## SOCIAL CREDIT

## For Political and Economic Democracy

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**EVERYBODY'S** 

Weekly Twopence

## Suicide Rate of 6-A-Day In One City

THE Austrian cabinet has ordered reductions in the price of basic food necessities in an effort to stem the increasing suicide rate.

Milk, sugar and coffee are included in the latest move to ease the economic pressure which is said to be the outstanding cause of self-destruction.

Ever since international finance, working through the League of Nations, intervened in 1921, and stopped an Austrian financial experiment by which food prices were subsidised and so kept within reach of all, Austria generally, and Vienna in particular, has had a higher suicide rate than anywhere else in the world.

So serious is the situation, that in Vienna a semi-official department has been set up, to help those suffering from lebensmuedenstelle—weariness of life.

#### Most Men

Although the department has aided more than 18,000 persons since it was started in 1928, and over 200 persons call on it for help each month, the number of suicides reported is constantly growing.

It is estimated in Vienna alone six persons

every day seek death.

Men are the victims of their depressions more often than women, according to the

The department with which are associated doctors and nerve specialists, limits the help to advice, attempts to intervene with relatives and creditors, legal aid, and, room and meal tickets.

#### **British Rise**

The policy that was imposed on Austria in 1921, and has produced these horrifying results, is the same policy that in Great Britain increased bankruptcies and suicides from 2,375 and 3,348 respectively in 1919 to 4,050 and 5,051 in 1930, as shown in the chart submitted by Major Douglas to the Macmillan Committee.

It is this same policy which, through the maintenance of artificial poverty at home and hence the need to export, is bringing a world war nearer daily.

A full account of the experiment in Austria, and its guillotining by the League of Nations Finance Committee, was given in Social Credit for October 12, 1934, and reprinted on October 4, 1935.

#### Have You - Seen It? -

G. W. L. Day Warns You - Page 4 Party Politics Racket - Pages 6 and 7 Challenge to the Catholic Churches - Page 8 SPECIAL NEW FEATURE

On Other Pages: Mrs. Palmer, Words to the Wise, News from Overseas

BEHIND THE NEWS - Page 5

THE simple policy of Social Credit, our dissatisfaction with the presence of poverty amid plenty, our statement of the results everybody wants, and that

these results are easily obtainable, are constantly reiterated, quite independently, by well-known

Principal Bowie, of the School of Economics, Dundee, at the Quadrennial Conference of the Students' Christian Movement at Birmingham, said:

"... We do in this country have a system, a series of systems, by which we prevent the unemployed man and his family from dying of starvation. Can we claim anything else? Are we

"As it is today, we tend to produce

a class of educated persons ignorant of the things which concern them most.

"New knowledge trickles through very slowly to the masses. Where new knowledge is not a subject of individual profit, the time-lag may extend into eternity.

"Revolutionary discoveries have, for instance, been made about improving the conditions of human life, and only a very small proportion of the community acts on them.

"We stand at the end of an era. A new birth awaits . . . We have the knowledge, the skill, the material resources, to make a far happier world. The dilemma of poverty in the midst of plenty is upon us, and most try to resolve it by getting rid of the plenty. Can we not use it for more leisure, more art, more travel, more good health, for more and better education?

" . . . an enormous increase in the common standard of living is possible and practicable, and the age of plenty, that dream of mankind for half a million years of bitter poverty and desperate struggle is at hand. The new Palace of El Dorado can be built, the materials are on the site . . .

"Nothing can save us except a new moral creed, a fresh evaluation of the good, a new evaluation of the chief end of man. But a new spirit will be dead and ineffectual unless, through knowledge and intelligence and direction, it it worked into the social system.
"What that new spirit and new system

will mean in detail it is hard to say... There will be more putting of first things first, more simplicity and directness, and clear-eyed candour and intellectual honesty. There will be more tolerance, less back-biting and bad

## War Debt And Black A

## RUNCIMAN AND NIEMEYER "ON HOLIDAY"

## Frank Hodges' New Job

MR. WALTER RUNCIMAN, President of the Board of Trade, is in the U.S.A. Nothing but a holiday trip, he said in an interview; although he would pay a social call on President Roosevelt.

He had not come to America, he insisted, to negotiate a trade treaty, nor

to discuss war debts.

By a coincidence, Sir Otto Niemeyer, of the Bank of England, is also paying a private visit to the United States, as a representative of the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

The object of the visit, according to the Council, is to meet U.S. bondholders and have informal conversations with them on matters of mutual interest.

"This announcement," says The Times, "disposes of the unfounded rumour that Sir Otto Niemeyer was visiting the United States at the same time as Mr. Runciman in order that he might be in a position to give expert advice on matters relating to debts and other economic matters that might be discussed by Mr. Runciman. There is no connection between the two visits.

Sir Otto Niemeyer was a high Treasury official during the War, and subsequently sometimes, more material help, like free became a director of the Bank of England.

He has successively handled the financial situation of Australia, Brazil, and India, to the great satisfaction of the City of London.

#### THE DEBT THREAT

Britain's War Debt default to the United States stands at L157,228,967.

Payments have been suspended since 1932. The customary British Note in reply to the U.S.A. promises to resume discussions when circumstances "warrant the hope that a satisfactory result might be reached.'

In Social Credit for January 1, 1937, we prophesied:-

"If our reading of the circumstances in which King Edward VIII. abdicated is correct, then the situation forecast in the British Note has arrived, and the American Debt will be settled very shortly.

"The terms will be savagely onerous to this country, and will probably involve the nationalisation of the British coal industry and its'inclusion in the mortgage which will be negotiated."

#### COAL MOVES

Mr. Frank Hodges, of the Bank of England, has been invited by Sir George Gillett, Commissioner to the Special Areas, and by Lord Portal, acting as his Industrial Adviser, to make himself directly responsible to the Commissioner for all questions affecting coal, oil from coal, etc.

Mr. Hodges was once well known as secretary of the Miners' Federation.

On March 25, 1923, he published an article in the *Daily Herald*—a very striking article. In it he described the tour he had made of the coal mines of Britain, and their plight.

He was satisfied, he said, in effect, that the only solution for the mining industry was the method that suggested using the National Credit for financing the sale of coal at reduced prices to consumers.

Major C. H. Douglas published his draft scheme for the coal industry in 1921.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Hodges received an appointment at the Bank of England, where he has remained ever since.

As we go to press the Evening Standard for January 19 announces:

"The question of coal royalties is going to be an important one this year. The Government is about to introduce legislation to take over these royalties from their private pro-

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trimming. 1935 10 h.p. 6-light Saloon, ming. Also similar car, Grey, Blue trimming.

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#### Mrs. PALMER:

# SPEED-UP IN

RECENT front-page article in The Times Educational Supplement states that the teaching profession as a whole is still undecided as to the aim of education.

Should it be directed mainly towards citizenship, technical training for economic reasons, or intellectual and moral discipline?

Twenty-two centuries ago Aristotle discussed the same problem, and teachers are no nearer its solution today.

It must be said at once that the aims mentioned are hopelessly inadequate for a free democracy, that knows what it wants, and intends to get it.

Such aims, perhaps, might be useful in a totalitarian state such as Germany or Russia, where the individual is considered of less importance than the system.

As a result of this muddled thinking, children are still chivvied about from one system to another, spoken of as "the child," as though they were an abstraction, not potential men and women, and subjected to educational experiment, while the one thing they need, to grow naturally and in their own time, is never granted them.

First there are the cranks, for cranks they are, who will unhesitatingly sacrifice a boy's happiness and career to a mistaken idea of the importance of an institution. Theirs is an offence against liberty.

Then there are those well-meaning but mistaken teachers who talk about education being a preparation for life, meaning thereby earning a living.

On that idea the examination system has been reared.

The first scholarship examination, which all must pass before entering a secondary school, comes at the tender age of ten.

The National Union of Women Teachers has just passed a unanimous resolution viewing with deep concern the effect of this examination on the free development of the Junior School.

All honour to them. But this is only a What about the school certificate taken only four years later, the standard of which is Matriculation?

This is a speeding-up process with a vengeance. The methods of the factory are being adopted in the school. A year saved at school will be another year spent earning one's living. Quite logical!

Miss H. Swift, of Little Saling, a woman teacher, writes indignantly of the pernicious effect of this examination on the health and happiness of the girl of fifteen.

"The whole thought is," she says, "not how that girl is to make the most of her natural bent, to become a woman in a natural sphere, but how can she be so trained and developed that she will take the certificate in four years.

"By these results the school and staff are

judged, and by these alone.

"During the last two years the girl is so overburdened with home work that everything else in her home-life has to go to the

This woman knows the true purpose of education. It is, in her own words, "to make the most of the natural bent."

