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For Political and Economic Democracy

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Weekly Twopence

BRITONS FED WORSE THAN RATS

HAS BEEN PROVED BY EXPERIMENT MALNUTRITION DESTROYING THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE. TERRIBLE EFFECT OF CHEAP FOOD

Experiments in feeding rats on a diet similar to that of the poorer people in this country were described in *The Times* on February 11, referring to a lecture by Major-General Sir Robert McCarrison to the Royal Society of Arts.

Two groups of rats were used, he said. One group was fed on a good stock diet, consisting of cereal grains, milk, milk-products, legumes, root and leafy vegetables, and fruits; with egg or meat occasionally. The other group was fed on a diet such as was commonly eaten by the poorer classes in England, consisting of white bread, margarine, over-sweetened tea with a little milk, boiled cabbage and potatoes, tinned meat, and tinned jam of the cheaper sorts.

Undernourishment and Crime

It was noticed that the former, well-fed group lived happily together, increased in weight, and flourished. The other group lived unhappily together; the animals did not increase in weight and became stunted and badly proportioned, with poor coats. They were also nervous and began to bite the attendants. By the sixtieth day of the experiment they began to kill and eat the weaker ones among them.

At the end of 190 days the survivors of both groups were killed and subjected to careful *post-mortem* examination. It was found that disease of the lungs was twice as common in the poorly-fed group, and that gastro-intestinal disease was very frequent, while the group receiving the good diet was free from it. It was not unreasonable, therefore, to expect that, other things being equal, similar results would arise in man from the use of these diets.

4,500,000 Live Worse Than That

There are some gruesome conclusions to be drawn from Sir Robert McCarrison's experiments. First of all the rats of this

country manage on the whole to live fairly well fending for themselves in warehouses and granaries, but 4,500,000 of our own people, as Sir John Orr is so urgently and repeatedly declaring, have barely 4s. a week to spend on food. They cannot even afford to live as well as the badly fed group of rats. For many millions more the normal diet is the same as that which stunted the rats.

Is there any wonder at the disgraceful percentage of recruits rejected by the Army? Is there anyone left who will argue that crime, disease, idiocy are not mainly due to poverty? And that National Dividends would put the people of this country on the road to being a peaceful, contented, happy nation?

A National Opportunity

What are the farmers of this country going to do about this? What are the green-grocers, butchers, provision merchants, dairies and caterers going to do about this? There were 1,194 bankruptcies in the provision and allied trades last year, including 130 dairymen.

Are these people, any more than the millions of hungry, undernourished would-be consumers going to sit down under this?

Stop living like rats — claim your inheritance.

Demand National Dividends — act and abolish poverty and LIVE — LIKE MEN!

Potato Growing Is Down

A report issued by the Potato Marketing Board estimates that there were 29,000 fewer acres under potatoes in Great Britain during 1935 than in 1934.

The board's figures for 1935 were 518,000 acres. The Ministry of Agriculture, taking into account growers of less than an acre, place the figure at 594,700—32,000 less than their 1934 figure.

Canada at Cross Roads Beware of Nationalisation

Parliament will be asked to make such changes in the ownership and control of the Bank of Canada as may be necessary to give the Government a predominant interest in its ownership as well as effective control. This announcement was made in the Throne speech read by the Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, to-day.

This implements the election promise of the Prime Minister that the Bank of Canada would be nationalised because the control of credit and the issue of currency are of direct concern to every citizen.—*Financial Times*, February 7.

"Nationalisation? I welcome it," said Mr. Montagu Norman.

WOMEN AS HOSTAGES

Alleged Tax Slavery

Mr. Graham White is to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons whether he has yet received a report from the Governor of Kenya Colony regarding the allegation that women are being seized and held as hostages, pending the payment of hut taxes by their male relatives.

He will also ask whether, as in the case of similar allegations in Nyasaland, he will

ask the Governor to furnish him with a full and immediate report.

What is the "big idea"? Is it to get the natives to have a grievance about their women instead of about their taxes?

MR. THERM TAX COLLECTOR

Extract from the speech by Sir David Milne-Watson at the Annual Meeting of the Gas Light and Coke Company.

THE recent threatened coal strike was averted by an appeal to users of coal in this country to increase voluntarily the price paid under their contracts.

The proposals originally put forward were eminently unfair to the public utility undertakings. At one time it was suggested that they should increase contract prices by a much larger sum than other users of coal. However, saner counsels prevailed, and ultimately we were asked to pay, in company with other industries, 1s. extra on our contracts.

Of course, it is contrary to every sound business rule that contract prices should be increased. **It was only knowing that the Government urged this course** and that they were supported by the desire of the public, expressed at the General Election, to see miners' wages raised, **that this voluntary increase on contract prices was agreed to. (Applause.)**

~~The directors of this company felt that they could not stand aside, and they have therefore undertaken to pay 1s. extra on all their coal contracts.~~

This involves a very serious increase in the cost of coal, our principal raw material—we use 3,000,000 tons a year—and we have no alternative but to ask the public whom we supply to pay something extra for their gas.

But we wish to make as little difference as is consistent with the economic running of our business, and we have decided that we can meet the new charge by raising the price of gas by 0.1d., or one-tenth of a penny, a therm. **That is to say, customers, who have been charged 8.6d. a therm will pay 8.7d. a therm, and so on.**

The difference this will make to individual accounts is very slight. An ordinary customer who pays, say, £3 a quarter at 8.6d. will only pay 8d. extra when the price is at 8.7d., and an automatic customer, from whose meter 15s. is collected at a price of 10.6d. will only pay 2d. extra when the price is 10.7d.

I am sure that people in our area will see the justice of being asked to take this comparatively slight share in helping the miners in the distressed areas in the North-East of England. (Applause.)

STARVATION AMID PLENTY

Money and Prices in South Africa

While more than 1,250,000 native men, women and children are almost starving in the Transkei district of the Cape of Good Hope, following the worst drought for 17 years, the maize which is their staple food is being "dumped" in overseas markets.

This tragic anomaly has excited strong comment, and there is likely to be a stormy session at the forthcoming meeting of the General Council for the United Transkei territories.

South Africa's surplus maize is being exported under subsidy to sell in overseas markets at 7s. a bag, but the natives in the drought-stricken areas are unable to buy it for less than 17s. 6d. a bag.

The Chief Magistrate for the Transkei area demands that the Government supply the natives with a quarter of a million bags of maize at export prices to tide them over the drought period. — *News Chronicle*, February 11.



And So the Poor Dog Had None

Major Douglas to Address Social Creditors

The meeting announced last week for February 26 will take place instead on SATURDAY, MARCH 7, at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, LONDON.

Major Douglas will deliver his address at 6 p.m. and there will be an opportunity from 4 p.m. till then for Social Creditors to meet one another and have tea in the Central Hall library.

Admission will be by ticket, price 1s., obtainable from the Secretary of the National Dividend Club, Captain T. H. Story, 28 Ashburnham Gardens, Upminster, Essex; and from the office of SOCIAL CREDIT. Accommodation is limited.

To know what you prefer, instead of humbly saying Amen to what the world tells you ought to prefer, is to keep your soul alive.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

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Pretty Sinister

IT is barely three weeks since we blinked our startled eyes at the news that the threatened coal strike had been averted by the generous action of certain great coal users, who most nobly offered to pay more for their coal than their contracts required.

Not that it did much good, seeing that a couple of weeks later the Coal Commission came to a standstill, baffled, and muttering darkly about compulsion. It was the spectacle of great industrial undertakings practising the Golden Rule, just like the Water Babies, that got us. It got us a bit suspicious, as a matter of fact, but we lay low and said nothing.

The truth of the matter is that a new and underhand trick of financial government has been introduced in this country, and the Governor of the Gas Light and Coke Company has performed a public service by his candid and clear exposure of it. We reproduce the relevant portion of his speech under the title "Mr. Therm, Tax Collector," on the front page.

The coal strike was averted by a subsidy to the coal industry, paid by the Government's agents-for-the-time-being, certain great industrial firms, like Imperial Chemicals, and public utility undertakings. The subsidy is to be financed, for the Government, by a kind of tax in the form of an addition to the price paid by consumers, or a deduction from dividends due to shareholders.

The feature of this manoeuvre is that the public does not realise that a subsidy has been paid, and that consumers of gas, chemicals, etc., do not realise that they are being taxed for the benefit of the coal industry. As for the shareholders, whose dividends will be taxed to extinction in any case, they are used to it—and to getting no sympathy.

It does not appear that the Government used any compulsion in this matter—events in the coal industry were no doubt coercive enough. But there is no mistaking which way the wind blows, and we are likely to be treated to all the tricks of Fascism, and the New Deal, camouflaged with pious noises.

As *The Observer* remarked this week in an article on the repercussions of the Soldiers' Bonus Bill in the United States, "fresh taxation on incomes is too visible to be readily acceptable." (Our italics.)

There is a more serious objection to the procedure disclosed than the sly and devious way in which it has been put over an unsuspecting, nay, an admiring public.

It has been generally accepted as an axiom that taxation is and should be solely a means of raising revenue. Now it stands out as a political expedient for financing one section of the community out of the pockets of another.

This kind of thing, dangerous and unconstitutional at any time, is utterly devilish in these times when the rapidly changing scene is so complicated that the ordinary citizen cannot hope to keep pace with the multitudinous rules, regulations, taxes, rates, and duties which beset him on all sides.

The closest possible watch upon the rights of the individual is needed here. Lord Hewart pointed the danger in his book "The New Despotism," but little has been done.

It is satisfactory to observe therefore that certain coal mining companies in the United States brought action in the Federal District Court at Kansas City to restrain the Government from enforcing the coal code and collecting the penalties prescribed for its foundation. The court ruled this Act unconstitutional in its entirety according to *The Times* of Thursday, January 2.

The Act imposed a tax of 15 per cent. on producers of soft coal, but remitted 13½ per cent. to those who would submit to the soft coal code. The court held that this tax was intended primarily as a means of coercion, and not as a device for raising revenue.

The decision is the right one, in an obvious case, but there are, as we have seen, more subtle ways of coercion and of trickery than this.

From a Seat in the Stalls

Compulsion

The Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission is to ask for compulsory powers from the Government, and pending a decision, is at a standstill. It desires to be able to exercise compulsion both in regard to centralised marketing, and in regard to "the closing of 'redundant' pits, the purchase of stores, and certain other matters." It seems quite probable they will get the powers they want, for the interference in business of a lot of second-rate experts, under the guise of rationalisation, New Deals, or corporate states, is all the rage. Moreover, as the *Sunday Times* remarked this week:

It is remarkable how quietly big schemes of change are introduced and received these days. On Tuesday we had a Government Bill to scrap superfluous spindles in the cotton trade and to authorise a levy on the survivors to pay for them, and on Thursday a Bill to bring three-quarters of a million agricultural workers within the scope of unemployment insurance. Both are measures of first-rate importance, which five years ago would have been hotly contested. Now they hardly cause a flutter at Westminster, however strong the contentions may have been in Lancashire on the Cotton Spindles Bill.

