

SOCIAL CREDIT

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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1939

3d WEEKLY

NEWS AND NOTES

By Allan-a-Dale

THE Chairman of the Maypole Dairy Company at its annual meeting recently announced that "an increased trade has been done in margarine."

Seizures of stock and threats of bankruptcy proceedings against farmers in Suffolk are likely to result in the tithe war breaking out again.

Major-General Sir Evan Gibb has returned to London after visiting Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland, with a view to increasing the consumption of British herrings in those countries!

Imports of pig-iron into Germany from the United Kingdom during the six months, March to August, 1938, was 2,332 tons, compared to 39,203 for the six months, September, 1938, to February, 1939. This is no doubt an indication of a boom in the war-preparation business.

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, whose capital is held by the banks and whose function is to provide loans to farmers, appears to be progressing, for mortgage loans completed up to March 31, 1939, totalled £12,889,740, compared with £12,416,218 a year earlier.

WHY NOT APPLY TO THE BANK?

The Church of England's Pensions Board is advertising an appeal for funds. The advert. reads: "£700 will endow one pension"—"£500,000 wanted now."

They also state: "The Clergy Widows' Fund has been started to provide pensions for them and other aged dependants of the clergy. You, the people of England, are asked to help."

Here is an instance of that evasion of the real trouble afflicting the majority of our people, which is a shortage of purchasing power. The above Board is making no effort to increase total purchasing power; it seeks to redistribute the shortage, for pensions can be paid without taxation in any form, without charity in any form, and without borrowing in any form. One of the patrons of the above Board is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, has put his foot down and stopped an extensive barter agreement which was on the point of being reached between the German Government and the American meat packers and farm organisations.

German machinery and chemicals were to be exchanged for large quantities of American wheat, cotton and lard, but the imposition by Washington of an extra 25 per cent. countervailing duties stopped it.

A little boy was asked to write an essay on the "International Situation." He wrote, "From 1914-1918 there was a world war; ever since then we have had two minutes' peace every year."—*Press cutting.*

An astonishingly frank description of the "slum-evil" in New York is given. It is described by one of the authors as "an overwhelming menace, calling for heroic measures and large-scale planning to remedy the cumulative effects of greedy land speculation, low building standards and faulty city planning."

Seventeen square miles, or nearly 10 per cent. of the whole New York area, consists, it is stated, of slums or blighted areas. Ten square miles, chiefly in Brooklyn and Manhattan, have been condemned.

"Not since the days of Imperial Rome," says the writer, "have so many people been packed and piled together." Congestion in Harlem, it is added, has made common a system of beds rented in three eight-hour shifts.—*"Daily Telegraph," March 27, 1939.*

SABOTAGE

THE story of how wireless accessories manufacturers have for 16 years suppressed all news of a vacuum valve which would last 50 times as long as valves now used on home wireless sets became known in Washington recently (March, 1939), as further findings of the short-lived Monopoly Investigating Committee were released.

Newspapers and telegraph services have consistently boycotted the story, which reveals certain great wireless accessory trusts in a damning light.

Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, told the monopoly committee that the valve has been in use by the telephone company since 1923. *It has a life of 50,000 hours, compared with 1,000 hours for the wireless valves now in general home use.*

Although Western Electric (Bell Telephone's parts and accessories subsidiary) shifted to the long-life valve, Dr. Jewett testified, radio valve manufacturers continued to make the ordinary short-lived ones.

When Richard Patterson, assistant secretary of commerce, asked if the long-life Bell valve is available on the market for home wireless sets, the witness replied

that the principle could be adapted for ordinary wireless, *but it had not been done.*

Then came the crucial statement which shed light on the situation.

"Is anybody licensed to make the long-life valve?" Patterson asked.

"I think the whole R.C.A. (Radio Corporation of America) and G.E. (General Electric) group would be, under their license. *But it isn't commercially to their advantage to do it,*" Dr. Jewett answered.

Listeners took his statement to mean that manufacturers are more interested in selling a shorter-lived valve, thus insuring a flood of "repeat" business, than they are in giving the public the best possible goods.

Commissioner Isador Lubin, of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said he was "terribly upset" about the long-life valve. He wanted to know, at this point in the hearing, why he could not buy for his wireless set a 50,000-hour valve instead of a 1,000-hour one.

Dr. Jewett again repeated that the interests of the general radio parts manufacturers and the Bell System are quite different, the System being interested only in the manufacture of long-life low-maintenance-cost devices *for its own use.*

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COMMENTARY

The Editor to His Readers

ACCORDING to every sign at the moment of going to press, this number of "Social Credit" will probably be the last to be issued.

