the American Defence Department will make them. The item that set me off on this train of thought was a report by a Major-General T. A. Willoughby. This gentleman has had a good grounding in this sort of work, having been General MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence in the Far East. The report that Willoughby made on his return from Europe was "that Spain was a reliable and efficient ally" and indispensable to Western European defence.

That in itself would be bad enough, but he goes on to draw a comparison between events in Spain and Korea — that both were to be attributed to the "sinister power" of Russia and the undermining of government by communist saboteurs.

Quite apart from the insult that this offers to the gallant Spanish people, it is a source of amazement to me how even an American general can compare Spain with Korea and attribute both to the convenient Kremlin. Spain was invaded by the German and Italian fascists. Russia was the only country, as far as I can remember, which urged the other nations to oppose the spread of fascism by intervening in Spain. Her plea went unheeded and the dress rehearsal for the second world war was successfully accomplished.

In Korea the position is more obscure, but it is extremely doubtful and certainly no proof has been produced that Russia is directing the North Korean war effort. On the contrary, the Soviet Union has repeatedly made an effort to bring the war to a close by negotiation. Only a mind as devious as General Willoughby's would attempt to hoodwink the peace-loving people of Europe in this manner.

FURTHER, PLEASE

Mr. A. E. P. Robinson, the United Party candidate for Langlaagte, went a good deal further than his colleagues recently when he pledged that his party on return to power would withdraw the Citizenship Act and would amend the Suppression of Communism Act to allow an appeal to the Courts. Desirable as such an assurance may be, it is, to say the least, inadequate. What about the Group Areas Act? What of the Population Registration Act? How about withdrawing the infamous Immorality Act? Or the Mixed Marriages Act? Indeed, I can think of no legislation enacted by the Nationalists which should not be totally withdrawn and a fresh and decent start made in an honest and statesmanlike attempt to find a healthy solution to the many complex problems facing this country.

GOOD SHOW, LABOUR

The Labour Party, on the other hand, has come out most creditably when, at its recent conference, it decided to oppose vigorously Swart's proposed "martial law" legislation. Also to their credit is the fact that they have not fallen into the easy trap of condemning the defiance campaign but have pledged themselves to do all in their power to remedy the justified grievances of the non-European people. It is a happy augury for the Labour Party to emerge in such strong fashion after its many years in the wilderness.

WE'RE ON THE WAY

The breaking-up recently of a United Party meeting at Krugersdorp by a group of Nat. hooligans means that we are once again on the threshold of an election. The Opposition forces in South Africa must expect this sort of thing on an ever-increasing scale as the election campaign becomes more intense. It is, however, unthinkable, that Malan and his government cannot be swept out of office in the same way as they were swept in. In this connection it is heartening to note that from a strictly technical point of view the United Party and the Torch Commando seem to have a smooth election machine with which to achieve this.

The National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion at a recent meeting decided once again to support Opposition candidates to the best of its ability. Members of the Legion and regular readers of "Fighting Talk" will need no urging to play an active part in this the most vital of all general elections.

FILMS ARE NOT ALL FUN

Home Office statistics from Great Britain for the year 1951 show that the number of young people between the ages of 14 and 17 years convicted of various crimes was 76,000. This represented a 100 per cent. increase on 1938.

Of the 1,790,000 crimes of a serious order recorded by the United States courts during 1950 one-third were committed by juveniles.

In Western Germany general criminality in 1948 showed a 33 per cent. increase over 1933 and juvenile delinquency an increase of 87 per cent.

Professor Neimayer of California University made a study of 115 films currently screened in his country. He found that no less than 106 different types of crime were portrayed in these films.

Professor Stuckrath of Hamburg University observed in 400 films shown in Western Germany the following ingredients: 310 murders, 156 thefts, 624 frauds and 200 miscellaneous crimes.

According to the bulletin of the British Cinematographic Institute 70 per cent. of the 1950 films in Great Britain were found to deal with crime or with sexual subjects.

There are films, such as "Rommel" and "Steel Helmet", which glorify war. The Censorship Office in Canada officially protested to the makers of "Steel Helmet." The same censors reported that they had been forced to cut 305 scenes from 146 films they had reviewed because of the depiction of brutality, cruelty, indecency, the torturing of women and other atrocities.

A young English journalist writes: "During 14 months when I attended regularly the juvenile court sessions, I heard time and time again the same reply to the magistrate's question, 'Why did you commit such and such a crime?', 'I wanted to do the same as they do on the pictures'."

OUT OF YOUR POCKET

THE decision of the official Opposition to fight the Government on the cost-of-living issue might have been considered a very good one — if the Opposition had anything very vital to say on the question.

There is none, it is safe to say, whom this issue does not concern, be he black or white, rich or poor, young or old. Even the wealthiest capitalist is vitally concerned with the prices of basic commodities, because upon these prices depend the wages he must pay, his cost of production, and hence the size of his profit.

Yet it is a sad reflection on the political and economic poverty of the U.P. that it has very nearly succeeded in making a very vital issue into a dead one. It has drained the question of all its real significance and left us with a few dry, meaningless slogans.

And the reason for this is that economics and politics are inextricably tied together. Since the U.P. political objectives are essentially the same as those of the Government party, it is incapable of formulating an economic policy which can solve our cost-of-living difficulties.

First of all let us be quite clear on this point — which seems to be the main debating point between the parties — that when Mr. Louw says that our inflation is imported and Mr. Harry Lawrence replies that it is generated locally, they are both right. The cost-of-living index moves up or down in all the capitalist countries more or less together, for the capitalist economy is one and indivisible. In the economic field there is no such thing as autonomy or isolationism. To a lesser degree the British Chancellor of the Exchequer or the American Secretary of the Treasury might claim with some justification that their inflation is imported — in part—from South Africa.

Consider a small example: The S.A. Government resolves to spend an extra ten million pounds on defence. The order is placed in the U.S.A. United States firms produce the arms. But arms are dead goods that cannot be consumed by ordinary men in their daily lives. Yet the ordinary man, through wages, dividends etc. receives the money as income. But if incomes are increased without a comparable increase in the volume of consumable goods prices must rise.

Thus South Africa has contributed its mite to American inflation and that inflation, leading to an increase in price of goods imported into South Africa, reacts in an upward direction upon our own cost-of-living.