In all these cases where compulsion has to be invoked, it is because those engaged in the real work object to the plans provided for them by the new dealers.

Come Into My Parlour!

Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, when moving the second reading of the Government's Cotton Spinning Industry Bill (Scrap the Spindles) indicated that

He had been asked whether these proposals were not drafted in the interests of the banks. The banks were as much interested as anybody. They were creditors of the industry, and if as one of the results of the Bill the mills were put in a position in which they could make repayments of advances on loans which they had received he saw no serious objection. It was only what they and other creditors were entitled to. Unless the impression was given that those who put their money into the industry could be sure it would not be lost they would never attract fresh capital to the industry. (Hear, hear.)

Can't you hear them (the politicians) shouting "hear, hear!"?

Apart from the insanity of a government discussing proposed legislation for the actual destruction of real wealth within the frontiers of its own country, the inanity of the remark insinuating that bank loans are similar to those made by personal investors and therefore entitled to similar repayments passes belief.

The "medicine man" touch (bogey, bogey) about "unless the impression was given that those who put their money into the industry could be sure it would not be lost they would never attract fresh capital into industry," would earn the contempt of a Hottentot witch-doctor for its silly transparency. But the simple (or are they so innocent?) careerists could only shout "Hear, hear," in spite of the fact that the spell-binder, earlier in his speech, had referred to the financial ramp in the cotton industry:

In the post-War boom the capital reconstruction of many cotton-spinning companies was one of the greatest scandals of their time. In many cases it was nothing but a financial ramp. By 1921 the bubble had been burst.

Politics and Credit

The Bank for International Settlements was founded for the declared purpose of disentangling the war debts muddle and of facilitating their payment. But, war debt payments having been abandoned generally, it seems only reasonable that the B.I.S. should be wound up. Nevertheless, it seems now to be going stronger than ever; see what the *Daily Mail* of February 10 reports about it:

The governors of the central banks met at the Bank for International Settlements here to-day.

It is stated that M. Tannery, Governor of the Bank of France, on behalf of M. Flandin, the French Foreign Minister, asked Dr. Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, for information regarding the political intentions of Herr Hitler. No official statement has been issued.

Major Douglas foretold, from its beginning; that the real purpose of this bank was to be the Central Bank of Central Banks: a permanency and a super-credit-rationing agency, which would complete the stranglehold of International Finance upon the world. It looks as if he is right again.

Bacon and Eggs

The Government's Agricultural policy has been getting it in the neck all round. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce Produce Section, has now turned critic. Bacon consumption, it says, has been stabilised at 10,670,000 cwt. annually, and as home consumption has increased, importations from foreign sources have been reduced correspondingly, thus maintaining the 1934 levels. But "the scarcity of the cheaper grades is a hardship on the poorer members of the community, and without any relief of the

burden placed upon the consumer and taxpayer."

What has happened is that the supplies of home-cured bacon have not kept prices at reasonable levels, so there has been not competition for the dwindling supplies of Danish bacon, and this has forced up the price of it above the reach of millions of poorer families.

There seems to be nothing wrong with the quality of foreign foodstuffs. On the contrary, imported eggs have been "generally satisfactory," while home-produced eggs have more often than not been turned out in a "disgraceful condition." Faced with this dilemma the Reorganisation Committee sucks its thumb and then proposes increasing the duty on foreign eggs and putting a duty on colonial eggs which so far have entered the country free! This is to provide a subsidy for our own egg producers.

Pensions For All

The *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* publishes an article revealing "some amazing figures regarding pensions in Great Britain." Already one person in every nineteen is a State pensioner. Over £43,000,000 is still paid out each year to ex-soldiers and their dependants. Last year the Post Office paid over 40,000,000 war pension orders.

Besides these there are 664,000 contributory old-age pensioners between the ages of 65 and 70, while 1,526,000 men and women over 70 receive 10s. a week from the State on a non-contributory basis. In the last ten years over £230,000,000 has been spent on the Contributory Pensions Act of 1925. There are half a million civil servants, teachers, policemen and municipal employees who receive pensions when they retire on reaching the age limit.

If the two millions on the dole and the 1,500,000 on Public Assistance are classed as pensioners, one in every three persons is receiving a State bounty. A famous American statesman once declared that Britain's stability in recent years was due to its army of pensioners. Why not make it still more stable by giving everybody a pension in the form of a National Dividend?

More Dry Rot

What it means to live in a Distressed Area was described in gruesome language by several of the speakers at a recent week-end conference at Birmingham University of students, workers, representatives and unemployed.

Mr. C. Halliday, from the Rhondda Valley, who has only had 14 weeks' work since 1928, said that continuous unemployment had a bad effect on a man's morale. Fathers saw their sons growing up without the discipline of work, quickly falling into a state of lethargy and hopelessness.

He asked what mothers were to do. Were they to keep their sons at home in idleness; were they to try to get jobs for them in the pits, knowing that they would not be wanted after they were 21; or were they to let them be taken miles away under transference schemes?

He went on to describe the Inquisitorial horrors of the Means Test. Inspectors actually inquired into the state of the family's bed-clothing and underclothing. How would university men, he asked, like to discuss the conditions of their wives' clothing with strangers? Was it any wonder there was antagonism and suspicion?

A City of Lost Souls

Another speaker, Mr. Patrick Keating, described Merthyr Tydvil as "a city of lost souls." Some of the streets he said, would break the heart of any thinking man because shop after shop was closed and falling to pieces. The only scheme for transference of labour was through Government training centres and these were held in contempt by all who understood what they were. Nobody could learn a trade in six months, but he could be an effective weapon in the hands of employers who wished to reduce the standards of living.

An unemployed Scotsman, Mr. John McGregor, described the conditions in Fife. The Medical Officer for Fife had reported that 50 per cent. of the school-children were suffering from malnutrition and physical defects due to prolonged unemployment and low wages. In January, 1935, 700 Glasgow men applied to join the Army and out of these no fewer than 600 were rejected. For the Territorial Army there were 60 per cent. of rejections. In Lancashire there were 10,000 juveniles who could find no opportunities of work and by 1937 this figure would rise to 13,000. In spite of the surplus, many engineering shops and shipyards were

manned with apprentice labour. The Queen Mary was built almost entirely with labour of this sort.

The unemployed were convinced that Sir Arthur Rose, the Special Areas Commissioner in Scotland, was merely tinkering with the problem.

National Dividends would end all this misery and all the disputes arising out-of it.

The War Against Plenty

Communiqués from the battle areas of the war against plenty show that the forces of destruction have been making steady progress in America, aided by Nature, who seems to be in an accommodating mood. Whereas A.A.A. control has accounted for about 90 per cent. of the "advance" against cotton and over half the slaughter and heaven knows how many millions of hogs, drought and abnormal temperatures have very kindly done most of the heavy work in destroying wheat and corn.

Economists, of course, realise that it is much sounder finance to have plenty destroyed by Nature rather than raising money by taxation to pay for the destruction. South African papers have already been suggesting that farmers should pray for weather to foster diseases in crops and in the Middle West they have raised a cry of "Why Kill Bugs?" But nobody has yet thought of praying for tidal waves and earthquakes. This (if answered), we cannot help thinking, would do the job much more thoroughly and provide employment for many years to come.

The Farming Dilemma

A correspondent to *The Times* claims that a way has at last been found out of the dilemma of depressed agriculture at home and under-fed citizens. A technical Commission of Nutritional Experts of the League's Health Organisation was called together to study "the apparent over-production of food and the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty." Instead of considering the minimum nutritional standards to maintain a state of average health, they studied the optimum quantities of food required to promote first-class health.

In their report they say that in Great Britain there is probably little, if any, shortage of energy-giving foods, but serious deficiencies in the so-called "protective" foods—that is, in foods rich in minerals and vitamins, such as milk, eggs, green vegetables, fresh fruit and potatoes.

As regards milk, the Commission recommends very much greater quantities being made available—for instance, 1.76 pints a day for pregnant or nursing mothers. Taken over the whole population, the recommendations would probably mean (thinks *The Times* correspondent) a consumption of seven pints of liquid milk, per head, per week, instead of three. That would mean roughly doubling the milk production and keeping another 2,000,000 cows. It would also mean great increases in the consumption of eggs, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit.

In all this there is not a word to suggest any difficulty in increasing production. Lack of money demand is the only snag. If National Dividends were issued, the problem would at once solve itself.

Food, Clothing and Shelter

The total of failures for 1935, at 6,038, is the lowest recorded for the United Kingdom since 1921, statistics showing a heavy decline since the record high total of 8,654 was reached in 1932.

Retail traders this year account for 5,041 cases, headed by provision and allied businesses with 1,194 failures (23.6 per cent.), whilst clothiers and outfitters follow with 607 failures (12.0 per cent.). Strange that the two most vital branches of distribution should head the list of failures!

Between these two come the building trades with 564 failures (18.2 per cent.). In view of recent statements in the press that the peak of the building boom had been reached, it is not surprising that builders show for the last three years totals of 350, 427, and 564 respectively, but it is ominous to read that dairymen for the same period show totals of 69, 56, and 130. It would really seem as if the average dairyman was not selling sufficient milk to make a living—for it would, of course, be most unreasonable to suggest that marketing boards or levies would have had the least influence on the figures.

Wage cuts proposed by employers in the Lancashire cotton industry range from five per cent. to fifteen per cent. of actual earnings. — *"Financial Times," November 29, 1935.*

Wonderful Fleet Street

IN the *Daily Express* of January 7 there appeared an article headed "What IS the National Debt? YOU OWE £165 of it . . . we all do, and we owe most of it to ourselves."

It goes on ". . . when it [the Government] estimates its expenditure it will reason as follows: 'We should have three cruisers and six destroyers this year. We shall have to make do with two cruisers and five destroyers. **The cruiser we do not build will give us the money to pay interest on our loan: the destroyer will give us a little towards the repayment of the capital we borrowed.**'"

One might think the writer had given away the unholy secret of how to make money—"The cruiser we do not build will give us the money . . ."

You see how simple it is? I need a house, I haven't any money to settle the debts I already owe, so I proceed to a nice, quiet place in the country, secluded and near a shady wood (it would hardly do to be seen making money too easily by the vulgar crowd, would it?) and say to myself "The house I will not build on this lovely site will give me the money to pay for the debts I already owe." But does it?