Your editor feels that the ending of this link of communication is not the desire of most readers, certainly it is not his own.

What do YOU think about it?

If it is your will and desire that the contact should be maintained, send a post-card with your name and address on it to the editor, G. Hickling, at his private address, 54 Poole Road, Coventry, at once, and he will inform you personally of the result of important negotiations he is now engaged on to maintain contact.

Letter to a Collector of Taxes

Dear Sir,—Your demand for payment of my income tax causes me extreme embarrassment at the present time, and in view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's declared ability to borrow large sums of money without increasing taxation, I venture to suggest that you be good enough to apply to him for a loan, thus relieving me and my fellow income tax victims of a burden we can ill afford to bear, whilst at the same time fulfilling your obligations.

I need hardly say that such a course would be extremely good for trade, because it would release for expenditure on ordinary consumption the sums that ordinary persons like myself are otherwise unable to spend on the goods and the services we should like to have and are so persistently urged by advertisers to buy.—Your faithfully,

JOHN SMITH

N.B.—A month after the above letter had been sent no reply had been received.

Lip Service

"BULLET and burglar-proof casing has been devised for Magna Carta, which will leave Lincoln Cathedral on a secret date for the World's Fair in New York, to be opened on April 30."—*"Reynolds," April 9, 1939.*

It is a pity the principles of Magna Carta are not as carefully kept to-day as the parchment.

Sabotage Debt!

"The Potato Marketing Board is actually seeking powers to increase its penalties."—*"Daily Telegraph" on report of Departmental Committee, April 6, 1939.*

What about putting the brake on death instead of life? Why not a National Credit Board to restrict debts? Let's start by getting rid of those of the largest size!

Feed Our Own Folk First

Mr. Noel-Baker demands a £10,000,000 loans for refugees.—*House of Commons, April 7, 1939.*

"The British Government has decided to send consignments of food to feed Madrid as a free gift to the Spanish Nationalist Government."—*"Daily Telegraph," April 8, 1939.*

"There were 2,380,913 old age pensioners in England and Wales on December 31 last. The number in receipt of relief on March 11 was 265,493."—*Mr. Walter Elliot, House of Commons, April 7, 1939.*

If we cannot love those whom we have seen, how shall we love those we have not seen?

Still Keeping the People Down

One of the most treasured relics of the City's Livery Companies is the dagger with which Sir William Walworth, Prime Warden of the Fishmongers, struck down the rebel leader, Wat Tyler.

True to tradition, the City to-day continues its opposition to common freedom and security, though to-day its methods are less open.

Nice Clean Fun

Earl Winterton, Paymaster-General, in the course of a recent recruiting speech:—

"After all, it has got to come to us some day, and I can assure you from personal experience that it is quite exciting wondering whether the next bullet or bomb will kill you!"

Perhaps we've got it all wrong and war is not really something to be dreaded. Perhaps it's just part of the Fitness Campaign. If so, up the "Peace Pacts!"

Rising Debt

"Germany's Rising Debt." £2,300,000,000 total debt. "Precarious financial position." "The printing press is now working at full speed."—*"Daily Telegraph, April 5, 1939.*" "An inflationary move is under way in Germany."—*"Daily Mail," April 4, 1939.*

In Great Britain the National Debt is over £8,000,000,000. The expected Budget deficit is £30,000,000. "There is also a widespread feeling that in present abnormal circumstances an increase in borrowing even beyond the £350,000,000 already envisaged would be a justifiable expedient."—*City page of the "Daily Telegraph," April 3, 1939.*

"Inflation," "Deflation," "Reflation"—what mumbo-jumbo the financial hirelings use!

The Gold Menace

"Millions of pounds' worth" of gold has been and is being sent to the United States owing to the war scare.

In the April Letter of the National City Bank of New York it is stated that this gold is "unnecessary, unwanted and ineffective." "It is a most depressing factor in world business," and constitutes a "menace."

All we can say is, what a blessing we didn't pay those War Debts.

Destitution in a Dominion

Mr. Emerson, a member of the Commission of Government in Newfoundland, said to a representative of the *Daily Telegraph* (April 6, 1939), with regard to the dole in Newfoundland, that payments are made only in kind, and he admitted that the value was only 3d. per head, but this was solely for food, such as salt pork, beef, tea, sugar and flour, and such things as matches and paraffin.

"In cases of real destitution, the Government provides clothes, but we do not advertise this, because of the demands that might be made." (Our italics.)

Who said Britons never would be slaves?