It is this senseless debate as to whether inflation is imported or local which has in fact reduced the vital issue of the cost-of-living to the flimsy debate it has

become. Both sides strike attitudes and say nothing of real causes.

What is the real cause? The answer is waste. Colossal, senseless waste which is much greater than the spending of a few thousands of pounds on a mealieboard there or a subsidy here, although these two items are essential parts of the stupendous whole.

First of all, the waste of the colour bar. The cheap labour policy is wasteful because it is inefficient. It results in two — or ten — men doing one man's job. The relatively skilled European tags along so many unskilled Non-Europeans in his wake. For example, the carpenter with his host of tool carriers. If the carpenter carried his own tools and his tool carriers were each allowed to become partners in their own right — each doing a skilled job — waste would be eliminated, houses would be built, rents would come down and we would all live more cheaply, despite the fact that the erstwhile toolcarrier now earned a skilled wage. For in the long run labour is cheap or dear not according to what it receives in cash but according to what it produces.

Thus our so-called cheap labour policy is in reality by far the most expensive labour policy in the modern world.

Secondly the colossal waste of our semi-feudal agricultural system, a system whereby each farmer is induced to do his worst not his best; a system whereby farmers without the means or knowledge to farm, aided and abetted by hosts of totally unskilled, unlettered squatters, ravish the soil, produce goods of an inferior quality, at a yield per acre which would make any mediocre French or British peasant blanche with horror. And his inefficiency is not only countenanced — it is actively encouraged by means of the subsidy. Food subsidies, you see, are a double edged sword with the edge that kills far sharper than the edge that shields you. Food subsidies are paid for in taxes, but this is a secondary matter. Who would not pay an extra 1d. in the £1 income tax rather than buy dear foods? The cost to you must be coun-

tered in other ways. For the subsidy protects the enriched potato grower in his totally uneconomic labour far more than it protects you against dear potatoes. The Government that will say — we will do away with subsidies and bring you cheap food by means of efficient farming — that is the Government that will deserve your support.

Thirdly, waste through gold mining. Perhaps you retort, "the gold mines are not wasteful; they are South Africa's greatest asset." And there you would be wrong, for they are no asset. They are our country's greatest curse.

Point one: The Gold Mines are a wasting industry. There is just so much gold and it grows less with every ounce extracted from the earth. And a wasting industry always tends to operate marginally. Thus, whatever the price of gold, it will mine ores which are only just within the pay limit. The product never varies. Whether it is extracted from ores of high or low value, it is always just gold. Hence the low-grade ores are mined first in order to extract the largest possible percentage of gold in the ore-bodies. This has the result of minimising the yield and, therefore, the revenue per ton, and the Gold Mines, in order to offer shareholders competitive dividend returns, are compelled always to minimise operating costs. Thus, it must pay its workers the least possible wage and it must maintain the highest possible ratio of unskilled to skilled labour. Likewise, it must adhere to a policy of migrant labour and perpetuate the reserve system in order to ensure that the African labourer will suffer sufficient poverty to come to the mines for any wage the industry cares to offer, while leaving his family with an alternative source of income. In these circumstances, he will accept a wage below even the classical "subsistence" level.

This is waste: Waste of human resources — the fountain head of all typically South African economic waste. It is the inspiration of our colour bar, our cheap labour policy, of the vast complex of racial laws designed to perpetuate near-slavery.

Point two: Into the insatiable maw of this parasitic industry is sucked vast quantities of resources — factors of production — which would otherwise feed

(Continued on page 14)



The World Today
TRUST-BUSTERS
by Ben Giles

IN the good old days, a treaty was a solemn and binding obligation, upheld by nations as a sign of honour and trust. Those days have passed. Adolf Hitler set the new tone in political morality, by denouncing treaties as "scraps of paper", to be torn up when they could no longer be comfortably kept.

The new morality had its disciples. Some of them went down with the Reichstag; some of them stood trial at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity; one of them became the 1953 President of the United States.

It has not taken Eisenhower long. Just a few short weeks from the carnival inauguration to the denunciation of America's solemn treaty obligations. America's treaties forged in time of war against Nazism, as weapons indispensable for victory, have been denounced. "Secret agreements" Eisenhower called the Yalta agreement, the Moscow, Cairo and Potsdam agreements which were signed, sealed and publicised by Franklin Roosevelt for the U.S.A. "Congress has never approved them; they do not and will not bind us."

PRINCIPLES.

It sounds all right if you read it fast. It sounds like a declaration of fine democratic principle that Congress shall be the arbiter in everything affecting the American nation; that no one man shall have the power to commit the country to any obligations. But read it again; and this time read it all. 'We do not repudiate the treaties in toto' runs the Eisenhower line; 'only those parts which do not serve the cold-war policy of anti-Sovietism.'

And yet they say that it was Sam Goldwyn who coined the aphorism: 'Those are my principles gentlemen. But if you don't like them, I've got others.'

And who makes the denunciation of these "one-man" treaties? The senate? Congress? No sir. This is America, home of the fast-talking ad-man and the confidence trickster. The denunciation is made by Mr. Eisenhower.

FACTS.

The first of these sinister sounding agreements was reached at a three-power conference in Moscow in October 1943, to which the Government of China also subscribed. Britain, China, America and

the U.S.S.R. issued a solemn declaration that "their united action, pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies, will be continued for the organisation and maintenance of peace and security"; that "after the termination of hostilities they will not employ their military forces within the territories of other states except for the purpose envisaged in this declaration;" Such a 'treaty' cannot but be denounced by the Eisenhower clique which prepares for anti-Soviet war.

There was the Crimea Conference in February 1945, whose declaration is signed by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. "We are determined to disarm and disband all German armed forces, eliminate or control all German industry that could be used for military production; bring all war criminals to justice and swift punishment; remove all Nazi and militarist influences from public offices and from the cultural and economic life of the German people." Denunciation of the agreement comes well from those who compensate Krupp and release Kesselring.

But there is more. "The establishment of order in Europe and the rebuilding . . . must be achieved by processes which will enable the liberated people . . . to create democratic institutions of their own choosing." This is treason to the new Eisenhower creed of "liberating" the people of Europe from the socialist democracy of their own choosing.

"The three heads of Government consider that the Eastern frontier of Poland should follow the Curzon line . . . They recognise that Poland must receive substantial accessions of territory in the North and West." This too is treason to the new U.S. policy, issued through the claims of its West German mouthpiece, for Germany's borders to be pushed East of the Oder Neisser river,

IN BERLIN.