Only by all-round, natural development can children grow into men and women fitted for freedom and responsibility.

You cannot part freedom from responsibility any more than you can separate the two sides of a coin.

Those women teachers who are Social Crediters have here a grand opportunity. Let us protest whenever possible against

these two false ideas in modern education: First, that systems are more important

than men and women. Second, that education is a mere preparation for earning a living.

Perhaps one day we shall have an educational section for the spread of Social Credit truth among the teachers.

The National Dividend will mean a longer school life, and better equipment, so that we can train head, heart and hand together, not

head alone, as at present. It will mean no more square pegs in round

#### Coming Orgy of Taxes The

#### ROBBING THE ORCHARD

ECONOMISTS and politicians must lead a very wearing sort of life: they are for ever worrying about people's welfare.

For years since the great slump they have been saying that prosperity is just round the corner if only people will put their backs into it, pull together and so on, and that trade is international; and now that prosperity has been achieved—according to all accounts—these revered advisers should surely be satisfied. Utopia is here!

But, apparently, they are still anxious, for now, in Sweden, word has gone forth that the boom must be controlled.

And Mr. Maynard Keynes, in three articles in "The Times," has jumped in with proposals for checking anything so disastrous as a boom before it reaches proportions when too many people are prosperous and need taking down a peg.

Now, from the real point of view, there is no object in checking a boom artificially; it should be allowed to continue until all are satisfied, until there is no more poverty in Sweden or anywhere else in the world.

Unfortunately the prevailing system of economics is not allowed to be a real one; it is a system based upon a false idea of credit ownership and control, an idea which places money figures first and reality last; the foot must fit the shoe and not the shoe the foot, but the shoe pinches now and will be made still tighter in order to "control"

No wonder each nation is treading on the others' corns!

In Sweden it is proposed to control this

dangerous boom by taxation.

In the King of Sweden's speech to the Riksdag at the opening of the new session on January 12 it is stated

Better economic conditions had eased the budgetary situation and were making it possible to earmark large amounts of money for the repayment of debt."

The Swedish national revenue on current account is up by about the equivalent of L4,600,000 without any increase in taxation

Presumably this is the sum, or part of it, that will go to pay off debt to the Bank-that is to say, that will be destroyed—instead of going to reduce taxation generally, for according to The Times, January 13, Herr Wigforss, the Minister of Finance:

"has not been able to propose any reduction in the rate of direct taxation."

"The existing special crisis taxes are maintained, and their proceeds are to be used for paying off debts."

"Hr. Wigforss, indeed, raises the question whether it may not be the duty of the

he has been unable to recom- man-hours per acre. that is why mend it."

No! The time is at hand for the Bank gather and destroy the fruits of the people's work, lest they prosper.

Mr. Keynes, too, wants a firm hand with taxes as a way of applying frostbite to

ARTHUR WELFORD

#### Just To Remind You—

That tonight, Friday, the National Dividend Club arranging a special meeting for women, at the Milton Café, Surrey Street, Strand, W.C. Underground Station). (Temple Miss de Castro will give the address.

Those who have not yet had the privilege of hearing Miss de Castro will do well to take this opportunity.

She has wide experience in the Social Credit Movement, and is an interesting and inspiring speaker. The Club extends a cordial invitation to every reader of the Woman's will be Refreshments B.M.P. available.

#### Up-and-Up-and-Up

As the news editor of one of our mammoth daily newspapers remarked, a news-story should have a substratum of truth

There is a substratum of truth in the joyous news-story that prosperity has returned—just. What is not disclosed in the headlines is that the world spent nearly £3,000,000,000 last year on rearmament, and that this vast sum percolating downwards through industry has induced a kind of False Dawn.

It is a very false one. As a News-Chronicle correspondent points out, to millions in the Northern parts of Great Britain these stories of Prosperity are like tales told of other

The Ministry of Labour estimates that in 13 years only 59,000 new jobs have been found in the North. In Glasgow 13 per cent. of the population are on poor relief.

#### A Dying Trade

EVEN down South, it is not all gas and gaiters. The economists of the Old Brigade have a comfortable theory that when technological advance throws men out of work in one branch of industry, these unhappy out-of-works exert a downward pressure on wages in some other branch of industry, thus reducing not only wages, but costs and selling prices; and so stimulating demand, and therefore production. Hence, eventually, they are re-employed and live happily ever afterwards.

But as Mr. Ingleby Oddie, the Westminster Coroner, probably realised, when he recorded a verdict of suicide on George Bliss, a chimney sweep who gassed himself, this doesn't

usually happen.

A son of his said that his father had been out of work for three months. Previously he had been in employment for 30 years. He agreed when the Coroner suggested that Bliss was out of work because in modern flats and offices chimneys had been supplanted by central heating.

#### **Cement Cotton Fields**

THE March of Progress, too, seems likely to deal a back-handed blow to the cotton workers in the Southern districts of the United States.

As the result of experiments by a research scientist named Le Floyd, at Lagrange, in Georgia, America's cotton fields of the South may be transformed into an expanse of concrete pavements with cotton growing from drilled holes, raised by a minimum of human labour and producing a record-breaking

By planting a test "field" of cotton set in concrete, which prevented the growth of weeds and retained the moisture in the soil, Le Floyd obtained perfect plants, in drought conditions, giving three times the yield of an average farm in a normal season. The Government in certain circumstances to conditions, giving three times the yield nip an incipient boom in the bud." conditions, giving three times the yield of an average farm in a normal season. The experiment proves that a farmer can raise would tend to stimulate expansion, and four times as much cotton with only ten

> If generally adopted in America, it would result in 8,000,000 cotton workers losing three months' employment every year.

#### Eat More Bread

MR. JAMES B. RANK, chairman of the Millers' Mutual Association, after praising the British loaf and remarking that bread formed the basis of a balanced and healthy diet, said that the Millers' Mutual had been using Press advertising on a large scale to extol the merits of bread and persuade the people to eat more.

It is really surprising that so many people should need press advertisements to inform them that bread is good to eat.

The only reason why they still obstinately refuse to eat more of it in the Distressed Areas and such backwoods must be that they haven't enough money to buy it.

#### The Cost of Ballyhoo

OVER £200,000,000 a year is spent on advertising in Britain alone, says the College of Advertising.

Salaries are higher, promotion is rapid ambitious young men are invited to learn

Here is a sidelight on one of the complexities of modern commerce.

The factory cost of producing an article is becoming a negligible quantity beside the mammoth cost of "putting it over."

#### **Suicide Clubs**

I T is easy to see how scared the cottom workers must be of men like Le Floyd and the Rust Brothers, who invented the famous mechanical cotton picker, which does the work of 60 men. Such pioneers by rights should appear in the guise of public benefactors, but as things are, they appear much more like fiends.

The fear of being out of work is a fear which the comfortable and complacent may

find it impossible even to imagine.

In New York a group of actors, in fear of losing their jobs on account of an economy wave, have formed a Suicide Club. Under the rules, the first member of the Club who loses his job is pledged to commit suicide on President Roosevelt's lawn, in Hyde Park,

#### The Milk Paradox

L ADY DENMAN, chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, points out that in spite of (or because of) the operations of the Milk Board, milk which in former days was supplied free to agricultural labourers is now too expensive for countless families of

country people all over the Kingdom.

In West Kent, for example, out of 24 mothers Lady Denman questioned, 13 bought no milk at all during the pre-natal period.

And this in spite of strong recommendations by the Ministry of Health's Advisory Committee on Nutrition that mothers should be given at least two pints a day.

#### The "How" and "Why"

ECONOMICS is usually regarded as a dull subject, but in Professor Stephen Leacock it has produced one humorist of note. He was not, however, trying to be funny when he said:

Economics move from vast, unknown causes like the motions of the seas. We are still deeply ignorant of the 'how' and 'why' of the great cycles of good and bad times."

Will anyone take it seriously, except possibly Montagu Norman, who said a few

"The difficulties are so vast, the forces so unlimited, so novel, precedents so lacking, that I approach the whole subject not only in ignorance, but in humility. It is too great for me."

Dr. Leacock has retired from McGill University, but Mr. Norman still governs the Bank of England out of the depths of his "ignorance" and "humility."

#### Other Party's "Crime"

CORRESPONDENT in the Ottawa A Citizen has dug up an apt quotation to explain the attitude of our Archbishops and others towards Edward VIII after his abdication:

"There is a passage in Thackeray's Vanity Fair which seems to have a certain appositeness in the circumstances:

When one man has been under very remarkable obligations to another, with whom he subsequently quarrels, a common sense of decency, as it were, makes of the former a much severer enemy than a mere stranger would be.