I'm afraid I must confess the magic wouldn't work when I tried it. I read the article again—surely I hadn't mixed up the formula—the magic words—? No, the words

were right, and then a horrible suspicion entered my mind. Surely—surely, thought I, he doesn't mean the Government intends to charge the public with the price of the unbuilt cruiser, and so become possessed of money to pay for something else?

It sounds like fraud to me, but can it be that not building cruisers gives the Government money—or is there a third way I can't think of? It looks fishy to me.

The Post Office employs 250,000 workers, pays £36,000,000 a year in wages, then hands over THIRTEEN MILLION POUNDS PROFIT to the Treasury for the taxpayers' relief. — *"Sunday Express,"* January 12.

Does this mean that the taxpayer gets relief by overcharging the consumers of Post Office services? Are these thirteen millions going to be distributed to the taxpayer in the same form as it was handed across the Post Office counter? If not, it looks as if both the taxpayer and buyers of stamps need relief.

Relief from what? I should say the hypnotism that pours out of Fleet Street, for its own efforts to use black ink for white-wash rivals the Black Magic of Throgmorton Street itself.

Our Amazing Budget! Our Marvellous Financial System!! (the envy of the world!). Wonderful Fleet Street!!!

"BROCK"

ITALIANS PAY TAXES

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE?

I HAVE before me an ordinary tax-paper, with a list of 26 of the most generally applied taxes, of a small provincial town (writes "A Resident in Italy," in a letter to the *Manchester Guardian*.)

They are—1, Land. 2, Supplementary land tax. 3, Agrarian contribution. 4, Vineyards. 5, Buildings. 6, Supplementary on buildings. 7, Contribution to Fascist Syndicate. 8, Sojourn tax (this applies to all persons, Italian or foreign, not born in the commune and not exempted under some other heading). 9, Government Income-tax. 10, Supplementary Government Income-tax. 11, Communal Income-tax. 12, Provincial Income-tax. 13, Complementary Income-tax. 14, Chamber of Commerce. 15, Patrimonial. 16, Bachelors. 17, Tenancy. 18, Pianofortes. 19, Billiards. 20, Certificates (driving and teaching licences professional degrees, &c.) 21, Licences to sell or practise. 22, Cattle and horses. 23, Dogs. 24, Bicycles. 25, Servants. 26, Signboards.

Who Escapes?

Besides these, some and often most of which are paid by every man and woman on the roster, there are taxes on motor cars and bicycles, on machinery of all kinds, including reapers, binders, ploughs, and all farm instruments, on radios, on coffee-makers, and on cigarette-lighters. A tailor (or dress-maker) pays a tax on his tape-measure) and a grocer on his scales. In most towns owners of houses though not forced to make repairs, must pay a "tax on repairs."

Families and Bachelors

There is a tax on letting a house, another for renting one, and another for selling furniture out of it. There is a tax on entertainments, exhibitions, lectures, and tennis, golf, and football played in a club. There is a tax on having a family and another on not having one.

The "complementary" and supplementary taxes are not super-taxes on the rich but a further percentage added to the original. Besides these direct charges there are Government taxes, charged to the consumer, on electric light, gas, water, and telephone, all of which are provided by private companies.

Taxes From Stamps

An enormous revenue is collected from fiscal stamps on invoices. Any public notice, be it only for a strayed dog and written in pencil on a half-sheet of paper and placed in a shop window must have a fiscal stamp, and the charge on posters is often greater than the cost of them. All applications and almost all communications to a communal, provincial, or State office must be made on stamped paper.

Number 26 of the list quoted includes a fairly heavy charge on names over shop windows and any lettering on the windows; awnings over shops are taxed and so are balconies over a street.

These are not all the taxes. There are others to meet special cases. There are many indirect taxes which affect the individual by an increase in the price of goods.

HUNGER AMID PLENTY BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER MUCH

The mixed committee on the problems of nutrition set up by the League as the result of a debate in the Assembly in September on the existence of malnutrition alongside over-production of foodstuffs held its first meeting to-day.

The committee has been given wide terms of reference directed towards finding a solution on lines of social, economic, and hygienic co-operation, and one of its tasks will be to reach a conclusion on the quantities of essential constituents of food necessary for a health-maintaining diet. — *"The Times,"* February 11.

In a contemplative fashion
And a tranquil frame of mind,
Free from every trace of passion,
Some solution let us find.
Let us grasp the situation,
Solve the complicated plot;
Quiet calm deliberation
Disentangles every knot.

W. S. Gilbert

MANCHESTER TRAFFIC PROBLEM

NO DIFFICULTY TO ENGINEERS, BUT—

"The whole city is in a state of chaos from the traffic point of view and Tubes are the only and inevitable solution. Our streets have reached saturation point," says Alderman James Bowie. "Already a survey has been made by the City Engineer which shows that there are no engineering difficulties in the way."

Then why not build Tubes?

FOREST MYSTERY

A "considerable amount of money" is stated to have been found in the pockets of an unidentified man, between forty and fifty, found lying dead in Epping Forest, at Loughton, Essex, yesterday. — *"Sunday Express,"* February 9.

What did he want to die for? He had some money.

POLISH BANK'S NEW PRESIDENT

An important change has been made in the personnel of the Central Bank of Poland, the Bank Polski. The president of the Bank Polski, Mr. Wroblewski, has resigned, and has been succeeded by the Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Adam Koc, who is well known in London, where he negotiated several British investments for Poland, such as those of the Metropolitan-Vickers, English Electric, and Westinghouse Brake companies. Mr. Koc is known to be in favour of a "sound money" policy. No monetary experiments may be expected in Poland while he is president of the Bank Polski. — *"The Times,"* February 11.

FLOTSAM OF FINANCE

Notices displayed at Bow Street Police Station, February 10, 1936:

Woman found ill in street suffering from loss of memory. Age 35. 5ft. 4ins. in height. In St. George's Hospital, Knightsbridge. —

Man found wandering, deemed a person of unsound mind. Age 68. Height 5ft. 10ins. In L.C.C. Institution, Bow Road.

Found ill in street, unconscious. Age 30. 5ft. 8ins. in height. In Finchley Memorial Hospital, Bow Lane, Finchley.

Found in River Thames, now in Westminster Mortuary, February 5, 1936. Age 60. Height 5ft. 10ins.

THE PRICE OF "SOUND FINANCE"

At the inquest on Mr. Robert Williams, a former chairman for the Labour Party, evidence was given as to Williams having had financial and health worries.

Mrs. Griffiths, who worked in the house where he lived, described how she found Williams with his head in the gas oven, with the gas still escaping.

NO CONSOLATION WHATEVER

In reply to suggestions that something might be done to improve relations between the public and the Inland Revenue authorities by simplifying income-tax forms, Mr. M. Kliman, of the Inland Revenue Department, said the difficulty was that the forms had to be worded in such manner that they could not be challenged. If it was any consolation, the American forms, he said, were still worse.—*From a report in "The Times" of the conference of the Institute of Public Administration.*

INDUSTRIAL REFORM IN TURKEY

STATE CONTROL OF MINES

A second five-year industrial plan has now been prepared by a commission of specialists sitting in Ankara.

To judge by the preliminary steps taken by the Government, it seems probable that within a short time all mines will be either owned or controlled by the State, and all mining activities will be entrusted to a special bank, the Erti Bank.—*"The Times,"* February 10.

A finger in the pie, as usual.

"THE DANES WIN"

"The latest official figures giving a full year's trade balance between Britain and Denmark are for 1934. They show that while Denmark exported £33,000,000 worth of goods to Britain the Danes only imported £13,000,000 worth of goods from Britain."

The foregoing (headline included) is from the *Sunday Express* of February 9. What do the Danes win?

The Eternal Lie

By Charles Jones

No. 1—"What Do You Require, Madam?"

THE shop is façaded in chromium and ebony. Boots and shoes in the window are stuffed with crimson and purple, and perched like birds, preened and plumed, on cunning glass shelves like crystal leaves on a silver stem.

A woman goes half-shyly through the glistening door on which the sign "All qualities stocked" is emblazoned, and her small son just escapes being caught like a rabbit in a gin as the sprung door swings swiftly to.

"What do you require, Madam?" asks the eager salesman.

"I want a pair of boots for my boy—good wearing ones—at about four-and-eleven."

The salesman's face drops a little, until he remembers the manual of the Correspondence College which recommended job-keepers as well as job-seekers to keep smiles in stock.

But he cannot help saddening. Without a conscious thought he realises that he is in the presence of a lie; one of the conventional lies which is the whole conversation of commerce. So he smilingly indicates an inner room, and the woman returns his glance of understanding.

The woman lays her hand gently on the

SHOT AND SHELL

It is calculated that the number of hens in Britain during 1935 was about two million less than the previous year. Yet we imported 125 million more eggs. — *"Daily Express,"* January 21, 1936.

Electricity output for December, 1935, was 23.9 per cent. higher than in 1934. For the whole year, the increase was 13.6 per cent.—*"The Times,"* January 10, 1936.

Total gas sales of the Gas Light and Coke Company in 1935 amounted to over 255 million therms, a new high record.—*"Daily Express,"* January 31, 1936.

Production of coal for week ending January 18, 1936, was 5,010,400 tons, and the number of persons employed 758,400. The corresponding week of last year shows 4,821,600 tons and 769,500 employed.—*"Board of Trade Journal,"* January 30, 1936.

U.S. Federal Reserve Board states that output per worker in manufacturing in 1929 was about 45 per cent. higher than in 1919, whilst number of wage earners decreased by 10 per cent.—*"Daily Herald,"* January 13, 1936.

It is of vital importance that England should be made safe for investors, because without the constant investment of new money trade dies off and unemployment increases.—*Mr. S. W. Alexander, in "Daily Express,"* January 31, 1936.

Germany's oil production increased in 1935 by 36.6 per cent., following an increase of 34.5 in 1934.—*"Financial Times,"* January 27, 1936.

The national loss of skill and individuality resulting from the huge amalgamations which have taken place since the war will one day present itself as a national problem.—*Mr. S. W. Alexander, in "Daily Express,"* January 23, 1936.

The production of radium is to be restricted, work being confined to four days a week to reduce output of Joachimsthal (Czechoslovakia) factory. — *"Daily Herald,"* January 27, 1936.

British companies are employing Chinese apprentices in their businesses. After training, they return to China in responsible positions. — *"Daily Express,"* January 20, 1936.

Labour cost of making pint milk bottles decreased from 75 cents to 10 cents per gross, by introduction of new machine, says U.S. Federal Reserve Board. — *"Daily Herald,"* January 13, 1936.