And then there was the July 1945 meeting of Truman, Stalin, Churchill and Attlee in the full flush of victory at Potsdam. All the declarations of the Crimea agreement are strengthened, amplified and clarified. Not one American President but two had thus appended their solemn signatures to the agreements — the "secret" agreements which Eisenhower now denounces.

The treaties now become scraps of paper, to be used as Hitler used those scraps, to light the flame of world war. Not without reason that the repudiation of the treaty of obligations of America came simultaneously with the incitement of Chiang Kai Shek to spread the war to the mainland of China under the watchful strong-arm squads of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Not accidental either that the day after the Eisenhower declaration, the Japanese Prime Minister laid claim to the Soviet Kurile islands and the Sakhalin peninsula, returned to the Soviet Union by these "secret treaties", after forty years of Japanese occupation.

Not accidental that Syngman Rhee calls for a march on Peking and a blockade of Vladivostock; that U.S. Senators and generals call for a naval blockade of the China coast. For the tearing up of treaties is a sign that the stage has been set for aggressive war. And all the warmongers are taking their line from the big shot.

Ike's fingers may be itching on the trigger. But he should bear in mind that the man who set the fashion in treaty-tearing lies buried amidst the rubble of the German capital, hated and despised by the whole of mankind.

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“ I CALL ON EX-SERVICEMEN ”

I CALL on the ex-volunteers of South Africa. I am speaking to you in your thousands, tens of thousands — clerks, teachers, miners, welders, housewives, travellers, lawyers, drivers, messengers — to all of you in your diverse jobs in diverse parts of the country. All of you, however, have one thing in common — between 1939 and 1945 you were in the uniform of the U.D.F. You were gunners, pilots, ratings, nurses, engineers, erks, totalling the armed forces of South Africa.

It was not the uniform which made us all comrades, not the fact that we met in the same canteens, shared the same transport, journeyed to the Western Desert and Italy together. No! It was the underlying reason for the uniforms and the canteens and the foreign places. We were comrades because we shared a common purpose, a common ideal. Our purpose was to smash fascism; our ideal to make democracy secure throughout the world. Fascism to us a few years ago meant not merely a worldwide armed conflict. It meant an attempt to impose by force on all the peoples of the earth a pattern of government, which we feared, hated and utterly rejected.

We hated Fascism, because, however dimly, we knew that liberty is the breath of life. We knew that any tyrannical act which lessens our liberty, diminishes also our status as human beings, diminishes our individual worth, dignity and our talents. We had no choice but to resist an attempt to reduce us to mental and physical slaves. We took up the fight for our right to plan our lives so that happiness and health, the real joy-of-living might be guaranteed to ourselves and to each of our fellow human-beings.

And so we went to war. Without heroics we risked our lives to defeat tyranny and to safeguard democracy. Ten thousand South Africans gave their lives . . . for us and our children.

Today in our own land we discover the same fearful features of tyranny as called us to arms thirteen years ago. We have a system of government which affects us all, a system which robs us of a genuine joy in our day-to-day living. We are beset by fear and, worse, by apprehension and insecurity. The very real struggle to make ends meet is embittered by present political piracy and by the fears for our children's future.

We have seen the freedoms to speak, to organise, to publish, to protest ripped from our hands. We have seen the free trade union movement white-anted, sniped at, intimidated. We have seen interference in legitimate business affairs, the press threatened, passports confiscated, hooliganism and terrorism.

Above all we have with inward shame witnessed the inhuman suppression of ten millions of our fellow South Africans, until the very air is aquiver with anger

and fear. Ordinary well-wishing white South Africans prepare to leave the land of their birth to find a safer home for their children.

And all this Fascism, intimi-

dation and suppression reached the high water mark in the 'martial law' acts of the last session — the Public Safety and the Criminal Law Amendment Acts. With these measures the Nationalists have given themselves and any future government the power to declare a state of emergency, to suspend all laws, to ignore the courts, to impose lashes and imprisonment . . . at the discretion of the Cabinet or even at the sole discretion of the Minister of Justice. Shades of Hitler!

Well, then, my friends, my comrades of World War II against Fascism! I call on you to rally against the threat of Fascism in South Africa. The general election is upon us. Here is our opportunity peacefully to cast out for all time this Nationalist government, which daily brings us nearer to chaos and ruin. Here is our chance to attend political meetings, to canvass, to do clerical work, to provide transport, to drive cars, to protect Opposition meetings from hooligans. As you answered the call before, so now let nothing stand between you and the uttermost completion of your duty to yourself, your family and your country. Work until you are wearied and even then do more. Drag your friends and neighbours into the struggle. Recognise your responsibility as you did thirteen years ago and shoulder it.

I call upon you, in addition, to make your contribution to the policy of the United Party. At United Party meetings ask your candidate to pledge himself to the repeal of the 'martial law' acts, for we can never feel safe whilst those laws remain to threaten our liberty. The U.P. must be made to realise that, when they undertake to repeal these totalitarian laws, they have the solid backing of the people. We must infuse into the United Party our courage and conviction, so that, if they win, the laws will be repealed: if they lose, the U.P. will not rest until they force the Government to repeal or at the very least make it impossible for the Government to make use of these fascist powers.

Therefore, my friends, in the few remaining days remember this: You fought for the freedom of the world. Now fight for South Africa's.

Written by C. Williams, Somerset House, Johannesburg.



Cecil Williams, National Chairman,
Springbok Legion.

STALIN

An Obituary by Ben Giles

It is perhaps easy to explain away the ten-mile long queues of people winding slowly through the cold March streets of Moscow to pay last tribute and homage to Joseph Stalin. For these were his people, these Soviet mourners. And he was their leader, their inspiration and their guide through thirty years.

But the Moscow queues are only a small part of the measure of the man who lay dead. It is harder to explain the other acts and emotions which surrounded him in life.



There were the men and women of a dozen different lands, who crept out silently at night and at peril of their lives, to chalk the magic name on walls—“Viva Stalin!” And this though they had never seen the man, nor set foot in the country which he led. For it was part of the quality of this man that his name became everywhere the symbol of resistance to tyranny and fascism, and the symbol of the common man's triumph over it.