To account for your own hard-heartedness and ingratitude in such a case, you are bound to prove the other party's crime . . . From a mere sense of consistency, a persecutor is bound to show that the fallen man is a villain—otherwise he, the persecutor, is a wretch himself.

#### Just As Easy

WHAT fun it would be if the "Tell Your Banker" campaign had been worked the other way round.

Instead of your banker being told to transfer the odd shillings and pence in your account to the Bank of England, thus—

Tell the Bank of England to transfer one pound to every individual bank account, every Post Office savings account, every unemployment pay envelope in Great Britain.

The one is just as easily done as the other. How happy everybody would be-the spenders of the pounds, and the shops they spent them with.

Where is the money to come from?

Well, there are several answers to thathere's a quick one.

The other day the Bank of England bought gold for £65,000,000, and didn't know what to

do with it.

## EX-SERVICE MAN HOUNDED INTO ASYLUM BY BANK

## One Reason For Empire's "Empty Spaces"

RANK EVANS, a middle-aged West Australian farmer, found not guilty on a charge of having wilfully and unlessed to on a charge of having wilfully and unlawfully set fire to a camp and stable, was ordered to be kept in strict custody in a hospital for the insane until His Majesty's pleasure was known.

The Crown case was that Evans, a client of the Agricultural Bank, pointed a gun at two officers of the Bank when they called on him. On the following day the officials found that a bank car, the camp and stable and some machinery on Evans's farm had been destroyed by fire.

Evans advanced towards the witness box to give evidence, but broke down. After drinking a glass of water he was assisted into

the box by a warder. He said he enlisted for the war in 1914 in Queensland in the 2nd Light Horse. He served on the Sinai Peninsula and Gallipoli and went into hospital. Rejoining his regiment in Egypt he was invalided home in 1916.

In Brisbane he was discharged with a full pension on account of neurasthenia. He came to Western Australia working in the Kimberleys as a stockman, became ill, and was operated on for appendicitis in Perth.

#### Debt Adjustment

Returning to the Kimberleys he became ill again, came to Perth, and in 1927 took up virgin land at Boodarockin. He had several hundred pounds in cash.

At the suggestion of an Agricultural Bank inspector he got a bank loan. He improved his farm and in 1929 went into

hospital with a nervous breakdown.

Resuming farming, he got some machinery from the bank. Then he came under the Farmers' Debt Adjustment Act.

Cross-examined by Mr. Virtue, Evans said the Bank hounded a man down to such an extent that he could not call his soul his own.

Addressing the jury in defence of Evans, Mr. Hughes said: "... Seven years ago he invested his all, some hundreds of pounds, in a virgin block in the district of Westonia, and in all those seven years he had only one good crop.

"This was in 1930, when the price of wheat was 1s.6½d. per bushel. In 1931 his financial straits forced him under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. Ever since then he has been toiling in a condition of servitude worse than that of the peons of South

#### L16 in Six Months

"You have heard from the Bank officials themselves that he was allowed only L16 for six months' sustenance."

"For the last two and a half years he has received no allowance whatever for clothes."

"When, in his loneliness and in the midst of his desperate struggles he thought of bringing his sister from Queensland, and proposed to take a share-farming proposition in her name, he was met by a refusal from the Agricultural Bank."

"I do not wish to condemn the officials of the Agricultural Bank. Their task is always difficult, and often repugnant. But you can readily understand from the evidence, the ordeal of mind through which this nervous subject must have passed . . . .

There are thousands all over the Empire whose position is that of Frank Evans. Men who saved the world from military autocracy and others who are crushed under the even more cruel autocracy of finance.

And even now plans are being made to send emigrants to the Dominions to become new victims!

They will be discussed at the Conference of Empire Prime Ministers that meets after the

This is part of the cure for unemployment that is in store for us.

#### Disillusioned

From January, 1931, to September, 1936, a total of \*52,713 emigrants left Great Britain for British North America, Australia and ing rulers to bow to their wishes.

For the defence Mr. Hughes submitted that Evans was not responsible for his acts.

New Zealand, but \*140,408 immigrated to

Great Britain from those countries. The "empty spaces of the Empire," of which statesmen prate, but to which, more's the pity, they do not emigrate themselves, are becoming more empty, and for the same reason that made poor Frank Evans mad and that fills our own asylums and brings the next war nearer daily failure to distribute God's gift of plenty.

The issue of National Dividends will prove a certain cure for the "empty spaces," for with them emigrants, and there are many thousands of land-hungry people who would like to emigrate, will be sure of a livelihood.

#### By Co-operation

Further, they will then be welcomed by the existing inhabitants of the Dominions, and not regarded, as at present, as a threat to an already uncertain existence.

The possibilities of Empire development by friendly co-operation are almost unlimited, but such development, and such co-operation, will not come out of haggling over tariffs, quotas and allied matters at a so-called Imperial Conference.

Friendly co-operation is impossible so long as one man's success can only be at the expense of another's failure.

And this need not be if we will to change it.

M.W.

\*From a statement by the Secretary of State for the Dominions in the House of Commons, December

#### **WALKED 70 MILES** TO JOB-COLLAPSED

HE was taken to East Ham Hospital, believed to be suffering from starva-

He was not talkative—just gave his name and age.

Pierre de la Mauri de Bulav. aged 42. was unemployed, but he heard of a job on a ship sailing from Tilbury.

So he set out to walk the 70 miles from Southampton.

He got as far as Sloane Square and

collapsed. Determined to get the job he walked out

of hospital—bound for Tilbury.

#### STARS FORETELL VICTORY FOR PEOPLE'S WILL

THE statement that the Duke of Windsor would, according to the indications of astrology, return to England in the next ten years as the leader of the social life of Britain was made recently by Dr. Lionel Atherton, a Doctor of Osteopathy.

Dr. Atherton told members of the Federation of British Astrologers at their Conference in London that "something would happen" to the Duke during the next ten years. He added:

"Those of you who are interested in recent events have only to take a map of his pre-natal epoch to see that astrology indicated that the ex-King belonged to the people."

Astrologers at the Conference predicted a rising of the people all over the world, forc-

#### NO CRIMINAL INTENT

Chief Constables have been clamouring to be allowed to take the fingerprints of little boys so as to check the 'wave of juvenile crime."

Mr. Henderson says there is no such wave of crime. The cause of nine-tenths of these so-called crimes is not any criminal intent, but unemployment, bad education, or mere high spirits. remedy, he says, is not to take the culprit's finger-prints, but to see that he has a better outlet for his energies.

And to see that he has enough to eat, he might add, and somewhere to play.

#### **WHY PAY** TAXES?

 ${f B}^{ ext{ECAUSE}}$  you are made to?

You are asked to believe that you must be taxed so that the civil, military and other services may be fed, clothed and equipped.

Yet manufacturers and farmers would dearly like to supply both you and them.

The pretence is that, for a dole to be paid to Paul, who is out of work, Peter, with £500 a year, must be fined. This is false.

If Peter is taxed he has less money and buys less. Even if the money collected from him in taxation were transferred direct to Paul (which it is not) he would not buy with it the things Peter did

Paul would buy with it some of the things which are already surplus, and what Peter could not then afford to buy (because of the money taken from him in taxation) would be surplus instead.

Taxation makes customers for moneylenders. Let us all be customers of industry instead.

#### "Abdication Retrospect"

CORRESPONDENT has drawn our A attention to the possibility that two paragraphs in a recent article entitled "Abdication Retrospect" might be misconstrued. The paragraphs read:

"The first member of the Royal Family to associate frequently with the Morgans was

the then Duke of York.

"He was staying with Morgan during the month before the curiously abortive but sinister incident when a loaded pistol was thrown at King Edward's feet."

Divorced from their context, it seems possible that anyone not unversed in the tactics of finance might imagine that they involve a suggestion that the present King was a party to the demonstration against his brother. No one familiar with the policy of Social Credit could draw such an inference.

Such a suggestion was not intended, would be fantastic nonsense, and entirely alien to the feeling of respect and sympathy for the King in his difficult position, which we have expressed in Social Credit.

#### TOLERANCE

A N exceptionally brilliant boy whose parents were not very well off won a scholarship for a well-known public school.

At the age of fourteen he decided that he was a Fascist.

He wrote a letter to a London newspaper complaining that many young masters in public schools were Socialists. The letter was published, with his name and school.

For this prank he was requested to leave. He had offended against an abstraction, vulgarly known as "the old school tie."

#### ASKS FOR HELP TO "PUT IT **OVER**"

LIEUTENANT - GOVERNOR of Nova Scotia, W. H. Covert, has given his name and support to a plan intended to enslave still further the people of Canada—a plan which, he must realise, will result in some of the Canadian people losing their

It is called by the attractive name—"The Home Improvement Plan," and with deceptive guile it appeals to the best in human nature — the desire to be found in every decent human being to help the unemployed and to the love of home which is instinctive in all people.