Eight million sheep and whole herds of cattle have died in recent drought in Western Queensland. — *"Daily Express,"* January 31, 1936.

THE BANKER'S TAX

A recent cable from New Zealand discloses the highest item of expenditure in the coming budget as Debt Services, over £7,000,000, or nearly half the total revenue received (£16,000,000). We hope our friends in New Zealand will remember, when the tax collector calls next, that seven out of sixteen shillings they paid last year went as tribute to the banker for lending the Government its own credit.

Overseas Notes

A Girdle Round About the Earth

JUDGING OR GRUDGING

MORE than one South African correspondent has been taking me to task on the score of inconsistency. On November 1, in an article entitled "This question of compromise," I tried to explain why "schemes" of any kind wearing a Social Credit label almost always compromised in matters of principle, and were at the best irrelevant, since the foundations of Social Credit had been well and truly laid by Douglas himself, and all else was premature till political power was restored to the people. Exception has been taken to a qualified welcome I gave, in "Overseas Notes" for December 27, to the "Economic Reform Association" of South Africa, on the grounds that its "Programme of Principles" is not Douglas Social Credit, and that therefore my failure to condemn it contradicts my earlier article. (I had suggested that the Social Crediters in the Association probably knew what they were about, although their methods were different from ours.)

Personal Responsibility

If your principles are clear your practice can be flexible. The few hundreds or thousands of Social Crediters in any country are, whether they like it or not, in a position of very great responsibility. They are, or can be if they choose, officers in a national army just beginning to fight for its freedom against an alien and intangible power. As practical men they have to take conditions as they find them, and what is more make the best of them. As Major Douglas has more than once suggested, it is strategy that will win the war for civilisation.

In this particular case, it would be unsound in principle, and therefore also in practice, to put out the Economic Reform Association's programme under a *Douglas Social Credit* label, but this has not been done. Evidently members of the Association have, rightly or wrongly, come to the conclusion that the doctrines of Social Credit are meeting with a local resistance or apathy so strong that to ignore it would be to invite failure, and that therefore other methods must be employed as well. In such circumstances we are developing our Electoral Campaign, but it may easily be that the nucleus of informed opinion in South Africa is too small for this step, and that the aim therefore is to arouse interest which will lead later to a demand for results. Father Coughlin, for example, has done this, although his sixteen-point programme is not Social Credit as we understand it. Yet to belittle or even fail to welcome his immense and beneficent influence in the cause of credit reform would be patently ridiculous. In South Africa we have an Association largely under the influence of Social Crediters who must be presumed, from this distance, to know what they are about, and who can only be judged by results in the matter of their Association's activities.

No Option

It should go without saying that the task of the orthodox Douglas Social Credit organisations is essential in all circumstances. They are the intellectual aristocracy of monetary reform, and if any local body describing itself as "Social Credit," but putting out something contrary to its principles were to appear, it would be their job to make the discrepancy clear. As *individuals*, however, they can simultaneously be exploring promising modes of action, assuming that the local movement has not agreed on some form of campaign to demand results, and by the effects they produce they will and must be judged. Meanwhile we have no option but to trust to the limit the men on the spot and the integrity of their purpose. If they should let down or mislead their own people, these will judge them more decisively than we could ever be in a position to do. If they succeed, who will grudge them the credit for their strategy?

SECURITY AFTER FORTY

The "Social Credit Party," with headquarters in Detroit, distributes a pamphlet entitled "Security After Forty: one hundred dollars monthly, living income annuity without taxation or confiscation." It is proposed that the money shall be found from the "National Credit Account," representing the nation's capacity to produce needed goods

and services in accordance with the figures of the National Survey of Potential Product Capacity (see Overseas Notes for December 20). There would therefore be no increase in taxation. "Social Credit," say the authors of the scheme, "is the credit which society builds up when its individual members cooperate in industrial activity," and elsewhere they add, "idleness will be abolished by putting men to work at productive labour." (My italics.) Douglas is quoted once, but no attempt appears to be made to claim that the Party's programme is in harmony with his principles.

NO POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

Short and Bitter

The *Times* Canberra correspondent states that the Australian Loan Council "has completed its business after sitting for a day and a half," and he attributes the brevity of the proceedings to "improved finances and reduced unemployment," which made it "unnecessary" to discuss further loans for public works in the current year. New South Wales expects to balance its budget, which would "wipe out the disastrous consequences of the Lang régime," and "completely restore the financial stability of all the Australian Governments." (My italics.) Why (except under a bankers' system of rewards and punishments) the paper security

that he declared there was no poverty in Australia . . . "This winter," says another correspondent, "I concentrated on bed-clothes, as there are hundreds of families sleeping on bagging or old rags. Little girls I have made sets of clothing for are obliged to sleep in them as they have no night attire, in fact nothing but the things I or someone else has given them." This letter continues to give detailed descriptions of various cases of starvation which have come under the direct notice of the writer, stories which in an earlier generation would have turned men and women into socialists or communists, when it still seemed inevitable that the poor could only be fed at the expense of the rich.

In an age of plenty for all, such letters, and others like them that reach me from all over the Empire, are doubly horrifying as an illustration of the workings of a system that deliberately attempts to reduce men to the level of animals. As for politicians, men honest and kindly in their private life, and very likely sincerely anxious to do their best for their people, it reduces them to the status of jackals, but without their knowing it. Only the electors can give their representatives back their self-respect.

ALBERTA

At the time of writing there has been little development in the Alberta situation. The provincial legislature opened its new session on February 6, but detailed reports of business done are not yet available. "The legislation which Mr. Aberhart announces will be introduced," says *The Times*, "includes an Enabling Bill permitting Social Credit to be put into operation by Order in Council when conditions are propitious without further reference to the Legislature." There will also probably be a proposal that the provincial income-tax shall be collected by the Federal

WHERE MONEY COMES FROM

LAST week I answered the question: "Where did the £15,000,000 lost by the cotton spinners, and the £7,000,000,000 spent by the nation on the war, go to?" I said that the money had gone back whence it came, but I promised to explain where that was.

Well, all money comes from figures in books. Imagine opening a book and seeing fairies stepping out of its pages—good fairies that fly away and spend their short life in the world making dreams come true. That is money.

Engineers and scientists have dreams; they plan ways and devise schemes of using natural resources so as to produce all the wonderful things that go to make up modern civilisation.

But none of these dreams can come true without money—the little figures that come out of books. And when the figures have wrought their magic influence they go back to the books whence they came and are never seen again—except as bad fairies representing debt.

The answer to "Where did the money come from?" is, then, that it was just figures written in books.

Who writes those figures? Who creates the fairies and orders them back again?

Next week I will tell you.

NIKE NOUS

of one province should restore that of the others is not explained, and still less why it should matter in the first place. If the citizens' purchasing power were increased as a result, that would be real news, but anyone who is not hypnotised by finance propaganda knows that balanced budgets lead to exactly the opposite effect.

The Federal Government itself does not only obey the bankers, it almost seems to go out of its way to lick their boots. The *Melbourne Star* reports a memorandum prepared by a Committee on behalf of the Government, condemning the Douglas proposals as "a scheme of crazy credits," and stating further that Social Credit is "fallacious and pernicious, and that its general acceptance would be a public calamity." *The New Economics* comments: "Until real Social Credit prosperity and freedom prevail . . . events will continue to behave as if in the pay of the Douglas theory."

Distance Lends Enchantment

Mr. Lyons, however, knows better, because he is, or seems to be, one of those happy men who believe whatever they want to. When he was in Ceylon on his way back to Australia a few months ago, his heart was wrong ("it should have been his neck," comments one of my unfeeling correspondents), over the sad plight of the Cingalese, who seem to be suffering from the earlier stages of financial blessedness. It was in Ceylon

Government's agencies. The *Toronto Star* quotes Mr. Magor, financial adviser to the Government, as saying that he was returning to Alberta about the middle of February, and that it would probably take about three months to complete his study of the provincial finances.

The following paragraph from the *Edmonton Journal* deserves a paragraph to itself: "Should Alberta's financial situation become specially critical, according to views in one quarter, there is a possibility that the federal government might invoke the 'peace, order and good government' act passed two years ago by the Bennett régime, but never yet promulgated, which envisions emergency rule by a dominion-appointed administrator with power to set aside the jurisdiction of the provincial government, or even legislature."

Taken by itself this does not perhaps deserve italics. Taken in conjunction with Douglas's Interim Report presented to the late U.F.A. Government—but I can only suggest another reading of that masterly piece of work (a condensed version appeared in SOCIAL CREDIT for January 31).

DOMINION OF CANADA

Federal business of importance lately has reduced itself to the proposed changes in the British North America Act, designed to implement the recommendations for a

federal Loan Council. The moving of an "address" to the British Parliament, asking for amendments to the Act, will probably be one of the first steps taken at the new session. "This action," says the *Edmonton Journal*, "is designed to be taken in advance of the broader power which will be sought to enable the dominion parliament to amend Canada's constitution, within certain spheres, without reference to the British Parliament." At the meeting of the Constitutional Committee in Ottawa at the end of January, however, strong objection to the proposed changes was made by the New Brunswick delegation. The Attorney-General on his return to Fredericton referred to "the plan now afoot to bring about the subordination of the provinces."

NEW ZEALAND

The Hon. A. G. Ogilvie, Premier of Tasmania, commenting on the New Zealand elections, said, "The decision comes as a result of an intensive drive on the part of the advocates of Social Credit and monetary reform, who have thrown their whole weight behind the Labour Party . . . like the New Zealand Labour Party, community control of credit is our first plank."

The National Council of the N.Z. Douglas Social Credit Movement has decided that "all branches be urged to obtain signatures to the 'demand for results,' with the view of strengthening the hands of the Government in carrying out their promises made to the people prior to the elections." A further resolution read: "That it be a respectful recommendation to the newly-elected Government that it secure the services of either Major C. H. Douglas or his nominee to advise and comment upon any financial legislation that may be proposed or enacted by the Government during its term of office."

ROTARY

The *Rotarian* for January contained a "debate" between Major Douglas and two economists from Columbia University, New York. Major Douglas concentrated on the simplest possible presentation of his case, the economists on the most complicated possible. "There will be reverberations," says *New Democracy*, "the second week in February, when the assigned topic for Rotary Club programmes is credit."

MODERN PHARISEES

Social Crediters are accustomed to being accused of anything from extreme thick-headedness to intolerable ingenuity, but it is a new one on me to be identified with the false prophets foretold in the gospel. Honest Money Founders, Inc., of Chicago, feel that way about it. Their pamphlet, "The Truth About Money," is quite an effective exposé of financial history, but this is where they strike out a new line: "Jesus foresaw that other 'prophets' would appear. The warning holds true to-day. We have modern pharisees of the system pointing out existing evils and their effects, while offering or secretly supporting vicious solutions intended to create destruction and chaos. Examples of such are—plans for granting *direct credits, social credits, national dividends, money payments to citizens, etc.*" The italics are the Honest Money Founders', the pleasure is ours.