There were the banners carrying his name; and the portraits flowing in the wind amongst the standards raised by brown-skinned men and yellow in a thousand desperate struggles for national independence, waged in a thousand

backward and illiterate villages scattered over a dozen empires. This too was part of the stature of the man; that his name became inseparably woven into the fabric of every colonial struggle for equal rights and for liberation.

How to assess such a man as Joseph Stalin? None of the standard categories tell the whole truth.

Military leader of genius? Yes, in part. And the monument to that genius is the name of the city of Stalingrad, where he twice directed military campaigns that turned seeming defeat into certain victory over overwhelming odds. Here, under his leadership, were the turning points of two wars against foreign invasion. Here in 1921 was ensured the preservation of the Soviet Union; and here in 1943 were buried the hopes of Nazi world domination.

Outstanding political leader? That too in part. For under his guiding hand was built the five-million strong Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Into the ranks of his party were drawn all the foremost industrial workers and factory managers, farmers, artists, scientists, mathematicians and historians of a mighty nation. But more than that. Through his guidance there has developed the greatest international political brotherhood the world has ever known, acknowledging him as its leader and its guide, though he had never addressed nor belonged to any of its national sections outside his own country.

Teacher and scholar? Unquestionably yes, in part. A whole generation has grown to consciousness and understanding of their world through his written works—The National and Colonial Question, Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Leninism—and through his articles on linguistics, on the economics of socialism, on problems of organisation.

And yet for all the great talents which he possessed, for all the prestige and power which he wielded, Stalin remained that rare thing, a leader close to the aspirations and the sympathies of ordinary people. It was characteristic of him that, when Soviet audiences cheered and clapped for Stalin—how often we have seen it on the films—he too slowly joined the clapping. For to Stalin, the peoples' tributes were taken, not as personal adulation, but as an expression of popular tribute to the Soviet Union, to its socialist economy, with his name and personality as the symbol, but not the substance, of the popular acclaim.

A maker of history? “It is not heroes who make history, but history that makes heroes.” So runs a passage from a text-book for which Stalin was largely responsible. “It is not heroes who create a people, but the people who creates heroes and move history forward. Heroes, outstanding individuals, may play an important part in the life of society only in so far as they are capable of correctly understanding the conditions of development of society and the ways of changing them for the better.”

History created Stalin, history of our own times. It was the time of the first construction of socialist society; it was the time of the maturing of the colonial revolt against subjugation; it was the time of the rise of fascism, and implacable struggle against it; it was the time of a new world society emerging from the fearful armed clashes and primitive dictatorships of the old.

And no one of our age has more correctly understood “. . . the conditions of development of society and the ways of changing them for the better.” It is this that raised him to be the great figure that he was.

The world will be poorer for his passing, though the indestructible monuments to him remain in the minds and lives of men everywhere, and in the great socialist country which he led.

ON THE WAY UP AND UP

By ELWOOD C. CHOLMONDELEY.

YOU'D have to be here in Union Buildings to see how all the fellows have perked up since the news came through. What? Haven't you heard? Old Peter, Steyn, the one who was Administrator of Farm Prisons, got promotion last month. He's Deputy Commandant for Native Affairs now; and I'm telling you it was like a shot of monkey-gland rejuvenation stuff, the way it affected us all. Gives us all a bit of hope, I can tell you; especially since he hasn't got any special qualifications for the job and doesn't even speak the lingo.

And hope isn't something there's a hell of a lot of in the civil service. Maybe we've got a bit more than the poor non-service clots who still think that policemen ought to be polite to the public; but not a hell of a lot.

But you should see the place these days. I tell you, I heard even Blackie Swart whistling about the place last week, and rumour has it that he smiled too. But don't quote me. It seems he's got his next job all lined up just in case we lose the election and he has to go back to working for a living. I heard he's going to be transferred, on promotion of course, to head of the Marriage Guidance Council. Seems they feel that what with his success with the immorality act, and all the tips he can pass on to husbands about the need to use the light cane, the heavy cane or the cat-o-nine as the occasion warrants, he's been picked as the ideal man for the job.

Well that's what I always say about the service; always manages to fit square pegs into square holes, if you get me. For instance, take old Vince Beyers — no, not the General. You remember, the old Impala House latrine attendant. Well he's getting on for fifty-five, which is a bit late in the day for carting buckets around. And after a hard day's work, he's always raised enough energy to cat-call all the way through Harry Oppenheimer's meetings; and that counts when you come to these loyalty tests I can tell you. So I reckon it's only justice that he's got his promotion at last. Yes, Chief Pastry Supervisor to the Railway Caterer.

Well no, I don't think he can actually cook. But dammit, fair's fair. He did take over and wash the cups for a whole week last year when Kleinbooi was off with pass-law troubles. The chap's a hundred percent loyal servant, I can tell you, and the service is good and satisfied with his promotion. Well, if the passengers don't like it, then they can just do the other thing, and see what it gets them.

Now don't get that way! I like people! Sure. All sorts of people. Well, for

instance I like Cronje, from the Receiver of Revenue's office. No, not *the* Cronje! Old Adolf Cronje, you know the one who runs the tea club. Now there's a real case of what I was saying: victimisation by the United Party, that's all it was, keeping him there with his cups and saucers for twenty years. The most loyal servant in the whole place, he was, and I don't care who hears me say it, even if he was a Stormjaer in his spare time. Never flinched from duty, not even after they lost the teaspoon in 1941. He's been stirring the tea with his finger ever since; and not a word of complaint you've heard from him in all that time. And that's for a staff of over a hundred too.

Well I say that's the sort of civil servant the country needs. But he's only got recognition since Karl Bremer took over. Believe me, he's a new man since they promoted him to a place where his real talents come into use. They say that there's been a complete change in the whole business since he became assistant supervisor in chief (Baking) with special responsibility for Bremer bread. Not that I eat the stuff myself; I find it sits a bit heavy on the stomach, what with all the soya bean and stuff they put in it.

Clements? No. Haven't seen him in months, since they took him off cattle-prodding at Kazerne. Heard he got promoted in honour of the ten-thousandth cow killed in a post-war derailment. And the poor sap thought it was recognition for the long hours he'd spent at night tearing down Torch Commando posters. Must have been a real wrench to him. Always used to tell the boys he was more attached to that cow-prodder than to his wife. Hear he's bought a new car since they made him Special assistant to the Railways Public Relation officer, and put him in charge of the 'Courtesy to Passengers' campaign.