The Seamy Side

Continuing on the same subject of Newfoundland, the *Telegraph* says:

"Dealing with the other side of the picture, he (Mr. Emerson) said that during the five years the Commission had been in charge, the grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom had been equal only to about the interest on the public debt—say £700,000.

"They had initiated social welfare services." (Our italics.)

To those who understand the realities of the New Economics, this is still the dark side of the picture.

I believe all manner of asceticism to be the vilest blasphemy—blasphemy towards the whole of the human race.—Richard Jefferies.

ON THIS EARTH—

By Nicholas Mere

A Look Round

Having lived through two wars involving the country in which I was born, let it be recorded as follows. The exploiters of the earth, assisted by Universities, Colleges, various other odds and ends, including Diplomacy, run riot over the earth's abundance, and the common man must be kept in his place, humble, lowly, hat-touching. When things get in a mess, all these wonderful fountains of wisdom turn round, and bawl for sacrifice of the common man — humble, lowly, hat-touching. And that I think is an epitome of things as I see them after having lived through two wars. The modern machine has a half-Nelson on the neck of all interests crystallised in the colloquialism —“the old school tie,” and if they would come off their perch, and get an elementary grasp of Social Credit, we should be on the way for an adjustment between real wealth and the uncommonly modest demands of the common man. One of these this Easter planted me six trees for the sum of the proverbial fiddle—eighteen pence. I believe at the back of his mind was the thought that it was too much. Are Governments afraid of satisfying this type—or even going no further than giving it a taste of justice—which Nietzsche described as “Love with seeing eyes”?

Financial Optimism

From the *Evening Standard* of April 4, and at a time when one can hardly move in streets for machines, when the air above is never quiet for them, when undergrounds rumble with them, and when, because of machines there are two million unemployed, hear the financial expert in full song:—

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

“Although the unemployment figures made known to-day are for a period prior to the recent tension, there is no doubt that they indicate a favourable tendency. Within a few years there should be no unemployment at all in this country.

“In about five years probably a fifth of the men on the unemployment list will have died; a good proportion of the younger men will have gone into the Army, Navy or Air Force and a good many of the women will have gone back to the noble and joyful task of raising a new nation. Agriculture will take a lot of men and, of course, the armament industry will still be very active.

“It is possible that the aircraft industry will by that time have slowed down, for if we go on at our present rate of production, which is enormous, we shall be putting large quantities of airplanes into storage or a replacement reserve.”

This is as full of fallacies as a sieve is full of holes. The note of cheerfulness is struck, you will see, in the second paragraph—“a fifth of the men on the unemployment list will have died.” Well, prophecy for prophecy, in that time, the last nails will be in the coffin of sound finance, and it, together with all the gold may be dumped into the Atlantic. It will be a merry funeral. The fact will then emerge that “sound finance” was incapable of running a winkle stall in the New Cut, that “sound finance” needlessly had been the cause of blood and tears, that it had disrupted all the ideas of human happiness and security—for a comparatively brave few had sown and others could reap the harvest of Social Credit. And Thomas Hardy, the writer for grown-up men, might rejoice at seeing his own prophecy fulfilled:—

“We would establish those of kindlier build,

In fair Compassion skilled,
Men of deep art in life-development;
Watchers and warders of thy varied lands,

Men surfeited of laying heavy hands
Upon the innocent.

The mild, the fragile, the obscure content

Among the myriads of thy family.

Those, too, who love the true, the excellent,

And make their daily moves a melody.”

ABOUT HOBBIES

By Dorothy Beamish

ONE day recently the *News Chronicle* devoted half a page to the subject of hobbies. Eight extracts were published from readers' letters narrating how they spent their spare time. Those printed, it was explained, were selected because they did not involve any financial outlay.

One woman who lived in a small London flat could not afford to spend more than one and sixpence a week on her hobby, which was sightseeing, but she “had a good guide book.” She remarks that one and sixpence per week means taking sandwiches and doing a great deal of walking. For two or three weeks she visits museums and the old city churches, so as to save enough money to go to Kew or Hampton Court.

It is not, of course, quite true to say that these hobbies need no financial outlay. It would be correct to say that they cost very little. A pair of flat-heeled shoes are mentioned; no doubt they are stout walking shoes. These are not to be had as a rule under eighteen or twenty-five shillings a pair. Those costing less may

look stout when new, but wear out very quickly when subjected to hard wear and need constant repairing.

It may be remarked in passing that the interests of manufacturers and shopkeepers would best be served if people cultivated hobbies that did involve financial outlay, because then they would be able to sell out their stock and order or manufacture more.