FOUR SISTERS COMMIT SUICIDE TOGETHER

A quadruple suicide on Thursday, directly caused by faithful observance of the Hindu marriage dowry system, is revealed to-day.

Four Hindu sisters, the youngest being only 18, living in Calcutta, entered into a pact to end their lives in order to relieve their 70-year-old father of the worry of finding money to form their marriage dowry.

The father, who is a Government pensioner, had spent his life savings in marrying off three of his seven daughters. The remaining four saw that the problem of their marriage was sending him insane, and therefore sacrificed their lives by taking fatal doses of opium.

The tragedy has caused a stir in Hindu society. It is customary in Hindu circles for the parents of the bride to provide a heavy dowry, and this frequently leads to borrowing, which places the father in debt for many years. — "Evening Standard," February 8.

If you have a rotten system you never know where it will put you next.

J.D.B.

Are Things Too Good To Be True?

IT would almost seem as if the only news worth passing on is always bad news. Indeed, the worse it is the greater its "news value"—for it provides a thrill. Is this a sad commentary on the depravity of human nature? No, the sadness lies in the dullness of human life. We will do almost anything to break the monotony. You tell a man that X has flogged his wife or put his head, or better still, hers, into the gas oven, and he will pass it on with embellishments. Tell the same man that your wife gets up every morning before breakfast to darn the household socks and it will leave him cold, for his wife does much the same.

The Ordinary Man is Not Depraved

Far from the rank and file being depraved, the very fact that humdrum goodness is too common to call for comment proves the contrary.

If there were equally tidings of great joy we should eagerly pass them on, but so used are we to expect the worst that no stories of a resurrection from poverty and despair

touch us. They seem to us as idle tales and we believe them not.

There is, however, another difficulty in the acceptance of good news greater than the inability of some people to credit its existence. This lies in a narrow Puritanical spirit, the prerogative of no special church or class, which sets a premium on the discipline of discomfort prior to any kind of reward.

The admired type for such is that of "The Village Blacksmith" (as portrayed by Longfellow) that valiant soul who never allowed a day to pass without "something accomplished, something done," in a perfect bath of moisture! Not, of course, that our moral friends would set any store by this state of heat as such—that would savour of the hair shirt and penance. It is quite clear, however, from the poem that the good fellow was working for his bread against odds and was, in consequence, full of uplift and simply covered with brawn!

But should the same man behave so with

plenty raining down on him even our Puritans would agree that there was no call for admiration, but for an asylum.

Yet that is exactly what is happening all around us now. The age of potential plenty has arrived. A state of poverty is an artificial thing—an organised crime.

The coming of the machine has rung the death-knell of the days of drudgery, which can no longer be lauded as honest toil. There is simply nothing here to strike an attitude about, for why call for a halo when a hat will serve your turn?

But to be convinced of facts is not always to welcome them, and what your Puritan is really after is the saving of the other fellow's soul. It is always "the other fellow's"!

Ask any of the ultra-respectable folk whether "unearned" prosperity of a National Dividend would injure his neighbour's morals and he will promptly reply "Yes." "And your own?" you enquire. He will answer in surprise, "Oh, no!"

By the time, therefore, that we have worked through the entire number of respectable citizens where, we may ask in justifiable optimism, are the deplorable "other fellows" to be found? E. G. KYNOCH

Day and Nightmare

SOMETIMES have a terrifying nightmare of a lifeless world with all the men and women dead and gone, but with the machines pounding away producing, producing, producing, the wheels spinning and the pistons plunging on and on for ever until the whole void is packed with goods, an infinite vista of senseless and purposeless power.

"That may happen if the last man forgets to turn off the switch." (*News Chronicle*.)

I think many of us have noticed how senseless and purposeless production is in these days, a source of endless worry to statesmen, politicians and experts, and of very little use to the rest of us.

If it were not for the two great insoluble problems of over-production and unemployment, politicians might get along quite comfortably instead of spending troubled days and sleepless nights seeking for a remedy which ever eludes them.

It is indeed a difficult, a baffling situation. On the one hand there are mountains of goods which cannot be sold and have to be destroyed, and machines capable of adding to the ghastly plethora if they are not scrapped or shut down. On the other hand, there are millions of people who lack the necessities of life or who are so poor as to be practically no use to trade at all. They buy the minimum of food and are clothed largely by the cast-off garments of other people.

It is the modern tragedy—Poverty amidst Plenty, and so far it has succeeded in baffling all the experts.

A facetious friend from the Emerald Isle said it reminded him of a friend of his, a lady who had been taking care of some things for her sister, mostly clothing and some small articles of china and glass, also a large empty portmanteau. The sister wrote and asked for the things to be sent to her.

The lady now found herself in a double dilemma. She did not know how to send the china and glassware, having no suitable packing case. She was equally troubled about the portmanteau, fearing that it would be damaged if despatched empty. The situation would have been ludicrous were it not so puzzling. The poor lady finally succumbed to a headache of despair, and swallowing several aspirins she collapsed on the sofa.

Fortunately a friend called, and upon being told what was the matter, the newcomer made light of it and said that the one problem could be made to solve the other. Why not wrap the clothes round the china and glass, put both in the portmanteau and send them like that?

With the engaging simplicity characteristic of his race, my friend suggested that the twin problems of over-production and unemployment might be solved in the same way. The surplus goods might be put inside the needy people and both problems would disappear.

Well, why not indeed? Because, even if such a sane temporary step were possible, the experts would still have to worry about unemployment.

The trouble, of course, is that work, and real useful work in production, cannot be done without producing things, and there are too many already.

People lack the money to buy them. They cannot get the money without working for it, and they cannot work for it without adding to the "burdensome surpluses" that are such nightmares to the experts.

"MILESIAN"

Tasmania Takes Banks to Task

WE quote the following passages from the "General Comments" which follow the report on the Monetary System recently issued by the Government of Tasmania, and abstracted in SOCIAL CREDIT of January 24.

* * *

Mr. R. G. Hawtrey, Assistant-Secretary to the British Treasury, says: "When a bank lends, it creates money out of nothing."

William Patterson, first Governor of the Bank of England (about 1694), said:—"Whereas before the money was only the running cash of the nation, now the credit founded upon this money is as much a running cash as the money itself. The running cash of the nation will be much increased answerable to the credit issued out, let it be what it will. It will be great. The Bank hath benefit of the interest of whatever credit it issues out of nothing."

* * *

During 1932-35 the debts of Australia (Federal and State) has increased by £5,286,958.

The census figures show 439,788 unemployed or 20.5 per cent. of the breadwinners.

* * *

The total amount paid in subsidies, excluding sugar, 1931-32, £3,821,603; 1934-35, £5,074,500.

* * *

There should be no real difficulty in establishing prosperity for all. It has already been shown that, with the immense resources of power and technique available, there is no physical difficulty. With all the real wealth which "lies at our doorstep" (to use a phrase of President Roosevelt), it is ridiculous to remain in poverty because of finance.

* * *

Evidence of D. Robertson, Melbourne

"... Industry, no matter how energetically it functions, cannot create money—it can only distribute the amount of money (credit) which private or Government banks care to loan to industry. . . ."

* * *

Mr. Robertson said.—"There is not enough money in the world to-day to buy everything that could be produced, because the banks destroy credit. He read the following statement by Mr. McKenna:—"Let us look now at the instances of bank deposits since 1914 and see to what extent this increase is due respectively to payments in of additional currency and to bank loans. In June, 1914, the banks in England held £75,000,000 of currency. Last month (December, 1919) this figure stood at £191,000,000. The banks therefore held more currency to the amount of £116,000,000, and to this extent the increase in the aggregate banks deposits is accounted for by payments in of currency. But it is estimated that since June, 1914, bank deposits have risen by £1,230,000,000. If £116,000,000 of this amount are accounted for by payments of currency into the banks, there remains £1,114,000,000, which, if the previous analysis be accepted as correct, we must attribute to bank loans.

* * *

Mr. Robertson quoted a recent statement by Mr. R. G. Menzies, Attorney-General:

"Financial policy of the State is governed by the Loan Council. Money cannot be borrowed without the permission of the Council, which is the governing body of Australia to-day."

Mr. Robertson said:—"You have jealously guarded the right to create coins. If anyone suggested to-day that you hand over that right to the bank, you would have the public up in arms. And that is only 1 per cent. of the sum involved: you jealously guard the 1 per cent. and let the banks have the other."

Commercial Possibilities of Gales

FOLLOWING the recent gales, reliable statistics show that very considerable damage has been done to private and public property, shipping, telegraphs and what have you?

Few people seem yet to appreciate this undoubted blessing. Perhaps a few years ago there might have been some reason for viewing the gale damage with alarm, but to-day, every sound-thinking person cannot fail to receive news of the damage with joy.

It is estimated in one large town that all the local joiners, slaters and bricklayers will be busy for at least four and a quarter working days, making good the havoc of the elements. This is indeed a welcome sign, more especially, too, when it is realised that in this particular town, unemployment in the building trades has caused great anxiety.

It is reported that arrangements are being made by no fewer than three local clergymen for a "Gale Thanksgiving" service to be held next Sunday. One spiritual leader is said to be arranging a stand showing dislodged slates, tiles, and chimney pots, each of which will be clearly marked, in hours and minutes, with the amount of employment created by the replacement. One cannot but praise such laudable and public-spirited gestures.

To those who are far-sighted enough to see in gales their beneficent qualities, it will be apparent that the latest triumph of invention, the Controlled Gale Blower, heralds the dawn of prosperity.

The device is simplicity itself, consisting of a series of high-powered portable engines driving gigantic propellers. It is estimated that a fleet of government lorries fitted with the apparatus could create a local gale of approximately 100 m.p.h. velocity at normal temperature and pressure. I understand that the idea will have full support in political circles, especially as the fleets would be nationally owned.

It is doubtful whether the public realise the immense possibilities of this Gale Blower. One enthusiast drew for me the mental picture of a futuristic machine—a 5,000 h.p.

Banks have failed frequently when they have been hard-pressed; they have ruined thousands, repudiated their obligations, and started again. It has taken the banking system two or three centuries to reach its present "sound position"—a position where the banks cannot meet their obligations, if called on to do so, without the Government's aid, and the result of the system of "sound finance" which they operate is the present ridiculous position of Poverty amidst Abundance. Supporters of the system try to discourage the idea that any reform or alteration is necessary. The foundation of the Commonwealth Bank, for example, was greeted with declamatory cries of "Fisher's Flimsies!"

eight-engined O.H.V. high compression piston, dual windscreen wiper job, capable of the colossal output of a 956.075 m.p.h. gale, extending over a ten-mile area.