Hence owners are offered loans on special terms to improve their property and thus "put everybody to work."

This is the basis of the plan, but what is behind it?

#### THE LAST STRAW

It increases the debt to finance of all those misguided enough to respond to its appeal, and in some cases must inevitably lead to their being dispossessed of their homes eventually, for the additional debt so contracted may prove to be the "last straw."

It is also based on the illusion that work is the be-all and end-all of existence.

It is a fraud on the people as a whole, because these loans are to be guaranteed in part by the Government, but will be made by the banks with credit which rightly belongs to the people, but has been misappropriated.

This is the clever plan to which His Honour Hon. Walter T. Covert, K.C., Lieutenant-Governor, has given his support in, of all things, a Christmas message, specially printed and broadcast to the people appealing to them to "Help put it over"!

#### THE ALBERTA **EXPERIMENT**

An Interim Survey By Major C. H. Douglas

Will be published in March by Eyre and Spottiswoode. The first chapters of this book on this most stirring and momentous piece of current history will appear in the next issue (March) of

THE FIG TREE

#### The Will And The Way

"THE Government realises that the ordinary citizen who feels himself and his children in peril has no organised means of putting a point of view with the same force of publicity as is open to a specialised class of road users who are more fortunate in having an organisation and machinery to make representations?

Mr. Hore-Belisha said that to the mothers in "Death Way," Shepherd's Bush.

And he would be right except for one

The United Democrats have forged a mechanism, an organised means of putting forward the policy of the ordinary citizen with the greatest force in existence.

Mr. Belisha has pointed clearly to the vital lack in our so-called democracy.

And we are ready to fill it when the people realise they want it.

#### SOCIAL CREDIT

A Journal of Economic Democracy The Official Organ of the Social Credit Secretariat Limited. 1634 Strand, W.C.2. Tel. TEM 7054.

Vol. 5. No. 24.

Friday, January 22, 1937

#### U.S.A. Inc:

 $P^{\text{RESIDENT ROOSEVELT is planning yet another new deal.} \ ^{\text{plan-ling plan-ling}}$ proposes a radical reorganisation of the Executive Branch of the American Government.

If his proposal is carried he will have under him six "high-grade executive assistants," who will direct twelve regular

These Departments will consolidate more than 100 existing departments,

boards, administrations, authorities, corporations, committees, agencies, and activities of the Executive.

The whole Government administrative service will be placed on "a career basis and under a merit system" by extending the Civil Service upward, outward, and downward to include "all non-policydetermining positions and jobs.'

It is worthy of special note that a clear distinction is here made between policy and technique.

I N his message to Congress Mr. Roose-velt referred to "what has been common knowledge for 20 years that the President cannot adequately handle his responsibilities.

"What I am placing before you (he continued) is not a request for more power, but for the tools of management, and the authority to distribute work so that the President can effectively discharge those powers which the Constitution now places upon him.

upon him . . ..
"I would not have you adopt this five-point programme, however, without realising that this represents an important step in

American history.

"If we do this we reduce from over 100 down to a dozen the operating executive agencies of the Government, and we bring many little bureaucracies under a broad coordinated democratic authority.'

T would indeed be difficult to over-rate the importance of this drastic proposal. It is a step, in seven-league boots,

towards the coming world order.
Whether it spells salvation or disaster depends upon one thing, and one thing only—Who is to control policy?

As Major Douglas said at Liverpool—

"Action on or through an organisation involves three ideas—the idea of policy, the idea of administration, and the idea of sanctions, that is to say power."

That speech might have been made in anticipation of President Roosevelt.

For here is the head of the greatest State in the world creating an effective administrative machine, and gaining effective control of the sanctions of State. What of policy?

THESE reforms will provide the President with the machinery, now lacking, to discharge the execution of policy effectively.

Critics have promptly observed that it ill strengthen the President. Centralisation, they say.

The New York Herald Tribune names it "U.S.A. Inc.," and asserts that

"the model is clearly a great industrial corporation, and the effect would seem to be to give the President the kind of control which a Corporation President exercises and to reduce Congress more nearly to the low estate of a Corporation Board of Director."

The New York Times says:

"The real choice under present conditions, and in face of such problems as those with which modern Governments must deal, does not lie 'between power and no power,' but between responsible power and irresponsible

Precisely. Responsible to whom?

RESPONSIBILITY in government is rightly of one kind only. Responsibility to the people to carry out their policy democratically determined.

The people must control policy. They must demand results — not methods. They then make the Government responsible for controlling experts in line with

The importance of this matter lies in the fact that the door is not closed on democracy—as it is closed in Germany, Italy and Russia.

If President Roosevelt is allowed to carry through his proposals the issue will be clarified as never before in history.

He will be ready to carry out the policy of an oligarchy or of a democracy. Which will it be?

### G. W. L. DAY Warns You;

"Britain must either move forwards towards Genuine, Effective Democracy, or backwards to Dictatorship"-

# 

A NYONE who has observed the recent course of affairs in Europe must have been struck by the heavy handicap under which partially democratic States, such as Great Britain and France, find themselves when dealing with frank dictatorships, such as those in Germany and Italy.

Hitler and Mussolini can decide upon some diplomatic move one day and put it into force the next. The controlled Press applauds, the people wave flags to order. It is all simple and straightforward.

But our own distracted Ministers have a more difficult task, because in their case they have to reckon with the awkward force of Public Opinion. They are in the position of lion-tamers giving a performance with partially-trained lions. The animals may suddenly snarl and turn upon them.

Now this is a fact which I feel certain we shall hear a good deal more about in the not very distant future.

Very gently, very tactfully we shall be told that our Ministers can hardly be stances. And this will form the grounds of a plea to strengthen the bars of our cages and arm them with longer whips.

Some time soon I hope to explain to you how this business of lion-taming is carried out. The principles of it were laid down by Machiavelli.

But for the moment let us leave this and consider the snarls and the growls, which is a thing which everyone who dislikes the prospect of slavery should think about at least five minutes every night before going

How do we-and by "we" I mean the average British citizen-differ from the hundred-per-cent. citizens of the Soviet or Nazi States? Instead of believing in the Divine Right of Dictators, we have a certain measure of critical detachment.

We believe that our Baldwins and Edens, although men of exceptional probity and astuteness, may quite possibly act wrongly on occasions.

We feel that they need watching; that they may at any moment take it into their heads to do something which is against our interests and which we shall refuse to put up with at any price.

Nor is this entirely self-deception. times when the Government has made what we consider an outrageous move, we have snarled and growled so ferociously that it has immediately withdrawn from its position.

A knowledge of just how far a government can go, and just how to go about it, is what qualifies a man for high political position these days, and this at once explains why we are ruled by men who hold exalted posts for years and years, withholding from us the things we want yet all the time keeping just out of reach of our teeth and claws.

These men know quite well that they can fool some of the public all the time, or all the public some of the time, but not all the public all the time. There is a limit even to political foolery, and in the existence of this limit, whatever it is, lies our only hope for the future.

It is known as the power of Eminent Domain, and is a part of the proposition that the will of the people will ultimately

Not so many years ago there was a twentymile-an-hour speed limit for motor-cars. This law may have been sensible enough in the days of single-cylinder cars, dusty, granite roads and uneducated pedestrians, but with the rapid development of roads, cars and car-sense, it became ridiculous,

Yet the law was not repealed. What happened? Motorists just ignored it and the police found the law impossible to enforce. It was seen to be contrary to the weight of public opinion, and so it passed.

In the United States certain powerful minorities of Pussyfoots forced liquor prohibition on the country. But in this case, too, the common desire of the nation was against it. Bootleggers saw their opportunity and rushed in to exploit it. Although the Prohibitionists kept the Volstead Act going

drink, laws or no laws. So the Act was repealed.

Those whose business it is to study the British Lion make a thorough job of it, and they are seldom wrong in their guesses. At this moment there is a small number of men in key positions who could tell you accurately what things the public would stand for (and just how they could be put over on us), and what things the public would not stand for, no matter how cunningly they were put

Now these few examples I have givenno doubt you will be able to think of better ones for yourself-are all examples of the lion refusing to be put through some trick which he objects to.

But how about the positive manifestations of this power? How about the lion taking the initiative and telling his tamers what he intends to have done? Is this possible? The whole object of this journal is not only to convince you that it is possible, but to explain clearly just how it can be done.