By gosh, it makes you realise how time moves on, when you start thinking of all the old stagers. They've all moved up a peg or two since the early days,

alright; except for the dead-beats who were in the army, and those suckers who put their shirts on Smuts. You remember old Barry, who was assistant gaoler at Cocolan when we started? Seems he's given up his part-time job of hangman, and got himself promoted to head of a Pass Office somewhere in the Eastern Transvaal.

And then there's Smitty — not Jack; his dim-witted brother, the one we used to call Loony. He's certainly moved up a long way from tapping train wheels at Windhoek station. Been promoted to the Education Department, chief officer in charge of University apartheid, or so Jack tells me. And Abe Kriel, one of the senior law advisers to Donges, what do you think of that? Always said he was a bit of a shyster, even in the days when he used to pinch half the Brasso he was given to polish the door-knobs at the P.M.'s house.

Me? No! Haven't you heard! Gave up lift driving at the Post Office three months back; and damn high time too, after all I did to hawk subscriptions for the Transvaler to the telegraph messengers. Finding my new job a bit of a grind, but I suppose it'll all come right before long. I tell you, being statistician and economist in charge of Eric Louw's cost of living figures is no piece of cake, whatever the newspapers may say about it.

I tell you boy; it will be a real tragedy for the service if Malan gets beaten on the 15th. Well maybe the public doesn't think so, but who runs this country anyway? If the public doesn't realise it now, they will soon when the effects of all these new appointments begin to show themselves. You mark my words.

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Film Review

LIMELIGHT

Reviewed by
ROY COUSINS

TO ME the most remarkable feature of this remarkable work of art is that a sensitive artist living in our society has made such a vital statement of faith in humanity. Ours is an age of witchhunts and personal persecution, of atom bombs and war hysteria, of increasing fears about the future, so it is not surprising that the bulk of serious dramatic art is concerned with frustration and pessimism (as seen in the work of Eugene O'Neill, Carol Reed and Marcel Carné).

The philosophy implied in the film is that the fact of living is its own justification and must not be denied, and the plot development, the dialogue and its entire tone underline this attitude, asserting a positive belief in the individual's ability to fight back and to succeed.

Calvero, an ageing music-hall comedian faced with professional decline saves a young girl from suicide. She is a dancer crippled by a neurotic association of shame with her work. He persuades her that all life can contain happiness and through the force of his personality he helps her to walk again and to resume her career. She is attracted by his wisdom and courage and compassionately moved by the tragedy of his position while he, in turn, is enchanted by her youth and sweetness.

Her artistic success coincides with his complete failure and with her realisation that she is romantically in love with a young musician (charmingly played by Sidney Chaplin). But in addition to her being emotionally involved with Calvero she is desperately afraid that her new-found confidence will collapse in his absence — until he leaves her, forcing her to come to terms with life.

UNDAUNTED CALVERO

It is at this point that Carol Reed would leave his film, with Calvero in the gutter, a symbol of life's bitter irony. But in Chaplin's film, although he is reduced to performing on the streets for a living he remains philosophical, undaunted. He is found by the girl and through her he gets his chance to make

a magnificent return to the stage before his death.

Any such bald résumé of the plot completely fails to indicate the subtleties of the film, the intricacy of the main relationship in which there is a beautiful balancing of opposites, the manner in which the main theme is developed with minor variations as can be found in Shakespeare's plays or in classical music. "Monsieur Verdoux", for example, was rather clumsily kept together with shots of train wheels turning. Visually exciting to a degree un-

known before in Chaplin's films, "Limelight" has a most imaginative soundtrack, and well nigh perfect screen music composed by Chaplin.

BREATH-TAKING PERFORMANCES

The performances of Chaplin and Claire Bloom are breathtaking. Although I was not particularly amused by the music-hall turns — a personal taste — Chaplin's comic genius was revealed elsewhere in a dozen deft touches. His tragic close-ups are haunting, his temporary break-down is heartbreaking, and altogether he displays a range and versatility that is incomparable. Claire Bloom is enchanting, warm, sensitive, — a dramatic actress who rises to every demand of a difficult role.

Some intelligent filmgoers have been horrified by the failure of most critics and sections of the public to understand what Chaplin was saying and to appreciate how brilliantly he has said it. There is nothing new in this. Films like "Day of Wrath", "Give Us This Day", "Bicycle Thieves" and "The Grapes of Wrath" were seldom given the appreciation they deserved — although in some quarters there is a certain automatic prestige attached to any continental film. It is this lack of understanding that has driven talented artists like John Ford either permanently or at least temporarily to abandon their standards, but Chaplin's resilience inspires the hope that the cinema's finest creator will continue along the path of artistic achievement.

Charlie Chaplin as
the "Great" Calvero
in the brilliant film,
"Limelight."



THE CRIPPLING DOLLAR

ONE does not need to peer deeply into Western Europe's economy to see that it is resting more precariously than ever before on the shaky foundations of American dollars.

And one does not need any expert knowledge to perceive that the whole system of subsidising Western Europe with dollars cannot last indefinitely. This system is throwing up a host of contradictions and antagonisms that become more acute every year, until even the submissive puppet governments are compelled, by the sheer force of popular opinion, to register some kind of protest with the American overlords.

American domination of Western Europe has led to apathy and stagnation in various aspects of life; there is widespread listlessness and defeatism; but at the same time there is a strong and growing body of opinion that is demanding the traditional rights of national independence and self-determination. John Foster Dulles may have had some success in his recent "round Europe" trip, wielding the big stick, but it should not be forgotten that there has also been a vigorous 'Sack Ridgway' campaign".

STRONG RESISTANCE

The American dictators have had considerable success in making the governments of Western Europe obey their commands, but they have not stifled the free expression of the will of the people. Often they have encountered strong resistance to their policies, and on other occasions they have been forced to retreat or temporarily postpone their plans.

One of the most encouraging signs in Europe today is the resistance that the German people are making to American plans to rearm them. It is clear to every German that America expects him to be a front-line troop again in any possible third World War. But many Germans

are determined that this will not happen.