However, the *News Chronicle* is not concerned with shopkeepers in this instance but with the hobbies of people who have very little money to spend.

They are very varied and interesting. One reader collects extracts about trees, both in prose and verse. Another good walker sketches old houses and cottages and gathers a store of information about local history and the architecture of different periods.

Telling original bed-time stories to her children, which she afterwards writes down, is the hobby of a young married woman. Another woman has a circle of pen friends in Holland, Denmark, Italy

and Baffin Land to whom she writes regularly. Perhaps the most original of all is a lady who writes “My hobby is writing letters, not to people but for them. . . . Sometimes it is for a girl who wants a certain kind of job and does not quite know how to apply for it, or for a housewife who is not quite satisfied with her council house and would like to apply for a larger one, a smaller one, or one nearer her husband's place of work. . . . Regarded purely as a hobby and not with any thought whatever of personal gain, it makes me very happy . . . It has made me many friends.”

This lady, and the young mother who

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

composes bed-time stories, really do spend next to nothing on their hobbies, but the others probably all cost a few shillings a week. Postage, fares, shoe repairs, sketching materials, etc., soon mount up.

A shilling or two is "nothing" to those who have adequate incomes, but to millions it is a strain or quite impossible. Every halfpenny has to be spent on what is strictly necessary, such as rent, food, clothes, etc.

And then there is the psychological factor. Those whose lives are uniformly grey and hopeless, who can only spend a shilling on something which interests them if they go without some material necessity, tend to lose interest in life and to sink into a state of apathy. They may once, perhaps, have had some talent for music or painting, appreciation of literature or zest for making things with their hands, but—not now. Desire fails with constant frustration. They want nothing but to eat and sleep and be as warm as possible, to read the papers, gossip, play an occasional game of cards perhaps.

Says George Meredith in "The Shaving of Shagpat":

"I'll call thee fair and I'll agree

Thou holdest love by silken strings,

When thou hast primed me from thy plenteous store;

But oh, till then a clod am I,

No spring within to bring forth flowers,

To empty stomachs Nature lowers,

The lake was full where Heaven looked fair of yore."

Some sink into melancholia. Doctors say that this state is harder to cure even than acute insanity. Prolonged rest, change of scene and the removal of all worry will often cure definite insanity, but in melancholia the reasoning power is usually intact, only the patient has lost all interest in everything and has no longer the will to live. Then—when it is too late—money is spent in the effort to restore the sufferer to normal and to reawaken his interest in life.

But in most cases his subconsciousness

knows that once well again he will have to return to the old life of deprivation, the nightmare of nothingness, where the lack of money writes "thou shalt not" over every door; where he may not make a garden, keep a dog, collect stamps, china, books or curios, play football, tennis or golf, ride, swim or cycle, carve wood, make rugs, paint pictures or study, visit the interesting and beautiful parts of his own or any other country, or in fact do anything which any normal person would want to do.

He does not get well. Often he commits suicide.

If we all had enough money to *live* on, what a joyous liberation of suppressed and hidden faculties there would be, what wonderful, useful, strange and amusing hobbies would be revealed.

And although our hobbies might *happen* to be inexpensive, they *need* not be so. "Financial outlay" simply means the purchase of materials from the shops or expenditure on fares. There is "bad trade" when we do *not* spend on these things and "good trade" when we *do*. But, of course, we must have the necessary tickets—money. Money which is always available for war must be made available for peaceful occupations.

A Tale of Nonsense

Listen to this tale of nonsense from the U.S.A., which results from the practice of "sound finance."

Last year, 1938, the Class 1 railways had the largest deficit in their history, except for the slump year of 1932, namely \$122,911,784.

In the same year, 1938, the same railways established a record for efficiency, as represented by the fact that only 115 lbs. of coal were required to haul 1,000 tons one mile, as compared with 172 lbs. in 1920—an improvement of 33 per cent.

Thus does "sound finance" reflect reality! Thus are people kept poor in the midst of plenty!

—Suicides

Free Money for War

If war should come, there is one thing on which everyone should insist, namely, that there shall be no war loans. All the money required for war can be created costlessly by the banks—as it was for the last war—and therefore is not their property. But for the fact that the people of this country, by their industry, can produce the goods, all the money in the world would be useless. It is this knowledge that provides the backing for the creation of new money, and all new money thus created really belongs to the people.

What fools we would be to suffer and pay in blood and tears for a war—and also pay for it again in money over years by allowing the banks to claim as their own that which is ours!

JUST OUT The Fig Tree

Quarterly

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