At the moment this country is in a perilous and unstable position because it is neither a dictatorship nor a democracy. Our lion-tamers, threatened in the rear by truculent animals, are in a most unenviable position in the councils of Europe: they are obliged to face in two ways at once, and the result is that Great Britain is cutting a sorry figure in international diplomacy. situation cannot endure for long.

We must either move forward towards a genuine and effective democracy or backwards towards a dictatorship. Which is it to be?

This depends upon ourselves. There are plenty of voices urging us towards the latter goal, but with our eyes on the Continent we are not disposed to believe all that these voices tell us.

Just to jib, however, is not enough. We must act positively, and to act positively requires an apparatus.

In the Electoral Campaign we have constructed such an apparatus. Possibly it is expected to go through their performance for years, it eventually became clear that not the best sort of apparatus that could be twice nightly under such trying circum. Americans meant to drink and were going to made, but at the moment it is the only one.

## **Black Areas** Leave England

## This Is Officious, Says FROTTI

DEAR Buoy,

I see that the Black Areas may be made into a Specious Ministry, and thus be seceded from England into separal States. For Ministers these days are independent rulers, isn't it so, who have taken full powers for taking still more full powers, utterly retrospective of Parliament and pipple.

Is it not fortuitous, then, at this junction, that the Comic League have come forward to impose the establishing of a Physical Training Chair at Oxford or Cambridge? They point out that, in the long term:

"An unfit and badly nourished nation will not stay the course," though, of course, a course in physical jerks is always exceptable.

Jerking professors will therefore educate Black Area Ministers to jerk starving pipples of their districts back to hellth and hoppiness. It is further suggested that in some cases Free Food should be made available to the Poor, and housewives should be trained by

supervisory parties to buy and cook Wise Foodstuffs.

Conscription, sirrah, in this our land of hope and glory be to goodness, as you Coalridge sings, is Wrong. But there is no need for it. This Necessitous Evil can be avoided by getting Black Ministers to jerk starving Poor all day long, in return for free food and wives' cooking wisely under Over-

These officious plannings bid fare to perpetuate the Voluntry Cistern so deer to the hart of Englishmen! When I think, sirrah, how all these ideals and thoughts have oozed out of the City of London, how His Excellency Lord Nuffing has himself called upon the City to provide the executioners of his nobel project, then like Ruptured Broke, Poet, I cannot but intone from my bottom sole:

"There is one corner of the English

field,

That is for ever foreign." Yours patrotically,

FROTTI.

#### H I N

## Plenty For All— These Facts Prove It

#### THE FULL "PROSPERITY" STORY

YOU, Mr. Citizen, are spending more money today than you did a year ago. So says the Sunday Dispatch.

"It amounts to millions of pounds, and the following facts will show you what you are doing with the extra £ s. d. that prosperity in industry has put into circulation.

Britain is:-

Smoking 1,000,000,000 more cigarettes a year than 12 months ago.

Drinking 100,000,000 pints more beer. Enjoying 400,000 more cigars.

And, in addition to that 1,000,000 more gallons of wine are being consumed, including an extra 160,000 bottles of champagne.

This happy state of affairs is not confined to any particular section of the community, but is being shared by people in all walks of

Sales of chocolates and sweets are also rising. Most of the big firms in the industry are extending their factories.

Sports requisite manufacturers are experiencing the biggest boom in history. Many golf and tennis clubs have long waiting lists for membership."

#### Easy Enough

Thus the article in the Sunday Dispatch. It is National Government propaganda.

Conveniently the Distressed Areas are forgotten—so are the 13,500,000 whom Sir John Orr found to have 6s. or less each week to spend on food-let alone cigars.

Still, some of you are spending more money because you have more money to spend.

There is no difficulty in finding cigarettes, beer, wine, sweets, sports goods, clubs, or anything else you may want.

It is easy enough to extend factories indeed, the manufacturers welcome the chance to do so.

All these things can be provided if you have the money to spend on them.

#### Unless-

Nothing more is needed to make industry

All this output of more things, this extending of factories, could have happened a year ago, or a year before that.

Factories were just as eager to produce and extend then as now.

There is no real reason why it should ever

Stop it will, though, when we stop the armament drive — unless you all join in a demand like the one on the back page. Plenty for all whether we make battleships

It's there waiting to be bought, as you see.

It will be there whether we build cruisers, or houses, or roads or not.

Must we be so stupid?

#### IT IS NOT **MAGNIFICENT BUT** IT IS WAR

The boundary which divides economic war from military war is getting blurred.

Pistols, bombs and gas are being used in this fracas between the General Motors Corporation and its thousands of employees. A chance for the League of Nations!

#### **FOOTNOTE**

Week-end headlines that cried Britain's prosperity must have made queer reading in some of the British counties.

They are Southern headlines. To millions in the Northern parts they have a foreign ring, like tales told of other lands. Though they warm the Londoner's heart they baffle most of Lancashire and Durham, South Wales and West Cumberland, and a good part of Scotland.

Thus the News Chronicle on January 4.

#### "HELP" FOR POOR = SCHOOLS = AT A PRICE

"C CHOOLS," says Dr. W. H. D. Rouse. of the Independent Schools Association, "are too poor to provide the best without help.

"They ask the Government for help and get it, but with it they get rules for the use of the money, and officials to see that the rules are kept.

"Thus the guidance of education passes from the men who educate-the artists—to a lot of clerks in an office who understand addition and subtraction, but need not understand anything else."

A lot of second-rate experts telling first-rate experts how to do their work.

#### Three Children Had to Sleep In One Tiny Cot

S EVEN weeks old Louisa Osborn, youngest of three children of unemployed George Osborn, of Goldsmith Cottages, Shoreditch, E., slept in a tiny cot — with her three-and-a-half-year-old brother and her two-and-a-half-year-old sister.

Louisa was found dead in her cot. doctor at the Stepney inquest on Friday said she had been crushed to death by her brother and sister while they were asleep.

The Osborns' living conditions were described at the inquest.

Father and mother slept in the same room as the children—on a single bed, covered with clothes.

The living room which also served as kitchen and scullery was furnished with two chairs, a table, a washtub.

George Osborn has been unemployed three years. His income (unemployed pay) is 34s. 3d. a week. He pays 11s. 3d. rent-leaving 23s. for food, light, heat, clothing for five, now four.

#### **NEW** LEFTIST EDITOR

#### FRIENDS AT BANK OF **ENGLAND**

THAT "red rag" to Colonel Blimps, the Daily Herald, has a new editor.

He is Mr. Francis Williams, formerly the City Editor.

A distinction in ex-City Editor Williams' career, says the News Review, was the making of useful friendships with Bank of England big-wigs, no inconsiderable achievement for the financial expert of Labour's

If this is so his promotion need give no surprise.

On rare occasions Mr. Williams seemed on the point of detecting something radically wrong with the financial machine-more generally he has adopted the orthodox Socialist view that the nationalisation of banking would put everything right.
"Nationalisation," Mr. Montagu Norman

has said, "I welcome it."

And why not?—it would make him legally stronger than ever.

## Production Soars, But Workers Are Hit

[Social Credit Industrial Correspondent]

THE government has just issued a report dealing with five groups of industries granted tariff protection.

These five groups show an average increase of production in 1934 as compared with 1930 of 171/2 per cent., but the number employed has increased by only 101/2 per cent. Employment has increased in only two of these groups-food and chemicals; in the

other three-textiles, leather and clothing and miscellaneous-it has decreased. Textiles, which show an increase of 26 per cent. in production, employed nearly

These five groups of industries, like all other industries, have improved their methods of production, but the market for their goods has failed to grow simultaneously

So long as the people are not paid the wages of the machine (National Dividends), every increase in productive capacity will cause a shrinkage in the home market sooner or later.

This crazy system causes the bitter struggle for export markets which leads to war.

#### **COMING EVENTS!**



What is it he can see at the bottom of the slope? General Milne says WAR in five months

#### THE SHOVEL THE MAN WITH

SHOULD like to give the work to the man with the shovel."

Thus the Mayor of Toronto, opposing the introduction of machinery to clear snow from the streets.

"That's why we have so much unemployment," said he-for he wanted to make

But why give them shovels? It would need more men if they used salt spoons.

Meanwhile the majestic march of invention is giving us more and more labour-

saving machinery.

As bad as Mayor Robbins is the County Council of Sydney, Australia. Obsessed with the world-wide delusion of

work for work's sake, it decreed a lovely Christmas box for the unemployed.

It voted £1,000 to give them a week's work levelling a patch of ground which modern machinery would have finished in an hour

It is just that these people dare not face a world in which there was leisure for all.

They are afraid of what people would do with freedom, leisure and security.

And they will have the upper hand so long as people let them.

#### **Everybody's Policy** Again

A thousand creeds and battle-cries, A thousand warring social schemes, A thousand new moralities,

And twenty thousand thousand dreams ...

