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SOCIAL CREDIT

For Political and Economic Democracy

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1937

Weekly Twopence

TEXAS SCANDAL : FLOOD SCANDAL

450 CHILDREN ARE KILLED DISASTER HITS FENS

The Pope Flays Communists

—BUT PRAISES FASCISTS

THE Pope last week issued an encyclical which condemns "Atheistic Communism" and "earnestly exhorts" Catholics to study the principles of the Corporate State (Fascism). Without actually mentioning Italy and Mussolini by name, the Pope makes it clear that he considers the Fascist system "a highly necessary improvement on the mistakes of economic Liberalism."

Speaking of conditions in Russia, Spain and Mexico, the Pope says:

Man's liberty is destroyed. Every right of the human person is denied. Man becomes, as it was, a mere cog in collective machinery.

Deceived By Promises

"That a doctrine so obviously erroneous has been able to secure such wide acceptance is due to the false idea of justice and equality which Communism has held out to the masses, promising the alleviation of many undeniable abuses and the improvement of the conditions of the poor working man.

"Deceived by these promises, the working men have blindly followed the prophets of the new doctrines."

The Pope urges upon the faithful "a detachment from worldly goods and an attachment to Christian charity, and especially justice."

TWO "NATIONS" IN BRITAIN

New economic theories about the slum clearance problem were discussed by Professor Frederick Soddy at the Cloth-workers' Hall, London, last week.

Professor Soddy blamed the present monetary system for splitting the nation into two "nations"—the very poor and very rich. It was a root cause, he said, of the conflict between Fascism and Communism.

GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR AIR DEFENCE DELAY

MUNICIPAL and local authorities, whom the Home Office have, for four months, successfully dodged on the question of sharing the cost of local air-raid precautions, met last week in County Hall, London, to reconsider their approach to the Government.

Every council in the country was represented by their associations. The London County Council was represented for the first time.

The Government were heavily criticised for their delay in deciding how much they would contribute to the cost of air-raid precautions.

The general feeling of the meeting was that the Government must now take responsibility for any delay which may now arise (through lack of money aid) in carrying out Home Office plans. Local councils feel the Government must bear the full cost—which runs into millions. Home Office estimates allow for £5,000,000.

The councils are to approach the Government once again. Meanwhile, although estimates and plans have been drawn up, very little work is being done.

THE COUNCILS KNOW THAT SKILL AND EQUIPMENT AND LABOUR ARE AVAILABLE. THEY ARE RIGHT IN DEMANDING THAT THE MONEY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THOSE WHOM THEY REPRESENT.

Because Money Aid Was Withheld For Essential Services

THE appalling tragedy in which 455 children and teachers were blown to pieces by the explosion which demolished a school in Texas is solely due to lack of money.

At the Military Court of Inquiry held by the officers of the Texas National Guard, it was brought out in evidence that a gas-steam heating system had been installed in preference to the usual hot-water system, because it was less expensive.

Radiators were placed beneath each window, and the gas, after passing through them, was led away by tiled vents enclosed in the thickness of the walls. These vents led to the attic, but they had no direct access to the open air.

Witnesses said that the tiles used for the vents were not designed for the purpose, but had been passed as adequate, and they admitted that no official inspection of the plumbing or heating systems had been made when the school was built.

An expert on explosives, who examined the ruins, was certain that the disaster was caused by an explosion of gas in the hollow walls.

Other witnesses said that the school

authorities had been warned that it was dangerous not to instal a new gas regulator, alleged that the radiator vents had not been examined regularly, and said that they had complained that the gas pressure throughout the system was too high.

One heating engineer, whose bid for installing a hot water system in the school was refused, said in evidence that he had warned the school authorities that it was a "crime" to instal a gas-steam system in a public building, for which the system was not suitable.

Once again considerations relating to figures in books and on bits of paper have been allowed to stand in the way of simple needed improvements.

On the evidence the dangers were known—and skill, labour, and material was not only available but was pressing to be allowed to do its work.

The unspeakable money fakers decreed otherwise and 455 young lives have been snuffed out.

Where will the horror break out next? When will people arise and demand the abundance, the facilities, the improvements, the security, and the freedom that lies around them waiting to be enjoyed?

GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY IN FENLAND

WHILE the inhabitants of the Fens are suffering needless loss, discomfort, misery and fear, the people entrusted with the job of averting this sort of disaster have failed them, and are blaming the old hateful, useless bogey—finance.

The difficulties experienced in the past of providing against an unexpected volume of flood are well known, and the history of the Fen district is the history of the various

efforts at drainage and reclamation. There is now no engineering difficulty whatever.

The network of drains and dykes which exists today was completed about a hundred years ago, but has been allowed to deteriorate—for financial reasons.

"Many circumstances," says *The Times*, "have thwarted their upkeep and modernisation. The decline of water-borne inland traffic, the decay of agriculture, the supposed clash of interests between the uplands, which thought only of sending their water down, and the fenlands, which resented this unwelcome present, involved the authorities in great administrative and financial difficulties. Six years ago the system was reorganised, and the establishment of Catchment Boards, with their beives of Internal Drainage Boards, seemed likely to mend matters. But . . ."

The Catchment Board have put in hand works costing a few hundred thousand pounds, chiefly in the estuary and in the South Level, and claim that their resources are insufficient for faster and more extensive progress.

The substance of their complaint is entirely financial. In a letter to *The Times* no engineering difficulty of any kind is put forward by the Board as an excuse for the present fiasco.

The letter makes six points only, which may be summarised as follows:

1. The area of the Catchment Board is slightly under 2,000,000 acres.
2. The rateable value of the area is only £3,323,000, and a 1d. rate produces £13,800 a year.

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

Edward Was Exploited

HECTOR BOLITHO, royal biographer, has written a life of Edward VIII. These extracts show what happens when a man is sacrificed to an institution.

FOR most British people the estrangement of King Edward came suddenly, during the dark month of 1936, but for his mother it began ten years before, when an eager and short-sighted Government exploited her son's charm and talents to the full, sending him hurrying when he should have remained with his parents to grow more and more into the strength of their family example.

The love [of his mother] which might have sustained Prince Edward was constantly interrupted and confused by Government plans, and it must be an added reason for remorse when we realise what the loss of his mother's influence must have meant to him.

Queen Mary had been the first to protest against these dangers, and when the journey to India was proposed she spoke once more.

Even her infinite tact and wisdom could not survive these gaps of separation, when her son moved like a comet, beyond her control and beyond the kindly and wise influence which she exercised.

THE war meant that the Prince, like thousands of other young men, was cut off from every stabilising influence at a critical time. Then when other young men had an opportunity to find their feet at home again, the Prince instead had to undertake a series of Empire tours.

When he returned to London he was almost a stranger.

He was already paying the penalty of his unique position, for he was more like a colonial coming home than an Englishman who had just returned from his travels.

His interests and his viewpoint were wandering from the English path, and the gap between the Prince and his family was widening in consequence.

IT is not difficult to understand why kings have sometimes gone mad with the unnatural weight which life puts upon them.

It was amazing that King Edward had lived through the days at Fort Belvedere (in the abdication crisis) with any remnant of his reason left. But it was disturbing to realise, as one sat beside an English hearth, nursing all the comfort of British life, that he was going out into a wilderness in which he will never know what it is to be other than alone.

This is another angle on the most spectacular attempt in modern times to subordinate a living man to an institution.

The refusal of Edward VIII to be broken in, or to involve his people in disputes about the institution which was being set against his life, liberty and happiness, is perhaps still too recent for the lesson to be learned.

But learned it will be.
"Edward VIII." By Hector Bolitho.
Eyre & Spottiswoode, 10s. 6d.

FROTTI

asks CROWTHER (of the News Chronicle) Are Loans Repaid Twice?

(Crowther wrote in the N.C. on
March 18)

FROTTI. "Why so pensive, Geoffrey? Like the melancholy Jacques, mewling and puking for the bubble reputation."

GEOFFREY (sadly). "A month ago forecasts of the 1937 Budget made gloomy reading. An increase in the Income Tax was taken for granted; the only question was whether it would be an increase of 3d. or 6d. or 9d. in the pound."

F. "I see. And now some Cabinet Minister is insuring against an increase of half-a-crown, I suppose? As a fellow-Taxpayer I deeply sympathise."