The opposition to the contractual agreements — the agreements whereby Germany was to be rearmed, in spite of American protests to the contrary over the past few years — was so strong that it forced a postponement of the war plans. The German Chancellor, Adenauer, was besieged with protests from all parts of the country, and the debate on the agreements in the German Parliament echoed throughout the country. In this instance, at least, the German people scored a distinct — if temporary — victory. It was only the subsequent arrival of "Big Stick" Dulles that pushed the war plans further ahead.

Germany is not the only example of the growing resistance to American intervention in Europe's affairs. Examples could be quoted from France, Italy, and other countries. The whole significance of this mounting opposition is that the existing structure in Europe — the creation of a false economy on the basis of dollars — cannot last. It is coming to an end, unless the Americans devise something new to take its place — and this, of course, is where the danger lies.

There are signs of apparent prosperity in parts of Western Europe. Some cities have been turned into attractive "shop-windows" that are meant to be a monument to the efficacy of dollar aid. But behind these shop-windows, there is poverty and unemployment. In many big cities, the old gang, the Hitler financiers and collaborators, are back again, smoking big cigars and driving glittering limousines. They are far from being in disgrace. Once again, they are the kingpins.

In Britain — in spite of Mr. Butler's slight tax reduction — there is widespread hardship, and unemployment is growing. Many industrialists and financiers view this growing unemployment with a favourable eye. They see in it the beginning of a weakening of the powerful trade unions. They are awaiting the



Leo Lovell, who has been a member of our National Executive Committee for several years, has again been elected as M.P. for Benoni. Leo has won wide-spread respect for his fearless and intelligent speeches in the House of Assembly.

blessed days of an "unemployment pool" of a million of men Britons so that wages can be brought down to "sensible proportions".

Everywhere in Western Europe, where the American dollar has penetrated, the story is the same: A crippled economy tottering on the false basis of foreign aid. And everywhere there is the same story of unemployment and poverty. But the peoples of these countries are not accepting their misfortunes submissively. They are resisting the increased burdens on their economy and, through their trade unions, they have met with considerable success in securing demands for improved conditions. It is clear to everyone who visits these countries that the workers need all the strength they can muster at present, because the testing time is at hand.

BRITISH LEGION CONFERENCE.

"This Conference, pledged to perpetuate the memory of the comrades in arms who died in two world wars, views with grave concern new signs of German territorial claims, and therefore calls upon the National Executive Council to approach the Government, to urge them to ensure that never again shall German and Japanese arms menace the principles of justice and freedom for which our Nation has sacrificed its sons."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"It is for us the living to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." (Gettysburg).

THE RUDE COLONIALS

By **ELWOOD C. CHOLMONDELEY**

"Lord Salisbury, a member of the cabinet, said here yesterday that Parliamentary democracy in its fullest sense was totally outside the comprehension of the broad masses of the colonial people." (SAPA-Reuter dispatch from London: 25.4.53).

It must be something in this strong colonial sun that accounts for the crude and coarse sensibilities of a man like Klasie Armstrong. Even when he had put horse-stealing well behind him and become a typical representative of the people for the constituency of Stormkloof, there was something in him that immediately stamped him as a primitive boulder who had attended neither Eton nor Harrow. Parliamentary democracy, in its fullest sense, was outside his comprehension.

It is a hard thing to say of a man; but there it was. It showed itself in his first week as candidate the first time he stood for election. Breaking through the time-honoured tradition of the game, he referred to Colonel Weatherby Willington, the SAP candidate, as "that reactionary rogue and stuffed dummy who is standing against me." We had it out with him afterwards in the hotel pub, trying to make him see Parliamentary tradition in all its glory. But the fellow was stubborn as an ox. "You can do what you like," he said truculently. "But I bloody well won't call any Colonel of Hussars who shot the 1926 strikers 'My honourable friend' or 'my gallant opponent'." We should have seen then where all this Labour agitation was leading; but instead we passed it off as a dose of bad temper induced by too much melktert.

But we were wrong as time showed. He hadn't been elected for more than a week when the next straw in the wind came up. The government only had a majority of four, and the Transvaal-Western Province Currie Cup final was being played at Newlands. Klasie's whip came along to the House library where we were all sweating it out over coffee on the morning of the match, and told Klasie he had been paired off with Nico Badenhorst for the afternoon. Klasie almost bust a blood-vessel. "Rugby is it?" he shouted drawing himself up to his full six feet six. "To hell with it", he shouted. "I've followed Rangers at the soccer for thirty years, and I'm not changing now for you or Nico or anyone else see?" We tried to explain to him that he didn't have to go and see the game. All he had to do was stay away from the House for the afternoon. That seemed to make him even more

angry. It seemed he was all set to move a vote of no confidence in the Government when their supporters were away watching the game at Newlands. We argued with him through the whole morning without effect. Everytime we said "Dammit man; play the game," he said "Rugby, is it? To hell with it I say!"

It was this second shattering revelation that the man had none of the finer feelings of sportmanship and fairplay needed in a democracy that really showed us what we were up against in bringing democracy to the colonies. Tempers ran high in the House that afternoon, as we all sat there glumly with our minds on Newlands, and hatred in our hearts for Klasie who had kept us away from the game.

From here on, things went from bad to worse. Much of the hard feelings between those from "home" and the locals which runs so strong today, can be traced back to the actions of Klasie. One of his most outrageous actions was the time when he voted against an address of loyalty to the Crown just before the last Royal visit. For a week every last man of us, from all parties, tried to explain to him that the opposition is just as loyal as the government. He would have none of it. "If they're for it" he said in his rough way, "Then I'm against it. Damned if I'll be loyal to anything they support." We failed to shake him, which just went to prove to many of our better cultured people that Parliamentary institutions were not suited to the colonies.

The trouble was that he wasn't alone, otherwise we might have shrugged it off, and told ourselves he was a freak. But at every election since then he has romped home, and every time his majority is bigger than the last. There could be no disregarding the fact that his rudeness found an answering echo in the rudeness of the voters.

The voters even seemed to spur him on. He went from outrage to outrage, till all decent people began to ask whether Parliamentary institutions in a colony could possibly be justified. We never forgave him for leaving his own constituency, and standing against the Speaker in one election. We told him, somewhat

hopelessly, that it was a long established gentleman's agreement that the Speaker is returned unopposed. We tried to explain that forcing the Speaker into a party contest might disturb his impartiality in the House. "If that so-and-so's impartial" Klasie retorted, "then I'm a Chinaman." We had reached the stage where we wished he were — in China.