This indeed conjures up unlimited possibilities. In ten minutes, every semi-villa of the £475 or £5 down class could be completely stripped of tiles, chimney pots and

wireless aerials, and the earth stripped of such villas. And this within a ten-mile radius! As one professor of economics laughingly remarked, we shall have an "employment" problem before long.

When fitted with the concentrator device (Pat. No. A276543) this remarkable addition to our scientific power can be guaranteed to bring down every telegraph wire within five miles. A prominent official stated that by discriminate use, or "wise galing," a staff of linemen nearly treble that now employed could be kept continually up the pole.

The public must be made "wise-galing" minded to ensure full co-operation. It may be necessary in the interest of national progress to make any form of double nailing of slates or tiles illegal, but it is felt in political circles that sufficient *esprit de corps* can be generated by the wireless and press to render such actions beneath the dignity of the Britisher, and to stigmatise the perpetrator as a cad of the first water. The time will come when the patriot will be content with the noble epitaph "He always had a tile loose."

We may well look forward to the dawn of a new era, the last corner has been turned, the bottom touched. Surely it would be a fitting tribute to bestow upon the originator of this epoch-making invention the honourable title of

LORD GALE BLOWER

National Dividends are money to buy the things that are being destroyed and the production that is being restricted.



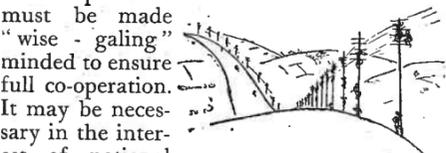
... making good the havoc of the elements.



A stand showing dislodged slates, etc.



... a staff of linemen ... could be kept continually "up the pole."



... a staff of linemen ... could be kept continually "up the pole."

YOU CAN do something to help the cause for which this paper stands—
if you will.

Unless you live alone on a desert island, there is at this moment a special little task that only YOU can do—waiting to be done.

A simple easy little job which will have far-reaching effects of great importance to the Movement.

FIVE MINUTES EACH DAY FOR A WEEK WILL SEE IT THROUGH.

Will you try it?

If you mean business—volunteer NOW for the TASK OF HONOUR—contribute freely and willingly a little time and effort towards laying the foundations of the SOCIAL CREDIT STATE in which the rule of fear and want will be banished for ever.

Don't delay—fill in your name and address overleaf, fix a 1/4d. stamp, cut out and post in an unsealed envelope bearing 1/4d. stamp to "PUBLICITY," Social Credit, 163A, Strand, W.C.2.

TO EVERY READER

ACTIVE SERVICE BATTLING BELFAST ON THE JOB

“Opinions are rarer than hen’s teeth in Belfast!”—G. F. Powell

THE following figures represent only a portion of the actual batch of returns received from the four Imperial constituencies comprising the city worked in cross-sections and represent the work of 54 canvassers from October 7, 1935, till December 13, 1935, a period of ten weeks. It will be remembered that weather conditions during those weeks were by no means conducive to canvassing. In fact, during November torrential rains at times made canvassing impossible. Only six of these 54 canvassers had any previous experience.

Collectively these canvassers during the above-mentioned period accomplished the following, with an expenditure of 829 man-hours:

Canvassed 8,928 houses, obtaining pledges from 5,665 of them, giving an average of 63.45 per cent. on houses.

These houses are occupied by 23,221 voters and yielded 13,631 signed pledges, giving an average of 58.7 per cent. on voters.

The cross-sections canvassed in each constituency comprised three grades of people: Grade A: Labouring Class. Grade B: Artisan Class. Grade C: The class of people whose circumstances are what I would term more comfortably provided for middle classes, and clerical workers.

The collective results obtained from each of these grades were as follow:

GRADE A:

Average time spent per house—5.25 minutes. Rate of signatures received—one every 2.54 minutes.

Signatures obtained from 79.27 per cent. of houses canvassed.

Signatures obtained from 76.9 per cent. of voters canvassed.

GRADE B:

Average time spent per house—5.59 minutes. Rate of signatures received—one every 2.14 minutes.

Signatures obtained from 57.24 per cent. of houses canvassed.

Signatures obtained from 50.79 per cent. of voters canvassed.

GRADE C:

Average time spent per house—7 minutes. Rate of signatures received—one every 10 minutes.

Signatures obtained from 44.1 per cent. of houses canvassed.

Signatures obtained from 32.1 per cent. of voters canvassed.

NOTE: The average time spent at each house represents the average time covering all calls whether 1, 2, 3 or more calls.

The individual canvassers worked from field books containing on an average 95 houses occupied by, on the average, 230 voters. From these field books records were compiled of their individual results, and it was from these records that the above figures were compiled.

The following will give an idea of how the time spent on houses and voters varied between the various canvassers working in the three grades:

Variation in average time spent per house:

Grade A from 2.3 minutes to 10.1 minutes.

Grade B from 2.0 minutes to 29.0 minutes.

Grade C from 6.6 minutes to 7.7 minutes.

Variation in rate of signatures received:

Grade A one every 1.1 minutes to 10.8 minutes.

Grade B one every 2.7 minutes to 15.0 minutes.

Grade C one every 9.4 minutes to 10.4 minutes.

Variation in percentage of signatures obtained from houses:

Grade A from 84.4 per cent. to 28.4 per cent.

Grade B from 91.87 per cent. to 25.0 per cent.

Grade C from 38.0 per cent. to 28.4 per cent.

Variation in percentage of signatures obtained from voters:

Grade A from 88.6 per cent. to 22.6 per cent.

Grade B from 88.5 per cent. to 19.1 per cent.

Grade C from 24.0 per cent. to 22.41 per cent.

In addition to individual records being taken of canvassers’ work, each canvasser was interviewed by me personally or through their captain and a record taken of how they obtained their results and the difficulties they had to contend with. Thus the canvasser who only secured pledges from 19.1 per cent. of the voters in his field book gave

The following is a copy of a letter from Mr. G. F. Powell, Director of the Electoral Campaign, to Mr. L. A. Lyons, Supervisor of the Campaign, Belfast:

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN REPORT No. 3. BELFAST DISTRICT.

Thank you for the above. I give it its due when I say it is worthy even of Belfast!

Please accept my sincere congratulations both for yourself and your workers.

If all groups would exhibit equal efficiency the application of the principles of Douglas Social Dynamics in Great Britain and Northern Ireland would ensue in relatively few months’ time.

a report on his methods of canvassing and likewise the canvasser who got 88.5 per cent.

This placed us in a position to advise the good canvasser of those things which he should avoid and the more unfortunate one how his successful companions got results.

The taking of such records and the keeping of accurate statistics of each canvasser’s work and methods enables us to know the exact results we are achieving in each area canvassed, and among the varied classes of people forming different political opinions. It also places us in the position of knowing the exact amount of pledges we require from those areas not already canvassed, so that our work will be a success, and places us in a position to earmark all districts or streets which have given a poor return for approach at a later date, without fear of wasting time calling on those who have already signed. As all signed pledges are checked when they come in we avoid building our hopes on duplicated signatures.

It will be seen that the C Grade is the cause of the drop in the percentage on total houses and voters, but as there are special canvassers being set aside to deal with this type of people and special methods and propaganda are being evolved, it does not give us alarm. Those streets comprising Grade C will be gone over at a later date.

Lessons Learned

I find it difficult in a report such as this to convey to you all that we have learnt from the above batch of returns, but there are certain factors which the canvassers have made stand out quite clearly:

That where the canvassers go out and talk Social Credit they waste time and get poor results.

That in the A and B Grades, where the canvassers spent more than five minutes per house for three calls they rarely got more than 40 per cent., but when the canvasser kept below the five-minute average for three calls, but not below a three-minute average for three calls, a good return was obtained if they did not mention Social Credit, but used the argument that the dividend is the wages of the machine, and stressed the appalling poverty that exists to-day.

That they should never tell anyone being canvassed that he or she is poor, but refer to the poverty of others.

That to draw attention to the goods which

are being destroyed to-day and the production that is restricted has good effects.

That Thursday night is the best night to get the male members of the family in.

That to work two consecutive nights brings best results.

That between 7 p.m. and 9.0 p.m. is the best time for canvassing.

That lady canvassers prove the most successful.

That working at least two to three hours once a week on one night is the minimum which a canvasser should volunteer to do and expect to be efficient.

Delivery of pledge forms and collection the following day is a waste of time. Two methods of delivery have here proved successful:

- (1) Calling at the house and asking occupier if he would sign this form so that poverty may be abolished. If an attempt is made by the occupant to enter into a discussion, he or she is told to take the form and read it, and that it will be called for in 30 minutes. The next house is then proceeded to, and so on, and at the end of 30 minutes the canvasser returns to the first house he has to call back on and asks for the signatures, not the forms, always taking what signatures he can get at the time, and if there are any other voters living in the house, and not there at the time, leaving a fresh form which is called for the next night.
- (2) Calling at the house and making an approach as in method (1), but remaining to get the signatures on the spot of at least all the voters who are in, and leaving a fresh pledge form for any other occupant to be called for the next night.

That the field book system used here places individual responsibility on each canvasser to get maximum results from his book, and keeps him in close contact with his captain and supervisor.

The measure of our success is due to the field books, as they place us in a position to supply any canvasser or new canvasser who volunteers for work with field books for any district or any class of people he wishes to canvass in a few minutes, without the slightest danger of overlapping.

Nothing short of 75 per cent. over all areas will satisfy us here. This, I believe, can be accomplished not only in Belfast but everywhere, provided that canvassers and those in charge of them co-operate. The responsibility, I believe, rests on supervisors and captains of teams to keep each canvasser informed of the results of their individual efforts, and to systematically compile statistics of same so that the canvassers can obtain the advantage of that increment of association which is made possible by the central pooling of all canvassers’ methods, as I am firmly convinced that no one else than the canvassers themselves can ever devise an efficient method of approach.

I would like you to realise that no one person, or group of persons, has made this report possible, but all, and only by the collective co-operation of our canvassers and clerical workers was it achieved.

LOUIS A. LYONS,
Supervisor of Electoral Campaign.

Liverpool. Recently we reported the formation of five United Democrats Groups in the Wavertree Division. This week comes a report of work done in the field. In 51 hours 904 signed pledges were obtained and two more workers were recruited.

