

# LAND & LIBERTY

Editor  
V. H. BLUNDELL

Asst. Editor  
R. C. GRINHAM

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TWO SHILLINGS

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## Accidental Truth about the E E C

**P**ROPAGANDA for Britain to "go into Europe" continues in press and radio. Notwithstanding the warning by Sir Robert Menzies, former Prime Minister of Australia, that this might split the English speaking world and notwithstanding the effect on British relations with France, the Marketeers' subtle blending of expertise, economic metaphor, and emotional appeals to some vague idea of European solidarity—as if nations cannot cooperate for other purposes without submitting to centralised economic controls—must have some effect upon people taught to believe that wealth is produced and trade promoted not by people acting instinctively for their advantage, but by politics. The propaganda, moreover, obscures the admitted fact that the price of food is likely to rise, so that the burden will fall upon those least able to bear it. Sir Robert hoped that Britain would not believe that the only choice was between "Europe or the bush," but this does not appear to have incited investigation into the possibility of freedom of trade as an alternative to any set of restrictions; an alternative that would both improve relations with other countries and reduce the costs of living and producing.

Despite the publicised controversy, however one-sided, it is rare to find a clear summary of the 248 Articles of the Treaty of Rome, and what they entail. A factual statement devoid of jargon or metaphor, appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, June 24. A large displayed advertisement read: "If you are a businessman, or advise businessmen, you need to know about Common Market Law, Trade agreements, agencies, establishment of companies and branch offices, patents and trade marks, transport rates, agricultural prices, steel marketing, export regulations,

pensions and sickness benefits are all controlled by the European Court, the courts of the member countries, the EEC Commission and the Higher Authority. Keep up to date by taking (a bi-monthly legal periodical on the subject.)"

So the genuine unprivileged producer and trader may have some indication of the additional obstructions he must expect if Britain enters this "free market" area.

In a characteristic burst of Marketeer hyperbole, Belgium's Foreign Minister, Pierre Harmel, declared "The EEC is a living organism. You cannot restrict its growth without killing it."

If every heart-beat and breath of the human body were subject to Common Market Law, the only living organisms left would be the maggots feeding on a carcass. It is easy to see that the maggots of the EEC are those vast combinations of economic privilege that are already international in scope. The EEC will facilitate British tycoonery to link up with its Continental counterparts and exert insidious pressure in every council, committee and sub-committee of an un-natural monstrosity bent on perverting the natural, spontaneous functioning of production and trade. And if one looks to the basic source of economic power it can be traced to monopoly of land or natural resources.

It is significant that this forthright summary of Common Market Law was issued not in the course of controversy about the public interest, but by persons who for their personal advantage found it necessary to state the facts impartially. In the same way the facts about land monopoly sometimes come to light.

In 1955 an international financial group obtained a great land concession in a territory subject to the British Crown. In its address to prospective purchasers of this land the group gave some facts about economic law which neither the accredited schools nor the economic publicists appear to have noticed. "Every human being must occupy a piece of land," we were told. "The supply of land cannot be increased, but the world's population can (and does) increase. Throughout history the ownership of land has given power, wealth, food, prestige and influence. By owning land you had in your hands the well-being and livelihood of those who lived on it and by



it. The greater your domain the more influential you became and the more prestige you gained . . . Perhaps more fortunes have been made in land investment than in all other forms of investment combined . . . There are tax advantages attached to the owning of land—while the land

## Tons of Food Destroyed By the EEC

THE wholesale destruction of tons of food with Common Market approval is taking place in EEC countries, mainly France and Belgium, reports *The Sunday Times*, August 6. Food and vegetables are being burnt, ploughed into the ground, or dumped in vast compost heaps in order to "stabilise prices" rather than sell the food off cheaply.

The operation is being heavily financed by the payment of "destruction bonuses" from Common Market funds—funds contributed by consumers. Food Ministry officials in Bonn say it is perfectly legal under Brussels rules.

*The Sunday Times* correspondent, writing from Bonn, said that the consumer associations there were staggered to discover that French farmers who had destroyed one thousand tons of grade "A" tomatoes in one week were being paid £20,000 compensation by the Common Market.

Continues the correspondent: "The row which started over the tomatoes grew into a Common Market political 'hot potato' this weekend when it was discovered that Belgian farmers had also tipped over half a million cauliflowers, valued at £10,000, on to gigantic compost heaps or ploughed them into the ground in return for a bonus of nearly 8d. a cauliflower. Many hundreds of tons of tomatoes are to undergo similar 'subsidised destruction' in Belgium during the coming fortnight."

is held, and when it is sold at a profit . . . It is considered one of the classic hedges against inflation . . . The profit in buying land for future sale can now be substantially higher than from most other forms of investment . . . By waiting for others to develop the land around you your undeveloped land is almost certain to rise in value without being touched."

By analysing the facts thus impartially stated, with their implications into the sphere of publicity, one can deduce the basic social evil of our own and former times, and why we hear so little of it. And one can understand the ultimate source of the influences that are conditioning the minds of the British people to accept control over their personal and national affairs by anonymous international committees.

The British people have little enough control over British politicians, but they can sometimes turn out a government they do not like. What hope would they have of doing so to a maze of EEC committees governing so many aspects of their life and work? In the course of its history the British people developed a Common Law which on notable occasions preserved personal freedom against the encroachment of the ruling power: a Common Law radically different in spirit from Continental institutions. This is what the Marketeers urge us to abandon; they do so by exploiting economic fallacies. F.D.R.