But only one honest, worth-while goal in the social and economic scheme of things

An equitable distribution of opportunitya fair and adequate amount of the essentials of this existence for all.

And not only the essentials, but the comforts and conveniences made possible in our time by science discovery and invention.

Is this unreasonable? Is this "radical" (whatever that may mean)? Is this a pro-

position unjust to any person? Thus the Halifax Herald on January 2,

echoing, as so many are now echoing, the policy of SOCIAL CREDIT. It is all in the demand on the back page-

and it makes unity out of the twenty-three. thousand thousand creeds, cries, schemes, moralities and dreams.

#### Farming Mechanised

The Second Conference on Mechanical Farming, at Oxford, showed that a tractorised agricultural revolution is taking place. Today there are at least 50,000 tractors on the farms of this country, most of them as the main power unit.

Milking by machinery is being adopted everywhere; the combine-harvesters, the grass-drier and the gyro-tiller are also being introduced.

A mechanical planter in use, with one driver and five men, plants 90,000 plants a day, and a semi-mechanical model, with one driver and two men, plants 30,000.

In the 1935 season there were only two types of drier and six users; in 1936 there were six types and about fifty users.

In 1928 there was only one experimental combine-harvester; last year there were at least sixty at work, and one small machine which cut and threshed thirteen acres, yielding fifty-two quarters in nine hours.

#### FURTHER SPOTLIGHT

"The Central Office is the hinge upon which everything else in politics depends. Through it the politicians master the Constituencies"

**B**<sup>EFORE</sup> one can understand the machinery by which elections are determined one must understand that mysterious entity, the "Central Office."

What is the Central Office?

It is not representative of the people. It is not even representative of the active members of the party.

These active members dispersed throughout their clubs are represented at the conferences of the National Liberal Federation, the National Union of Conservative Associations, and so on.

These bodies pass resolutions and define policies; but nothing that they do has the smallest effect on practical politics until it has been ratified by the Central Office.

The Central Office is the medium of communication between the governing group of the front benches and the local party organisations throughout the country.

These local organisations themselves do not represent very adequately the rank and

#### Announcements & Meetings

Notices will be accepted in this column from affiliated Groups at 6d. a line, minimum three lines

Belfast Douglas Social Credit Group. Group Head-quarters: 72, Ann Street. Office Hours: 2.30 to 5.30 and 7 to 10 p.m. Supplies of the pamphlet "Social Credit Restated," a rejoinder to the Rev. Prof. Corkey, and other literature, can be obtained.

Cardiff United Democrats. The Dean of Canter bury will address a public meeting at the Cory Hall, Cardiff, on Thursday, January 28, at 7.30 p.m. Subject: Church versus Poverty.

East London United Democrats. Readers in East Ham, Leyton, and Walthamstow districts willing to assist in campaign, are requested to write to District Supervisor—Herbert Dixon, 28, Chigwell Road, E.18.

Hereford. Readers in this district willing to form a Douglas S.C. Group, please write to R. C. Richardson, Frith, Ledbury.

Liverpool S.C. Association. Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, Liverpool. All enquiries welcomed.

Northampton. Anyone in town or surrounding districts interested in the active side of Social Credit, please communicate with the local Secretary, 14, Victoria Road, Northampton, or 163A, Strand. London, W.C.2.

Poole and Parkstone Group. Meeting, Wednesday, January 27, at 7.45 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Edward Hewlett. The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome.

National Dividend Club. Special meeting, January 22, 7.30 p.m., Milton Café, Surrey Street, Strand. Call to action for women. Speaker: Miss de Castro. Members are reminded that their subscriptions for 1937 are now due.

#### Miscellaneous Notices Rate 1s. a line. Support our advertisers.

Furnished Rooms, 6s. to 8s., 574, Welbeck Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 6.

Wanted, someone to take over a small boarding-house (Commercials, etc.), in a country town For particulars apply, with references, to Miss Iles, S. Mary's, Playhouse Yard, E.C.1.

Press Cuttings Bureau. Accountant; World's Press News; Countryman; Scottish Farmer; Church Times, Banker. Will anyone willing to act as scrutineers for the above papers please write to Mr. T. L. Mawson, Petit Port, St. Brelade's, Jersey,

What is it all about—this Social Credit?" Leaflet entitled "Ask and It Shall Be Given You" explains briefly yet pithily. It is available at 4d. a dozen (or 2s. for 100; 8s. for 500; 15s. for 1,000) post free from Social Credit, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Social Credit literature (including all Major Douglas's works), leaflets and pamphlets can be had from the same address. List on application from Social Credit, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. ask them to find him a seat.

## CANDIDATES ARE to the PARTY

file of the parties; they are composed of the most enthusiastic partisans (a small proportion of the community), and are largely dominated by the local rich men who help to keep them going. These men often covet seats in Parliament and work the local organisation with the object of obtaining

Yet, unrepresentative as they often are, and controlled by local plutocracy, the local organisations are too democratic to be trusted under such a system as ours with the reality of political power. The Central Office exists to keep them in order.



AT the head of the Central Office is an official nominated by the governing group. He is in close touch with the whips, and, through them, with the leader. wisely leaves a certain amount of discretion to the local organisations in things not

But where his intervention is required, as, for example, where a local organisation is disposed to stand by a man who takes an independent attitude, or where a man unacceptable to the front bench is nominated, he interferes, and his interference is usually successful, for in truth his power, though hidden, is immense.

For he holds the purse-strings. Through his hands pass all those huge secret sums of which we have already spoken. It is in his power to give or withhold these; and they are constantly withheld from members who do not satisfactorily toe the party line.

It is also he who makes arrangements with the subscribers to the party funds-arrangements of which the leader is conventionally supposed to know nothing, though he obediently carries them out.

In fact, the Central Office, though by no means the most really powerful factor in our politics, is the hinge upon which everything else depends. Through it the politicians master the constituencies.



WE have already said that under a really democratic system of representation Members of Parliament would be chosen freely by their constituents, probably in most

ases from among their own number. In many cases they would be elected by acclamation. In others there might be a contest. But in the final resort it would be the man most thoroughly trusted by his fellow-citizens of that particular district who would become the member.

It is clear that this does not happen now. How do men get elected to Parliament? There are normally two processes.

Sometimes the richest man in a particular locality interests himself in what is called "politics," and subscribes largely to the funds of the local organisation, sometimes paying all its expenses out of his own purse.

In such a case he naturally becomes allimportant to the local politicians, and if he cares to contest the seat he is, subject to confirmation by the machine—as we shall see when we deal with the process in the next section—chosen as candidate. This arrangement obviously implies wealth as a necessary condition of entrance into politics, and affords no guarantee whatever that the man chosen will represent his constituents. It is, however, in practice probably less mischievous than the other and commoner course of

When a man has no special local connections, or when his political preferences do not accord with those of the locality to which his connections bind him, he must approach the Central Office, directly or indirectly, and

If he is a rich man he will put down a subscription which will be paid into the secret treasury of the party, and the seat found for him will, other things being equal, vary in security with the amount of the said subscription.\*



IF on the other hand the man is poor he will show himself active in political work, make speeches for other men, write articles in reviews, and generally force himself upon the notice of his patrons as a useful gladiator.

If he can get a private secretaryship to a politician or in any other way connect himself with the governing group, his path will be all the smoother, and such action be thought more normal if he is a lawyer; for lawyers are at once recognised as advocates, offered the largest salaries (within and without the House), and further find men of their calling to be already the nucleus of Parliament. They are the most serviceable tools of the party bosses.

Such an apprentice to the game will be generally sent in the first instance to fight some hopeless seat. If he shows himself a good candidate and makes himself agreeable to the leaders a more hopeful seat is subsequently found for him.

His poverty is no obstacle to his success, so long as he is submissive to the machine, for the purse of the Party Funds is placed unreservedly at his disposal. But the sacrifice of his freedom (and honour) is the condition of his securing these advantages.

If, by some accident, a junior actually elected so misunderstands his position as to ask a question or to move a motion on some point affecting the machine, he is usually reminded—by an "independent" but wealthy colleague—that his ability to fight his seat again depends upon the will of a secret caucus, and by those by whose money that caucus is kept going.



I T must, of course, be remembered that local political organisations are, as will be described in a moment, no more than the old stock Tory or Radical stagers of the

Such men, though usually honest according to their lights, are completely the dupes of the professional politicians in London, and always insist on loyalty to the party as the first condition of confidence.

This condition nullifies all others.

For, once he is pledged to do nothing that may injure the party, a candidate can cheerfully pledge himself to almost anything else, well knowing that if the measure he is pledged to support is inconvenient to the front benches, he will either have no chance of voting on it, or his vote will be rendered harmless and ineffective by the subsequent shelving of the question.