Here is a report from **Rugby:** “We have had a team out this week on the system advocated by Mr. Treen, of the N.W. London area; that is, delivering and collecting the pledges the same evening, and we have had very successful results both from the point of view of signatures and also particularly from the point of view of enabling definite and satisfactory results produced during a very short period of canvassing, and we find this is an important point keeping canvassers to the mark. We have tried other methods, but we certainly find this method of Mr. Treen’s much the most successful.” This should be encouraging reading for the workers in the N.W. London area. It is the report of a supervisor who has tried out in another part of the country a method which has been highly successful in London, and it should be particularly noted that it deals with results instead of opinions.

A “Lone Wolf” has started the campaign in **Bedford**, and he will be pleased to hear of others willing to assist him in the work. Offers of assistance in delivery and collection of the pledge forms will be welcomed. Judging by the number of Bedfordians who are working for Douglas outside Bedford there must be still more left in the “Town by the River,” and those outside can help those inside by sending supplies of pledge forms.

SECRETARIAT NOTICES

HAVE YOU APPLIED YET? Please read the notice on page 5 addressed TO EVERY READER. It applies specially to you.

Back Numbers of “Social Credit.” — There is still a quantity of back numbers of SOCIAL CREDIT available in bundles of fifty assorted copies, suitable for free distribution as specimen copies, at 1s. for fifty, carriage free.

How To Get What You Want.—Specially written by G. W. L. Day and G. F. Powell to bring home to electors their responsibilities and their powers. This 2d. pamphlet will serve as a very powerful education in Social Dynamics, simply and racyly written.

Price to Affiliated Groups in minimum lots of one gross (144): one penny each, smaller orders at 1s. 6d. a dozen, carriage paid. Retail price of single copies, 2d.

Volunteers Wanted. — Speakers on the Electoral Campaign are wanted. The Secretariat is receiving constant enquiries for them.

Will those qualified, or willing to work in order to become so, please send in their names and addresses to The Secretariat, 163A, Strand, W.C.2?

Please state whether available in the afternoon, or evening, or both.

A CHRISTIAN’S RESOLUTIONS FOR 1936

By the Very Reverend HEWLETT
JOHNSON, B.Sc., D.D., DEAN OF
CANTERBURY.

Reprints of page 171 from SOCIAL CREDIT of January 10, containing this article and supporting evidence are now available. Use them in your letters. Broadcast this vital message far and wide. 1s. 2d. hundred, plus postage.

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HIS MAJESTY

By special request we are reprinting as a leaflet the above-named article, with the poem and the two quotations which appeared in SOCIAL CREDIT on January 31, page 195. A limited number only will be available, price 1s. per 50, post free.

VOICE THE WILL

That poverty would be ended when the electors demanded its abolition and demanded National Dividends was the claim advanced by Mr. Brian Dunningham, of New Zealand, at a meeting at **Canterbury** on January 25. After elaborating the facts of abundance, the misery of the poverty that exists beside it, and the destruction of real wealth that is nevertheless tolerated by the people, Mr. Dunningham pointed out that Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail. It was the will of the people that this state of affairs should be ended, and everyone in the country should therefore join now in the great demand for the abolition of poverty and the issue of National Dividends to all.

Mr. Dunningham has started very well-supported reading circles in Canterbury which are doing much to arouse the public conscience.

PREPARATORY

Readers in the **New Forest** district are asked to attend the meetings now being arranged by the **Totton** Group on the fourth Wednesday in February, March, April and May, at St. Mary’s Hall, 8 p.m.

POVERTY AND PLENTY

Millions of people are at present in dire need of the first necessities of life, and in many countries even those who are employed have to content themselves with a standard of living which lies below the point we already had reached years ago . . . The world was never able to produce more or better than to-day. — F. H. Fentener van Vlissingen, President of the International Chamber of Commerce, in “World Trade,” February, 1936.

TO “PUBLICITY,” SOCIAL CREDIT,
163A, STRAND, W.C.2.
Send me particulars of the little TASK OF
HONOUR referred to overleaf. I want
to help.

SEE
FIX 1/4d. STAMP
REVERSE

CUT ROUND THIS BORDER

CORRESPONDENCE

Are They Half-Hearted?

An old Social Crediter I hadn't seen for a long time and whom I was trying to persuade to take part in the Electoral Campaign the other day, astonished me by asking certain questions that have been answered again and again in SOCIAL CREDIT. I used to think him an intelligent man, and I knew he got SOCIAL CREDIT every week, so I couldn't make out what was wrong. However, I soon discovered, for, when he went on to grouse that the paper concentrated too much on the Campaign to the almost complete exclusion of Social Credit, I asked him what he thought about certain purely Social Credit articles that had appeared from time to time.

Guess what his answer was! *He hadn't noticed them!* And why? Because he hadn't bothered even to look through some issues of the paper at all!

This sort of thing makes me doubt the sincerity of those old Social Crediters. Perhaps, after all, it is only a mild hobby to them—not a vital and burning question of the future happiness of the human race?

Surrey LONE WOLF

[We publish this letter because we have ourselves come across similar instances, though not exclusively among "old Social Crediters." Some quite "new" ones don't read their paper very diligently or we would not be asked certain of the questions that are sometimes put forward.—Ed.]

Collective Progress (Opposite Ways)

P. W. D. Izzard in the *Daily Mail* of February 5 quotes the following from an old farmers' magazine dated 1802:

"Good speed the plough. May great success

To husbandry be given;
And smiling PLENTY fill our hearts
With gratitude to heaven."

Having taken just over one hundred years to attain the smiling PLENTY" despite such things as marketing boards, etc., we now read in the same organ of progress (and on the same day), of a scheme to prevent the production of cotton goods by smashing up some of the machinery.

Northampton E. K. ALLEN

The Funny Mouff

Despite Favill Tuke's having deleted (in private conference with *Daily Herald*?) the word "create," the noted Barclayite left a few gems not exhibited in the windows of the other Beckett shops; sic:

"Having by the granting of a loan or by any other operation increased its deposits, the bank etc . . ."

It is no use. You can't be funnier than a banker on the annual open-his-mouff day.

The rest of the sentence was "the bank does not retain any ownership or right in such deposit. The amount *can* [italics mine] etc. be drawn out in cash."

That's where we are in 1936. Whether this curious privilege is to be allowed to depositors during the entire reign of Edwardus VIII depends entirely on whether we boys go on misbehaving and asking questions. Individuals may still use their deposits even now. But bankers draw the line at nations and provinces using *their* (the nation's) credit.

Rapallo EZRA POUND

P.S.—More unconscious humour:
"When M. Daladier was elected leader of the Radicals, he failed to suggest other economic remedies than the reform of the Bank of France and the overthrow of privileged oligarchies." — *"The Economist"* (page 180).

GIVE Us This Day Our Daily Bread

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Those who are old enough will remember these sacred words were used on war time posters, with the figure of Christ upon the Cross, with a dead soldier lying at His feet.

One wonders now if the men who laid down their lives in the great war, answering their King and Country's call, did so that their remaining friends might be taxed to pay interest on fictitious War Loans and their country handed over to Mammon, the "sound financier," who has usurped the sovereign rights of the King to control his currency.

It is interesting to remember that these words of the Great Reformer are followed by "Ye are My friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." One of His commands was "Love your enemies," and another, thrice repeated, "Feed My sheep"—that poverty, source of almost every evil, including war—poverty being war's best recruiting agent, might be abolished for ever. Liverpool G. A. LLOYD

Catching Up Civilisation

It has taken Russia a comparatively short time to become up to date, and there are signs that she is already becoming aware of the problems of "civilisation." The *News Chronicle* (January 30) informs us that:

Advertising is the latest of the "bourgeois arts" adopted by Soviet Russia. Moscow papers this morning for the first time since the Bolsheviks came to power, carried quarter-page advertisements announcing the sale of food products in Moscow stores.

It is reported that this heralds an extensive advertising campaign aiming to create a wider internal market for the goods turned out in ever-increasing quantities by Soviet factories.

And so it would seem that Communism is, with Capitalism, equally incapable of distributing abundance without the communal waste euphemistically known as advertising, designed to overcome the "sales resistance" typical of the underfed and empty-pocketed proletariat (that means the people—us).

But from the other side of the world comes more cheering news. The *Canadian Engineer* for December 31, 1935, comments on the "Alberta Roads Program" thus:

Alberta government may begin hard-surfacing some sections of the main highway system in the spring as soon as weather conditions permit, Premier Aberhart said recently. While the Premier was making the statement Hon. W. A. Fallow, Minister of Public Works, was announcing that no new roads would be constructed for a time.

Any program of road surfacing will depend upon financial conditions of the province at that time, which in turn will depend upon reorganisation now being projected in the government budget, the Premier emphasised.

negotiations will proceed involving the use of McMurray tar sands and northern salt beds.

Social Crediters will remember Major Douglas's reference to the tar-sand deposits. That Aberhart should mention them emphasises his realisation that there are no real difficulties to a road-making programme, and we may hope that his second paragraph is a statement (carefully worded the less to annoy orthodox finance) that a re-organisation of the government budget shall ensure that Alberta will have her roads, weather—and not the Bank of Montreal—permitting. Aylesbury HUGH R. GOLDER

Pressure

In reply to your correspondent, D. Stewart, I should like to say that for some time past I have been unable to get any letters into the local paper here, although up to about six months ago they used to publish letters on Social Credit—and on other subjects written from the Social Credit standpoint—very frequently.

However, I am informed by a member of the Group who is on the staff of another local paper, that it is probably due to the fact that there was not sufficient backing, i.e., that the Editor did not receive any letters expressing interest.

A controversy was kept up for a short time between myself and one or two others, but it was confined to about four persons. In any district where letters are put in the local press, it is, I think, very important for any Social Crediters in that district to write and express agreement and approval, or even bring up some controversial points in order to keep the ball rolling.

Parkstone, Dorset SAGITTARIUS.

Virtue's Reward

Mr. McKenna, in his address to the shareholders of the Midland Bank, makes this curiously ingenuous statement: "We learnt"—referring to the period 1914-1931—"that a shortage of money may be just as vicious in its effects as an excess, though deflation has still a touch of virtue about it in the minds of many people." (My italics.)

One of the factors that make up the psychological strength of the present financial system is the existence of just this hardy perennial flower, sown and blossoming in the soil of the age of scarcity which we water and manure with the pharasaical pride of self-righteousness, the flower that represents abstinence for the sake of abstinence, self-imposed tentalisation, the pride of starvation amid plenty.

"Though ravenous, taught to abstain from what they brought." (Paradise Regained II., 269.) "WHY KISS THE ROD?"

Is There a Boycott?

Since writing my letter which appears in last week's SOCIAL CREDIT, I am pleased to say that the *Birmingham Mail* published my letter on "Our Banks," under a special heading, together with two other contributions. More power to the *Birmingham Mail*. The *Birmingham Post*, although under the same directorship, is a harder nut to crack.