His election success seemed to go to his head. He became more and more truculent. He refused to accept an all-party agreement to limit speeches to ten minutes, and so kept the 1938 session going for three weeks longer than we had arranged. We all lost heavily in our businesses that year as a result, and our salaries didn't make it any better either. He voted against increasing M.P.'s salaries the next year — that is something he'll never be forgiven for; said that until we had managed to keep down other peoples' cost of living, or raise their wages, we should be more than satisfied with what we had. We tried to explain to him that no Board of Directors thought first of its employees and then of itself, but he remained unimpressed.

And then to crown it all, in two successive sessions he went and opposed the Suppression of Communism Act and the Martial Law Bill. We did our best to dissuade him, rather acidly this time. We thought we might find a chink in his rhinoceros hide. We told him that the poor would always be with us, and had to be kept in their places and saved from radical agitators. We told him the importance of not letting the side down, and about the white man's burden. We told him of the gulf that divides gentlemen from dagoes and reds, and of the importance of playing cricket and not stabbing the police in the back. All for nothing. He just said "Bull!" and went ahead as if nothing had happened.

But the discouraging thing was that he got support. His majority at the last elections was higher than ever. Fair sickens one to think of him and his crude colonial supporters, undermining the whole concept of western democracy as we know it. Goes to show there's no gratitude for all the sacrifices we have made to bring Parliamentary democracy in its fullest sense to the broad masses of the colonies.

*The World of Science***PROBLEMS ON PAPYRUS**

By "ABACUS."

THE oldest mathematical manuscript in existence is a papyrus roll made by the ancient Egyptians of very thin longitudinal slices (each about a foot long) of a Nile River plant, the papyrus. The edges of the slices were overlapped then glued together and pressed. On such a strip, perhaps a foot wide and sometimes many feet long, the Egyptians traced the picture symbols, or glyphs, of their highly picturesque hieroglyphic system of writing. The long sheet was then rolled on a cylinder.

One day more than 3,500 years ago a learned Egyptian scribe sat down to copy a very useful old roll which was probably so worn that it had to be re-copied. With writing materials he inscribed on a new papyrus the title, date and his own name as follows:

"Rules for enquiring into nature, and for knowing all that exists (every) mystery . . . every secret. Behold this roll was written in Year 33, month 4 of the inundating season . . . (under the majesty of King of Upper) and Lower Egypt Auserre, endowed with life, in the likeness of a writing of antiquity made in the time of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt Nemare. It was the scribe Ahmose who wrote this copy."

This old papyrus, 13 inches wide and 19 feet long, now lies preserved between two strips of glass in the British Museum.

By the names of the ancient kings mentioned in the title just quoted, Egyptologists have dated the manuscript earlier than the 16th century before Christ, and the older one the scribe was copying is definitely dated in the 19th century B.C. Thus we have a glimpse of mathematics as it was nearly 4,000 years ago.

Today I want to bring you glimpses of this segment of ancient culture, this page from the book of time, to show how closely, in its very infancy, mathematics was related to human affairs.

The first set of rules refer to the resolution of fractions. The Egyptian could comprehend only unit fractions, that is, fractions with *one* for the numerator, like $1/5$, $1/6$, $1/10$, etc. (The single exception was $2/3$). His only way to express 2 divided by 5 (which we call $2/5$) was to add unit fractions, thus: $1/5$, $1/10$, $1/10$ (placing the fractions next to one another meant adding them). He wrote no such thing as $3/4$, but 3 divided by 4 was written $1/2$, $1/4$. Voluminous tables were needed to show the quotient of 2 divided by the prime numbers from 5 to 101. For example, the expression for 2 divided by 29 is $1/24$

plus $1/58$ plus $1/174$ plus $1/232$. What a system!

One problem starts: "Estimate of the food of a poultry farm." The amount of food needed daily for fattening a goose is given and, of course the manuscript has not the word goose, but a picture of one! Another problem concerns an "Example of exchanging bread for beer." Problem 69 reads: "Three and a half hekat of flour made into 80 loaves. Let me know the content of a single loaf in flour. Let me know their strength." The "hekat" is a unit of measure equal to about $1/7$ of our bushel. The answer is laboriously worked out at $1/32$ of a hekat plus 4 ro. The "ro" is a smaller unit — $1/320$ of a hekat.

Problem 65 reads: "Example of reckoning out 100 loaves for 10 men, a sailor, a foreman and a watchman with double."

The meaning of it all (as shown by the solution) is that 7 men have single rations and 3 men (the sailor, foreman and watchman) have double rations. The solution is accurately, though laboriously, done. Each man is to get $7\frac{2}{3}$ plus $1/39$ loaves and each "officer" $15\frac{1}{3}$ plus $1/26$ plus $1/78$ loaves. We would say $7\frac{9}{13}$ and $15\frac{5}{13}$.

All of the problems are of a practical nature. No generalizations were made and no theorizing had been done. The rules were empirical ones, discovered through experience.

Occasionally, however, what seems to be puzzle problems were inserted, like Problem 67, which reads: "Example of reckoning the produce of a herdsman. Behold now this herdsman came to the numbering of cattle with 70 oxen: said this accountant of cattle to this herdsman, How few are the head of oxen which thou hast brought! Where then are thy numerous head of oxen? This herdsman said to him, What I have brought thee is two-thirds of one-third of the cattle which thou didst entrust to me. Count for me and thou wilt find me complete." The man had probably been instructed to bring on a certain day only a fractional part of the cattle, which had been entrusted to his care for a long

time, the cattle meanwhile having increased in number. Since $2/3$ of $1/3$ is $2/9$, it is easy for a school boy to reason out that if 70 is $2/9$ of all the cattle, the total number is $9/2$ times 70, which is 315. It is even easier to do it by using algebraic notation. But the Egyptian knew no algebraic notation and did not know how to use $2/9$. His solution is therefore very cumbersome.

Of particular interest is Problem 50. It reads: "Method of reckoning a circular piece of land of diameter 9 khet. What is its area in land?" ("Khet" is the name of a linear unit). The statement of the problem is accompanied by a crudely drawn circle. The solution begins thus: "Take away thou $1/9$ of it, namely, 1; the remainder is 8." "Make thou the multiplication, 8 times 8; it becomes 64. This is its area in land."