If in the last resort he is forced to break his word and vote against what he is pledged to vote for, he can always plead that to have redeemed his pledge would have endangered the Government; and by those who make up the local political committees such a plea will generally be accepted.

Even if he is so unusually unlucky as to fail to satisfy the local organisation on a particular point, they are, once he has been their member, almost powerless to get rid of

\* Occasionally a rich but stupid man is duped, an apparently "safe" seat being offered him as against a really large sum of money, when the salaried officials of the party machines have already winked at a third independent candidate.

#### HILAIRE BELLOC and **CECIL CHESTERTON**

25 years ago wrote this damning indictment of the party system now published by SOCIAL CREDIT in serial form. Every word seems as up to date as when it was written. SEVENTH INSTALMENT appears today.

him. To do so would be to cause a scandal, to divide the party, and to run the risk of handing over the seat to the enemy—as the dupes of one set of politicians innocently call the dupes of these politicians' confederates.

······

If any man ventures to run independently of the two political caucuses, the difficulty in the way of his success are enormous. Generally he is severely hampered for want of money, while his official opponents have not only an inexhaustible fund to draw upon, but a fund whose sole purpose is the financing not the winning of elections.

Also, though a majority of voters may actually prefer him to any other candidate, they are often afraid to vote for him lest by so doing they would waste their votes; for under an absurd and dishonest arrangement, which the machine carefully preserves, no second ballot is allowed.



AN impartial observer may be pardoned for thinking that, even under this system, a man could hardly waste his vote more thoroughly than by giving it to the nominee of the political bosses, who, when he is once elected, must regard himself as the servant not of his constituents, but of the caucus.

But the British electors are not always impartial observers, and there is no doubt that the hypnotic effect of continual assurances that an independent candidate cannot win operates powerfully against him. Votes promised some days before the poll are in such cases continually revoked at the last moment under the influence of this fear of wasting a vote.

Thus it will be seen that only three t of men find it normally possible to get into Parliament.

First, local rich men who can dominate the local political organisation.

Secondly, rich men from outside who have suborned the central political organisation.

Thirdly, comparatively poor men who are willing, in consideration of a seat in Parliament and the chances of material gains which it offers, to become the obedient and submissive servants of the caucus.

It will be attempted in this division to describe not why, but how, that wheel of the machine which is called the local caucus, the agency of the machine in a constituency, works towards an election from start to finish.

Some recapitulation of what has already been read will be necessary, but no comment need be made on it, still less any criticism:

a description is enough.



THE front benches have at their disposal a large organisation maintained by salaried officials whose object it is to decide what men shall stand for what constituencies.

Each of these organisations is approached, and lays itself out for approach, on two sides: first by those who desire to become Members of Parliament; secondly, by the local bodies that must confirm the choice of a candidate.

The decision of the salaried machine officials as to who shall stand for where is guided, of course, by many considerations.

#### PARTY POLITICS RACKET

A wealthy man who has purchased the right | nivance and collusion between supposed | nates the man; but though nominated, he is to stand must, of course, be considered first; men already noted at the University for their connection with party organisation there, and their power of public speaking in connection with it, have an obvious claim.

Heredity is a claim. A man, the son or connection of a prominent politician or wealthy political family, a Cecil, a Howard, a Churchill, or a Rothschild, will be accepted as of right. A multitude of considerations enter here which we need not detail.

Men whose poverty renders them of no immediate importance, but whose gifts of advocacy are worthy of enlistment, will be given for their first trial (as we have already pointed out) places which the officials of the double machine have decided to be safe for the side opposed to that for which the neophyte is put up.

His defeat and the energy he puts into the struggle earn him a right to a better chance

Men of strong local influence, or possessed of private or valuable information, are, of course, welcomed—and so forth.

But one common test is applied.

The men so chosen must be prepared to define not only an existing programme settled between the various officials and professional politicians, but any future decision which their superiors may feel inclined to take.

That is understood more or less clearly by the candidates so chosen: the more clearly the better their chance for promotion. A man of no powers, but of doubtful obedience, who might be tempted (were he elected) to speak for those who elected him, is offered the most hopeless opportunities until a few elections shall have schooled him.



TURN now to the local body in the constituencies where the local machine depends upon considerable though dwindling

opponents which is the essence of the central direction at Westminster.

The local "prominent Liberals" are usually men of a really different type from the local "prominent Conservatives." The mass of the people, of course, care little for the "prominent Liberals" and "prominent Conservatives" whose business it is to approach the machine and discover a candidate for it.

But a few dozen men interested in such subjects surround the local bigwigs of either caucus, meet for the purpose of "electing" them to be "presidents," "treasurers," and so forth of the local caucus.

We say "a few dozen"; it is never a hundred, and there are many constituencies where it is not twenty or thirty. The local bigwigs thus elected by their local dependents and satellites form the "official organisation,"

the word "official" here signifying "recognised by the salaried officials of the central machine at Westminster, and by the professional politicians to whom those officials owe their appointment and livelihood."

JPON the approach of the election, or perhaps some time before, the official organisation deputes one of its members who most loves this form of activity, and who has most leisure, to go up to London and see the salaried officials of the machine.

He goes up to London; perhaps two or three others go with him; the interview takes place (we are talking here, of course, only of seats not already provided with a candidate or sitting member intending to continue in Parliament).

They have no one ready, and ask for someone on the list to be sent down, or perhaps they suggest a local man who has spent money largely in the constituency-and if he has agreed to vote for anything the machine may suggest—he is confirmed by the machine.

bodies of sincere public feeling.

You have not in the provinces that conit is the official at Westminster who nomi-More commonly in the case of a vacancy

not yet the official prospective candidate.

Before he can be called by that title he must present himself to the little local clique and be accepted by the official organisation.

Now and then (it is exceedingly rare, and is the exception that proves the rule) the choice thus made is so appalling that the little local clique is frightened of it; in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they do as they are bid, and the gentleman becomes the official candidate.

He may, if there is time and if he is wealthy, nurse the constituency; that is, provide material advantages for the benefit of the electorate; but, though he may "benefit" the electors to his heart's content so far as amount is concerned, he must be wary enough to stop a certain time before an election takes place; otherwise it is bribery.

The length of this time is, of course, not fixed, but depends on the whim of the judge, should an election petition be tried. Six months is perhaps the maximum.

**F**ROM a fortnight to ten days before the election takes place the campaign opens. A set of points is provided for the candidate by the professional politicians, and he has to defend these points in public meetings: questions are put to him which he must answer as best he may.

If a movement of public opinion is observable on matter outside the brief which he has been chosen to defend, he is expected to turn this movement aside and if possible to destroy it.

But it is permitted that he should, in extreme cases of spontaneous popular excitement, pledge himself with a view to his return, though always on the understanding that he is bound to the machine and not to the constituency.

He is expected to break those pledges always in the spirit, and even, if necessary, in the letter, after his return to Westminster: the complete ignorance of the populace upon the rules of Parliament makes the task an easy one.

As the day of the poll approaches, the candidates are "nominated"; that is, nomination papers are handed in bearing the names of certain of his supporters.

The nomination is not accepted unless he can bring with him and pay down in cash a large sum of money, equivalent to the full year's income of a well-paid skilled artisan.

This, of course, is not the whole amount of the entrance fee; the full expenses can hardly be kept at less than £400, average in their avowed or legal amount £1,000, and come in reality (if all be counted) to nearly double that sum.

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## Are You "Middle Class"? READ THIS-SHOW IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR

SINCE my return from Spain, where I watched during the last few years the development of education, and with it the smouldering class hatred which led finally to the civil war, I have had some opportunity of informing myself as to class relations here in the North of England.

The Spanish conflict, divested of its anti- | none of this great class can or will accept or to its crudest terms, is a struggle between the haves and the have-nots. In England we have similar economic features, of poverty amid plenty, but the conditions of life are ameliorated by a better public administration, which by affording measures of social assistance has so far averted any open revolt of the "have-nots."

I am surprised to find that in England, as in Spain, the class feeling is most acute, not between poor and aristocracy, but between poor and middle class.

As far as it is possible to judge from the conversations I have had with people here in the North, the enemy of any Social Credit scheme is the great middle class, or, to use the word bequeathed to us from the French revolution and used today in Spain, the "bourgeoisie."

#### "Look at the Dole"

"The poor are improvident and thriftless"; "they will spend it in the public house"; "we shall pay for it in our rates and taxes"; "there will be inflation"; "look at the dole"—these are the arguments I hear in bus and train and club, not from rich people or aristocrats, but from the professional classes, small shopkeepers, "black-coat" workers, etc., the £200-£500 a year people. "Abolition of poverty, yes, by all means!" they say, "but not at my expense."