"Frotti Flits from Flower to Flower" in this week's SOCIAL CREDIT is worthy of *Punch*. Birmingham D. STEWART

British Shippers

Since "British" tinplate "shippers" "are prohibited from making any sales for the next two or three months," it would seem an opportunity is offered them to spend the time that this business would have involved in canvassing the Electoral Campaign in their particular area, in order to help us recover for them some of their lost income in the form of National Dividends.

There is, of course, no Dictatorial Power indicated in the quiet assumption of the control of how and when British shippers may or may not sell tinplate whether it is in "demand" or not. No doubt British shippers are not merely accustomed to such orders, but appreciate their necessity; nevertheless, they would probably not be averse to retrieving some of their losses. If I knew any personally I would send them a copy of the present issue of SOCIAL CREDIT to encourage them.

London M.C.

Censor and Tactics

I have been impressed by a marked tightening of the press taboo on all references to Social Credit, or unorthodox views on finance and economics, during the past two months.

This increased stringency of censorship

seems now to be extended to embrace also the published letters from readers. Some months ago, I was successful in placing a few letters and articles bearing directly on Social Credit. More recently, I have had similar letters either refused or, what is worse, published in so distorted a form (by one of the leading "national" dailies) as to be almost unrecognisable.

Increased censorship of this kind is, I suppose, clear testimony to the recognition of the rapid progress of the Electoral Campaign. But what if this realisation and fear of danger represented by the Campaign, should produce a complete change of tactics and the wholesale boosting of Social Credit under name? Would not this constitute a serious menace to the demand for results? I cannot but think that such a possible situation must have been foreseen long e'er this by those in charge at your headquarters.

Thornbury, Glos. IVOR L. SPENCER

[When you have a good ham it doesn't matter how you cure it—it stays a good ham. We want Social Credit; the electors want results; we shall be satisfied with results even if produced otherwise than by Social Credit. If we just go on demanding results, and the papers boost Social Credit, the experts will not be able to say the results cannot be delivered so long as Social Credit remains untried—but electors will judge by results.—Ed.]

IMMACULATE USED CARS

Fellow "Social Crediters,"

Will you please compare the prices of these cars with anything offering elsewhere. It is in your own interest to do so:—

- 1935 Austin 12/4 Ascot Saloon de Luxe, Blue with Brown trimming, £125.
- 1934 Austin 10 h.p. Tourer, faultless condition. £89.
- 1935 Morris 10/4 Saloon de Luxe, 9,000 miles. £115.
- 1935 Morris 12/4 Saloon de Luxe, 7,000 miles. £125.
- 1934 Alvis Speed 20 h.p. Sports Saloon, excellent condition, £365.
- 1931 (Nov.) 33 h.p. Packard small 8-cyl. 7-seater Limousine, £195.
- 1934 Bentley 3½ litre 4-door Sports Saloon, by Park Ward, £950.
- 1935 Hillman Minx Family Sun Saloon, excellent, £90.
- 1935 Hillman Minx Melody Saloon-de-Luxe, radio, £115.
- 1930 Austin 12 h.p. Tourer, excellent, £30.
- 1929 16 h.p. Austin coachbuilt Saloon, £20.

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Announcements & Meetings

Notices will be accepted for this column at 6d. a line, minimum three lines.

Belfast Douglas Social Credit Group
Group Headquarters: 72, Ann Street
Office Hours: 2.30 to 5.30 and 7 to 10 p.m.
Public Lecture each Thursday at 7.45 p.m.
Bring or send that new "enquirer." Questions and discussion invited.

Cardiff Social Credit Association
Meeting at 16, Park Place, on Monday, February 17, at 8 p.m. Mr. T. B. Stevens will speak on "Are Political Parties out of date?" Chairman: Mr. P. D. Pratt.

Glasgow Social Credit Group
Meetings each Wednesday in the Rooms, 200, Buchanan Street. February 19, R. Little, M.A., "Quotations, Wise and Otherwise."

Jersey Group
Informal meetings for members and friends will be held in West's Café every Tuesday evening from 8 p.m. Commencing January 21. Will members do their best to make this new venture a success?

Liverpool Social Credit Association
Meetings held in Reece's Café, 14, Castle Street, first Friday each month, 7.45 p.m.
Hon. Sec.: Miss D. M. Roberts, "Fern Lee," Halewood Road, Gateacre, Liverpool.

Week-End School
A Week-end School and Social for Social Crediters will be held at "Netherwood," The Ridge, Hastings, opening February 29. S.C. Speakers. Dancing. First-class accommodation. C heat, h. & c. throughout. Four acres of lovely grounds. Cuisine for all diets. Inclusive charge for two days from 15s.
Ten per cent. of revenue will be donated to Secretariat funds.

National Dividend Club
Electoral Campaign.
At all meetings time will be set aside for comments, discussion, questions and answers, for our mutual assistance in the Campaign. Whether yet members or not, all are welcomed. The Campaign Supervisor invites enquiries from all.

Next meeting, Thursday, February 27, 6.15 p.m. Subject, speaker and place will be announced next week.
Volunteers are wanted to act as stewards at a meeting to be addressed by Major C. H. Douglas on Saturday, March 7. Names to be sent to the Hon. Sec.

All enquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary: Capt. T. H. Story, 28, Ashburnham Gardens, Upminster, Essex.
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FROTTI and the FORTY THIEVES

NOBEL MISTERED,
If I may be omitted to return again to these Bank-mongers, sir, of which I dealt formerly—I mean Messers McDiinnakenna, Peasoup, Comic Handbill and so forth—well, I have been indulging in farther researchings, dear fallow, and have hopped across some rather curious states of affairs that leads one to speculation not without interest. (Both the speculation and the interest are intellectual not financial, you comprehend, at least upon my parts.)

You will recall, old Mann, that after an excessively high-fluting oratorio, Mr. Bovine Peasoup descended incontinent from the sublime to the gorbliney and got all mingled up in hard wordings banded back and fro with staff-fellows of banking-house. These chap-coves were wishful of estabbling unions, surnamed the Bank Officer's Guild. During that rather disgusting squibble, sir, Mr. Peasoup made the far-stretching assertions that a union was unsuited to the banking business. He said that it was all very well in Highest Civil Service of N.B.G., because Government officials were all responsible to one man (and not, it appears, as we have previously considered, to the nation); and also an industrious firm might well have one, too, where they are all responsible to a lot of mens. But in a bank they were infeasible, just as in Heaven or the Garden of Eton. And why?

Because, indeed, it is intolerable that any outside body should take part in discussions of HIGHLY-CONFIDENCE MEN on Bank staves involving DELICATE business of a Bank!

Now, dere old Fruit-lad, when I see this I ask myself, how and in what senses "delicate"? It cannot be the flavours, though it might be the smell. Is it that the tender flours of banking, if dragged into the rood lights of day, Withers away like fast-fading violins covered up in Leafs? Or by "delicate" do they mean secreted for some reasons not at first apparent?

That, I believe, is true explanatory. Researching has helped in showing me certain possible reasons, sir, which I will make haste to pass along to you. The clue, I think, lies with personal confessions of

another Bank Monger, Hon. Roopert à Becket, who admits, as I quoted before, that ever since he got a man's estate he has never owed less than £5 million.

AND NOW ROOPERT OWES £322 MILLION OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY!

Disgraceless! And he says it without shame, bald as a brasserie.

Suppose we estimate that other four joint-stuck banks owe as much or more — and Roopert's is not by any mean the greatest of the so-called "Pig-Five"—then the total comes to well-near £2,000 million.

After that there are all the tiny blossoms of the banking world, born to blush almost unseen, like the blooming William the Deacon's, St. Martin's and All Hallows, Lombard Street (out of which the Bish. of London said he could have made £400,000—in the vaults, I suppose), yes, and many another. Finally, there is above all the Grate-Aunt of Banks, our most influenzal Bank of England, which probably owes as much as all the others putting together.

Now, indeed, dear laddy-chappy, I work it out that Banking houses in this country are in debt to not less than £5,000 or £6,000 million of other people's money, and perhaps very much more! What a disclosure! Yet Roopert himself has said it.

To my mind there is only one deduction. The Natural Debt is about £8,000 millions, you reckon. These millions in some way disappeared and it was stated that I, Frotti, and you, Mister Ed., and the poor simp who reads these lines, we were responsible and had to pay it. Now we hear of another debt, about the same amount, owed by the Banks. Surely, sir, it is too much a coincidence that two such amounts could ever exist? Yes, it is.

I myself have come to timid and temptative idea that they are one and the same sum, and that the OTHER PEOPLES WHOSE MONEY THE BANKS OWE IS OURSELVES.

In other words, Roopert & Co. have pinched the Natural Debt!

Yours indignantly,
FROTTI

DOO-DAH

(Air—"Camptown Races")

MAORILANDERS sing this song,
Doo-dah; doo-dah;
"We've a job in hand, and it won't take long,
O, doo-dah-dey!
We dream of it at night,
We toil at it all day,
For it's got to be a job that will jolly well last,
A job that has come to stay!

"The world is stuck in a big mudhole,
Doo-dah; doo-dah;
Can't feel the bottom with an endless pole,
O doo-dah-dey!"
So the experts cry,
So their followers bawl,
But we Douglasites just laugh and laugh
For there isn't any hole at all!

Experts say it can't be done,
Doo-dah; doo-dah;
Douglas says that's just their fun,
O, doo-dah-dey!
With eyes in back of head,
What do they expect to see?
Put them in the front in the proper place
And different men they'll be.

Douglasite eyes in the front—look see!
Doo-dah; doo-dah;
No time for the crazy old past have we
O, doo-dah-dey!
Want things fresh and alive
Want things bright and new;
Want a bit of heaven to sweeten earth
And going to have it too!

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

BELOW is the form Parliamentary electors are being asked to sign. Please read it carefully, sign (if you have not done so already) and send it (½d. stamp) to The Only Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Volunteers to help in the Campaign are wanted.

We Will Abolish Poverty Elector's Demand and Undertaking

- I know that there are goods in plenty, so that poverty is quite unnecessary.
- I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.
- I want, too, national dividends distributed to me and every Briton so that we can buy all we want of the goods that are now destroyed and the production that is restricted
- These dividends must not increase prices or taxes or deprive owners of their property or decrease its relative value.
- In a democracy like Great Britain Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
- So I pledge myself to vote for any candidate who will undertake to support the abolition of poverty and the issue of national dividends and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law-making before this.
- If the present M.P. here won't undertake this I will vote for some other party and keep on changing until my policy has been achieved.

Signed.....

Address.....

(Signatures will be treated confidentially)

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