

For the gardener

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Q: It can be said that the book was instrumental in triggering the debate on the referendum in the Commons? Although the idea was floating about independently of that book?

A: Yes. But I think that within some months or weeks of the book coming out, there was a noticeable switch within the Labour Party towards the idea of the referendum.

Q: But of course they were the main proponents of the idea.

A: Yes. But although I'm a Conservative, I think it did have some effect in converting some people in the Party.

Q: Would you say that party leaders have read it? Or probably they didn't have the time . . .

A: I don't know whether the party leaders have read it, but it wasn't the party leaders — it wasn't Harold Wilson — who changed the Labour Party's views on this. I'm sure that Wedgwood-Benn has read it. Within the Labour Party he was the leading proponent of the idea and it was largely due to his efforts that the Labour Party changed its official line.

Q: And as far as you are personally concerned, you think the Common Market issue should be put to the people in a referendum? You believe in the wisdom of the people to make the right decision?

A: I certainly thought that we ought to have a referendum on "going in" the Common Market. I myself was marginally in favour of going in. One of the reasons that converted me to the idea of a referendum before I had made a considerable study of the subject was

that, well before the 1970 election, when people were discussing it again, all this had been a factor of some importance in our earlier political life. But always in my constituency I had been more or less in favour of going in, and my Labour opponent had been more or less in favour of going in, and my Liberal opponent had been more or less in favour of going in — so if this was a vital issue, as I think we quite rightly argued, then in fact my constituents couldn't cast a meaningful vote on it because *all* the candidates said more or less the same thing.

Q: Did the referendum which you organised turn out "for" the Common Market?

A: It came out fractionally in favour. On the question of whether one should have a referendum now, I haven't finally made up my mind because, although I believe we ought to have a referendum, I feel that now that we have, as it were, married the EEC, it would be calamity for this country to come out.

One may or may not be enthusiastic about marrying Miss Smith. One can change one's mind on whether or not one will ask her in marriage. One can change one's mind when engaged on whether to go through with the marriage. But once one is married to Miss Smith, then it seems disastrous to turn round a year or two later and go through an agonising reappraisal as to whether or not it was right in the first instance.

Q: It depends on how lightly you envisage divorce.

A: Well, it is better to be sure before one is married than to have a divorce afterwards. Divorces are almost

always . . . er . . . have a bad effect on relations between people.

Q: This is indeed a very telling metaphor on Britain's European predicament. On another subject — you must have studied the Swiss Constitution, this bulky document which incorporates so much that normally belongs to ordinary legislation. What is your impression of it?

A: Well looking at it specifically from the referendum point of view, which after all, is basically what one is interested in, I clearly don't think that we can go nearly as far as you do in Switzerland in saying that 50,000 citizens are now going to sign a petition, or even change this to a million before voters are allowed to have a referendum. We both have the problem of what to do to differentiate between a constitutional measure and a non-constitutional measure. So I would like to see the referendum adopted as part of our constitution. Indeed the Conservative Party did take this view back at the beginning of the 20th century. In the debate on the Parliament Bill in 1911, we, as the official opposition, said that there ought to be a referendum involving major changes in the franchise, or on the question of devolution — on the change of powers between the central government and the regions. Nothing from my study of the Swiss Constitution and Switzerland's history makes me think that we were wrong as a party in 1911 to put this forward. And so I think that we do have quite a lot to learn from you in this respect.

FOR THE GARDENER

THE TULIP (*Tulipa*)

There is, in modern times, a great variety of Tulip available and these handsome, colourful flowers are really a must for the garden.

They are quite easy to grow and good results can be obtained if a few simple rules are followed. Planting time should not be before November and if the ground is very wet this can be delayed until more suitable conditions prevail. The normal planting depth of the bulb should be four to six inches, the lesser depth if the soil is on the heavy side. The reason for the comparatively deep planting is that the foliage of the Tulip is susceptible to frost damage and therefore one does not want the shoots appearing above ground too soon.

The hole for planting should be made with a trowel or dibber and a little sand should be sprinkled into the hole to provide good drainage under the bulb. Place the bulb into position in the hole, pointed end upwards, and fill the hole with soil. If available a good mulch of



rotted manure, compost or coconut fibre should be placed over the planting position, this helps to protect shoots should they break ground early.

Most bulbs, after the foliage goes brown after flowering, benefit from lifting. They should be thoroughly cleaned and stored in an airy place until next planting time. It is possible to leave certain types in the ground for up to three years before lifting. Darwin and late-flowering varieties come under this category. If it is not convenient to leave

plants in the ground until foliage goes brown, the whole may be dug up and replanted in some odd space in the garden to complete their cycle, this is essential in order to ensure that the flower bud develops in the bulb for the following season. The original bulb becomes exhausted after flowering and what are saved are new bulbs and bulblets which are offshoots of the parent bulb. Sometimes there are several tiny bulbs around the base of the parent, these can be planted, but will not flower in the first season, but will develop in the ground and produce flowers the following year.

Some of the varieties which are available: Single Early; Double Early; Cottage; Darwin; Rembrandt Breeder; Parrot; Lily Flowered and Bunch Flowered.

Tulips can also be grown as an indoor plant. They should be planted in good potting medium or fibre with the neck of the bulb just showing above the soil. Move into garden and cover with about four inches of leaf mould, sand or well-weathered ashes, when well rooted and the flower bud can be seen or felt, move into a warm room with temperature of about 65 degrees, keep shaded until shoot is three to four inches high, then expose to the light and keep well moist.