No doubt this feature has been duly considered, but I would, with all due respect, suggest that the campaign should not ignore this to my mind all-important factor of the passive resistance of the great middle

It should be directed to convince them that (a) the abolition of poverty need not increase rates and taxes, and (b) that it is not to the interest of the country, and above all to the middle classes, that poverty should be allowed

to continue to exist. The principal difficulty is, I think, that

religious and autonomy concepts and reduced | entertain the idea or principle of anyone, and especially the improvident poor, getting something for nothing!

National dividends would be fine, they say, if there could be some way of controlling the spending, and making the "thriftless poor" spend the money judiciously; in fact, a sort of "means test." Here one can see where this dangerous "means test" is sup-

#### Distrust of the Poor

I cannot quite see how you are to convince this great middle class, but I am sure that this distrust of the poor, this class feeling, is one of the greatest obstacles to progress in the direction of Social Credit.

Perhaps it is because the great lower middle class has worked for what it has got, as a rule, that it will not willingly contemplate another and a less thrifty class, receiving something for nothing.

Personally I have not the least feeling of this sort (and I have the greatest admiration for the philosophy of Major Douglas), but I have been much struck by it since my arrival in England.

All my own poor efforts to further the idea of Social Credit have been met by this passive resistance on the part of otherwise intelligent auditors, to accept the idea of anyone getting something for nothing and without a "means

History will record that the large majority of the non-combatant victims of Spanish terrorism are principally of the middle classes, although numbers of civil servants, small shopkeepers, etc., voluntarily (!) embraced Socialism and voted "Left" in selfprotection.

Similarly, in the French Revolution, twothirds of the victims of the Tribunals were of the lower grades of society.

Hispanofilo

## Challenge To The Catholic Churches THEY CRY AGAINST A LEAD INJUSTICE

#### By John Mitchell

THE Archbishops and Bishops of the Catholic Church have issued a pastoral letter to every parish in England and Wales calling for an apostolate of the laity.

While this action is inspired by a wholesome fear of Communism and its increasing menace to Christianity, it is directed against poverty and social injustice.

In the words of this pastoral letter: "We, therefore, your pastors in the tradition of our predecessors, and notably of Cardinal Manning, publicly raise a united cry against injustice, and against the oppression of the poor and of the workers against the exploitation of the helpless.'

The bishops declare that the defects of our present economic system are so great that there is a constantly rising tide of hatred against it.

So it is proposed to form under the aegis of the National Board of Catholic Action a "Christian Doctrine Confraternity" in every

The object of which is to be that "... the lay apostles will acquire a sound knowledge of Christian principles which they will endeavour to apply to the problems of everyday life. Knowledge will be translated into action, principles put into practice."

But it is explicitly stated that "there is nothing political in such an apostolate."

#### Increasing Concern

No normal man, alive to the fearful conditions of widespread and unnecessary poverty, can but share the increasing concern among Catholics at this state of affairs.

But many will wish to know, when in frank admission they themselves attribute it to "the defects in our present economic system" which "are so great," why they should be at pains to foster action which is not political?

They will want to know why the Catholics will not hesitate to organise political pressure against the intended divorce legislation, whilst refraining from doing so against the crying evil of poverty amid plenty—an evil which not only degrades, degenerates and imposes untold suffering on humanity, but also breeds nearly all the social sins which afflict the world today, from the meanest crimes to the petty and demeaning strifes and hatreds that are so general.

#### Why Hesitate?

An evil, furthermore, from which springs the communism that they so generously detest, and is the root cause of war.

Here are the two plain acknowledgments: that the root of the trouble is an unsound economic system, and that the correct channel through which to exert pressure is through Parliament. Why, then, do they hesitate? For what purpose have we a democracy and a Parliament?

There is one way to the free land where poverty will be no more. That way is for all true democrats to realise their personal responsibility as electors to tell the government through their respective Members of Parliament what they want, and insist on getting those results.

Until they have performed this plain duty, vested in them as electors in a democracy, it

munists, raise an outcry against the scandal of poverty, or expect the government to do other than yield to the pressure of the vested financial interests whose power is only less than the Sovereign Will of the People when exercised.

Until they have done this thing they put themselves in the wrong

It is hypocritical of the Catholic Church to raise a public outcry against the anti-Christian results of the administration of the Government and their experts, when in their own capacity as electors they have failed to discharge their personal responsibility to order a different policy.

The Electoral Campaign for the Abolition of Poverty which this newspaper supports (below) is both a means and a challenge to the leaders of the Catholic Church and all Catholics to discharge their responsibility as electors.

#### Responsibilities

It cannot be impressed on the churches too often that the policy of Mammon now imposed on the government by finance will never be altered for a Christian policy until Christians perform their fundamental responsibilities as electors.

Let the Catholics heed the Sermon on the Mount, the following quotation from which is very appropriate to their present attitude:

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

"Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye: and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

#### CORRECTION

In our reference last week to the activities in Alberta of Mr. John Hargrave, that he is connected with Carlton Publicity. We are informed that Mr. Hargrave does not hold and never has held any executive position with that company. He has been retained among others as an artist and illustrator, a position from which he withdrew eighteen months ago in order to devote his whole time is idle of them to bandy words with Com- to art, literature and politics.

#### WE WILL ABOLISH POVERT

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 to United Democrats, 1634, Strand, London, W.C.2. Will you volunteer to help in the Campaign?

#### ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

- 1. I know that there are goods in plenty and therefore that poverty is quite unnecessary.
- I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.

  I demand, too, that monetary or other claims to such production as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want
- These distributions must not deprive owners of their property nor decrease its relative value, nor increase taxes or prices.
- 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 this my policy, and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law making before
- 7. If the present Member of Parliament here won't undertake this, I will vote to defeat him and his successors until this, my policy, prevails.

(Signatures will be treated confidentially.)

# BUT DO NOT ACT GANDHI

THE Social Order published weekly at Allahabad, U.P. India, prints an article by the Rev. Father Coffey.

Here are extracts:

It is neither possible nor necessary for the masses of the citizens to understand either the technical defects of the prevailing money system or the technique of the regulations which would reform it; but only to realise that the fundamental evil of the prevailing economic organisation of society is financial poverty amid potential wealth abundance, and that this financial defect in the organisation can be remedied.

Their consequent duty is to press for a government of statesmen pledged to apply the correct legislative remedy.

Extend all forms of unemployment benefit, health insurance, old-age pensions, etc., by converting all into a national dividend for all.

Under the new Indian Constitution the franchise has been greatly extended, so that before long many millions will be given an opportunity to vote for the first time.

To the ordinary divisions to be found in the west—the haves versus the have-nots, agriculture against industry, merchants against industrialists and so on, must be added, in the case of India, bitter and ofttimes sanguinary religious strife.

Party politics will tend to deepen and exacerbate these divisions, and in the resultant confusion those who rule India-just as they rule Great Britain—will have their way, and the struggle for the larger share of an insufficiency will be perpetuated.

But most Indians, whatever their creed or caste, want a more abundant life, and many of them will now have the vote and be able to demand it. Would that Mahatma Gandhi, or some other leader respected by the majority of Indians, would show his fellow countrymen the way to make their votes effective.

By so doing he could secure a unity of purpose which all past efforts have failed to achieve.

Lacking such a lead, democracy will fail in India as it has failed elsewhere, for it will not be tried.

It is not real democracy to vote for labels, or for programmes which the majority do not understand, and it is this spurious imitation which India will be forced to accept.

#### Dramatic Farce

Scene I.—Five men, engaged at a fixed wage to produce a certain quantity of useful commodities, work ten hours a day each.

Scene II.—They devise machinery by which they can produce three times the amount by working, in relays, two hours a day each.

Scene III.—One man works the whole ten hours. Four other men are no longer required. Slump.

Scene IV.—Regulations are made to curtail production. One man is re-engaged to destroy part of the machinery. Boomlet.

Scene V. - Smashing-up job finished. Another slump. Scene VI.-More laws, threatening fines

and/or imprisonment if output exceeds fixed quantity. Scene VII.—Restricting output, while his

comrades sink into hopeless poverty, drives man insane. He smashes up remainder of machinery, sets it on fire and perishes in flames.

Finale.—Poverty amidst plenty problem solved at last. R.I.P.

Curtain

Note by Author.—As all the world's a stage, the number of players is unlimited.

W. ELLIOTT.

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Major Douglas Answers Questions. S.C.S. Publications Department in 1936. Free-Lance citics. Special Article by the Editor of Social Credit. Major Douglas on The King and The Money Power.

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