What the Egyptians did, then, was to square $8/9$ of the diameter of a circle to get the area. This is done in several other mensuration problems in the manuscript.

You recall that to get the area of a circle, we multiply the square of the radius of a circle by a number called pi, the value of which to 4 decimals is 3.1416—or, with less precision, $3\frac{1}{7}$, which many of you have used. If we compare the Egyptian's area with ours we discover this to be $2/3$ of one percent greater. If we use 3.1605 (instead of 3.1416 for pi), we get the same area. It is not surprising that his answer is wrong but it is astonishing that he came so close to the area in view of his general knowledge of mathematics.

I shall quote a few more problems from the papyrus.

"Example of calculating land. If it is said to thee, A rectangle of land of 10 khet by 2 khet. What is its acreage?"

"A container into which corn has gone to the extent of 25 hundreds of quadruple-hekat. What are its dimensions?"

"Example of reckoning out a square container of 10 in its length, 10 in its breadth and 10 in its height. What is the amount that will go into it in corn?"

Such problems as these are as old as civilisation.

From the manuscript we learn that the ancient Egyptians could lay off angles, compute simple areas and volumes; add, subtract, multiply and divide, whole numbers and fractions.

Written records show that for 4,000 years mathematics has been of vital importance in human affairs. We know of course that this knowledge was accumulating in the hands and brains of mankind for many hundreds if not thousands of years before then.

FEDERAL FUTILITY

By L. BERNSTEIN.

"WE believe therefore, that a new movement, pledged to a realistic and courageous approach to South African problems, appealing to no narrow sectionalism or prejudices, and devoted to the pursuance of principle rather than expediency in our national life, will serve to rally those men and women of goodwill . . ."

The Federal Union Party's manifesto is a cry of deep despair at the pass to which the United Party has led the country — two Nationalist governments in five years, and exacerbated race relations reaching flash-point. As a symptom of that despair, it is significant; as a symptom of the wide-spread seeking for a change it is to be welcomed; and as a political programme it is pitiable, if not downright treacherous to the progressive seekings that gave it birth.

Federal Union overflows with good intentions, of the kind that pave so many roads.

There is the intention of "appealing to no narrow sectionalism or prejudices." Brave words that fail to square with the prejudices and narrow sectionalism which has seeped through the programme. The programme calls for ". . . unyielding resistance against any attempt at the domination of one group by the other." The groups referred to are the two language groups of Europeans. What is this but "narrow sectionalism," when coupled throughout the programme with the implicit and explicit acceptance of domination of the non-European majority by a European minority?

PREJUDICES.

And what is it but prejudices — the very prejudices which have elevated a National Party to government and reduced a United Party to splinters — which explains the whole "subject nation" approach of the programme to the political rights of non-Europeans? "The present system of group representation of Natives to be maintained . . ." This, after the whole Hertzog group representation system has been rejected by the only representative body of African opinion, the National Congress. "An interim period of group representation of Indians on a system similar to that recorded to Natives . . ." And this, after the Smuts government attempt to introduce such a system with the Ghetto Act was so universally rejected and boycotted by Indians as to be unworkable,

Nor is this relapse into the condemned "prejudice" merely an interim, short-term device, driven on the unwilling authors of the programme by the hard realities of South African life. ". . . The long-term policy to be taken in steps over a considerable period of years (My emphasis L.B.) is the ultimate placing of those non-Europeans who have passed suitable tests of a high standard on the common roll of voters." (My emphasis L.B.). Note in passing that there are no tests other than age, colour of skin and an ability to avoid conviction for treason that qualify Europeans to vote on this common roll.

But above that, this long term policy stretching away into the indistinguishable future is to be "subject *always* to the safeguard against the disproportionate representation of any one section of the Non-European population." (My emphasis L.B.). The majority shall remain a minority, always and forever; thus runs the credo of these new crusaders for the democratic way of life without prejudices, South African style.

PROGRESS BACKWARDS.

It is wilful self-deception which enables the framers of the programme to summarise their aim as ". . . a progressive rather than a repressive non-European policy in line with Western traditions and Christian teachings . . ." It is not, and never has been part of the Western tradition for men of any nation to accept second-class, subject nation status as "progress". Nor will South Africans, of any colour. It is part of the Christian teachings, which the Federal Unionists would do well to ponder, that there comes the phrase: 'I asked for bread, and you gave me a stone.' They will be hearing that phrase from the non-Europeans of this country yet.

If there is reference in the programme to the most pressing demands of the non-European people for the ending of the most unjust of laws, that reference is guarded and devious. "We believe that Natives who have attained a high degree of civilisation should be entitled to exemption from laws designed for the protection of backward peoples", says the programme.

It is a familiar phraseology, much beloved of native commissioners and Nationalist politicians. Every piece of repressive legislation devised by successive generations of white South Africa

has been passed off as "protection of the backward peoples" — pass laws and reserves; colour bars and martial law acts; vetoes, prohibitions and police tyrannies. An old language, sweetened up with sugar for the few natives that squeeze through the carefully erected fine-mesh of colour bars to progress and attain "a high degree of civilisation". Not the language with which to inspire a new forward sweep of the nation; not the language which will move mountains.

This much vaunted "realistic and courageous approach to South Africa's problems" is now on the surface only, like a "new model" American car. Underneath, the streamlining and 1953 remodelling, it is the same hoary model T that has been the undoing of South Africa's "progressives" from the rise of Onze Jan to the demise of the Torch Commando.

EMERGENCIES FOR EVER!

In terms of the Public Safety Act, the Government in a "State of Emergency" can make any laws it likes and can authorise any person to make any laws.

Not only can they make new laws; they can also sweep aside existing laws.

And they can fix penalties with maximums of five years' gaol, £500 fine, and the confiscation of goods and property.

President Hindenburg of the German Reich once signed an *Emergency Decree for the protection of the People and State*. It suspended the constitutional guarantees of personal liberties and property rights.

That "emergency" lasted from March 1933 until the downfall of the Nazi Dictatorship in May 1945!

Mr. Swart's Public Safety Act says that his "State of Emergency" may be declared for twelve months. But it can be renewed by the Government at the end of the twelve months, and again at the end of that! And so on, for ever.

This is Fascism!

(Extracted from "Rule by Sjamboek", copies of which are obtainable from the publishers, the Democratic League, P.O. Box 4347, Cape Town.)

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