NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Workers in New Zealand are returning to their tedious tasks after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The time of handshaking and fervent wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year is past. Things are returning to normal. The messages of Peace and good will to all men that occupied the press and radio for that brief period, have been replaced by the old familiar reports of war and acts of anything but peace or good will to anybody.

This New Year, 1963, in New Zealand is election year. Shortly the vote catching competition will be in full swing. Candidates for political office will be bombarding the workers with promises, assuring them that their interest is the candidate's sole concern. Each will put forward the argument that the policies of the opposing candidates forbode economic ruin. It is a safe bet that the Common Market and its ruinous effects on the economy of New Zealand will dominate the election speeches.

The Cuban situation which, we are led to believe, placed the world on the brink of atomic oblivion, received in New Zealand only passing notice as compared with Common Market news. It would seem that the loss of markets and profits is more fear-inspiring than atomisation.

Much literature has been written on the European Common Market by all and sundry. The Communist Party of New Zealand has issued a pamphlet, "Way out of the Common Market Menace," by their General Secretary Vic Wilcox. Therein is the "solution" to the problems of "our" trade. To the disposal of **"our"** dairy products, it is:

Establish each-way trade with the socialist world now. It is our only way out."

In fact, the concern of these self-styled Marxians for our masters' marketing difficulties is touching. On page 16 they state:

"In this pamphlet we are dealing with the issue of our primary exports and the problem of markets. It is the first thing to tackle, as all will agree. If we don't solve it, we face economic ruin.

"Failure to do so will mean for workers, farmers, businessmen, manufacturers and small contractors either radically-reduced wages and incomes, unemployment, or bankruptcy."

The stupid inference in the pamphlet is that the master class of N.Z. are doing very little about the marketing of **their** products.

The newspapers carry, almost daily, reports of the efforts of the various marketing boards in establishing new markets. Some idea of the obstacles to overcome is shown by a Japanese speaking journalist, Russell Orr, in an article in the **Dominion** (Wellington, Jan. 19, 1963). He points out:

"Many Japanese housewives abhor the smell of mutton. . . . First the housewife's interest in this kind of meat must be stimulated. Then she must be shown how to prepare this kind of food. Most important of all, the retail butchers must be interested in selling mutton."

Japan, of course, is not a "socialist" country. However, the marketing boards' representatives must have heeded the remarks of Mr. Wang Nien-tsu, leader of a Chinese People's Republic trade delegation to N. Z., which do not augur well for the development of a market for N. Z. meat and dairy products in that country. He is reported in "The Evening Post" (Wellington, 2-2-59) as saying:

"We want to export more. China will exert herself to expand her trade, but we are not interested in dairy products. We produce enough milk and quite a lot of meat; also our customs of living are different."

No doubt the various N. Z. marketing boards are well aware of the obstacles in developing markets in China. These people would not need the advice of the Communist party brains trust to "establish each-way trade" with the alleged "Socialist world" if the profits derived therefrom were large enough. If it is "their only way out" no doubt they will take it. History records, however, that whatever the state of the market for our masters' commodities, lucrative or otherwise, the position of the workers remains the same. In times of so-called prosperity, overwork, and struggle in the effort to maintain or improve working conditions; in depression periods, unemployment with its attendant distress and misery. The market problem common to all workers is the sale of their labouring powers on the labour market.

For workers, then, the "first thing to tackle" is the task of studying and understanding the conditions that place them in a position of selling their mental and physical energies on the market. When workers understand the nature of capitalism and its markets, they will see their "only way out" is the socialist alternative: "The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole." Markets or places of sale will then no longer be necessary. Common Markets could not menace. Struggles over markets and profits could not threaten mankind with atomic oblivion. Members of the Companion Parties of Socialism say: study just that.

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THE SHARK AND THE SARDINES

By JUAN JOSE AREVALO

Published by Lyle Stuart, New York, N. Y., 1961

This book makes interesting reading for students of United States-South American relations. It claims one million South American readers before being translated into English. Senor Arevalo (President of Guatemala, 1945-1951) sets himself up as spokesman for the rapidly developing Latin American capitalist interests. In this capacity he lays bare the ruthless methods used by U. S. capitalism (the Shark) in "glutting" the twenty South American republics (the Sardines) of natural resources and raw materials.

The modern method of capitalist penetration into a backward state generally takes the form of an extension of loans for industrial development, officially signed contracts, financial support of political incumbents, military aid, etc. When such methods fail, more overt measures may be taken such as the originating and supporting of malicious campaigns against those in power, even the organization of expatriates for the overthrow of existing (unfriendly) governments, or the dispatch of American arms and American "advisers." Earlier in this century, however, American imperialism was entirely open in its methods and would dispatch U. S. Marines to troubled areas in order to end the "disorders," and establish a regime that would recognize the "rights" of American capitalism. This was how the "siphoning off" of wealth from South America" by the United States began.

The author gives detailed accounts of this process in Nicaragua, Panama, etc., and quotes the confessions of Brigadier General Smedley Butler, highest ranking officer in the U. S. Marine Corps in 1934, to support his case. General Butler's words are worth reprinting. He wrote:

"I spent thirty three years (in the Marines)... most of my time being a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism... I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking-house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City (Bank) boys to collect revenue in... I helped in the rape of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall St...