G. "All these forecasts were based on one premise—that Mr. Neville Chamberlain was a safe and sound financier."

F. "Yes, beastly, isn't it?"

G. (vehemently) "But he is not."

F. "Not? Then do you mean everything is all right after all?"

G. "He is resolutely pursuing a course which has been emphatically condemned by economists and bankers!"

F. (faintly). "Not—not S-Social Credit!!"

G. "He is not only determined to borrow, but to borrow the maximum amount in the first year."

F. "Would you mind telling me what's wrong with that, if taxation and loans come out of the same pockets, as you are constantly telling me they do, why is one course less sound than the other?"

G. "We have the farcical result that in spite of the construction of 148 new warships, the Navy will cost the taxpayer less this year than in the current year which ends on the 31st of this month."

F. "Well, that is fine. How did he manage it?"

G. "The invidious job of raising taxes will be left to his successor."

F. "What for? Oh, to repay the loans? But, Geoffrey, didn't you once say that we cannot borrow against the future? That loans are paid for at the same time as they are borrowed and therefore loans and taxation come to the same thing? I feel sure you told me something like that at some time or other."

G. (taking up his hat and stick). "Building was our salvation in the last slump, and our chief means of getting out of it. We shall have to find some other salvation next time." (Exit.)

F. (reflecting). "I'm sure he did tell me that. Surely he cannot mean that loans are repaid twice, once now in rising prices, and again by taxation in the future? (runs to the window). Hi, Geoffrey, wait a minute. I've got something else to ask you."

Is This The Object of Food?

WE cannot refrain from quoting these paragraphs from a recent letter in the *Daily Telegraph*:

"It would seem that in the endeavour to improve the national physique attention is likely to be concentrated on the muscular system by such means as gymnasiums, swimming pools and expert teachers.

"The object of this letter is to call attention to one small group of muscles which in this country are being sadly cheated of their due

★ COMMENTARY ★

Freedom

"THERE will be no excuse for the Government if everything that can be done with money is not done with money. If the Government fails, the responsibility will be that of the Government," said Mr. Walter Nash, New Zealand's Minister of Finance, speaking at a dinner of the Social Credit Secretariat in London on Monday. No resources of the country should remain unused, he said, so long as anyone suffered for their need; but—there was one condition—they must work if they were able.

Why make the condition? Of course, work must be done to ensure production, but with machinery to ease the burden, who would permit a man to starve if his work were not necessary?

Mr. Nash would not, for he asserted his belief in individual freedom.

Major Douglas, in a notable speech, showed the only way to this freedom. It was through such action as would rouse people to a sense of their power to demand and receive it.

The only possible reason for people to associate together was to benefit each one individually—to achieve individual freedom through satisfaction of material wants.

Professor Harris of Cambridge struck an urgent note of danger to freedom from allowing the intellect to transcend the heart. The sort of compulsion that was being forced on people today must not be tolerated, or freedom would perish.

Problems of Prosperity

A CURIOUS comment on the reply given to the plea of South African housewives (reported on page 8), who wanted to enjoy the products of South Africa at prices not greater than the people of other countries, is contained in the following two remarks in *The Times* of March 16:

"South Africa's great wave of prosperity due to the 70 per cent. rise in the price of her main product and export—gold—since 1933, has created new problems for her . . ."

"Another problem for South Africa arising out of the large gold premium is that the country enjoys a highly favourable trade balance, which gives her the power either to increase her imports substantially or to invest abroad if she so desires. Indeed so favourable has this balance been at times that the flow of gold from South Africa for sale in Europe has had to be regulated according to the market's absorbing power."

Times of depression and times of prosperity alike provide excuses for our moneymasters to demand sacrifices from the people.

The Prerogative

LORD PONSONBY of Shulbrede, in a letter to *The Times*, refers to Mr. Baldwin's intention to resign the Premiership, Mr. Neville Chamberlain's nomination as his successor, and Mr. Baldwin's possible intention to accept a peerage, announced in the Press during the last few weeks, as the probable course of events in the near future.

He goes on to reflect that Mr. Baldwin's resignation has to be in the first place accepted by the King, that the choice of his successor is determined at his Majesty's discretion, even though the outgoing Prime Minister may make a recommendation, and

the conferring of a peerage on a retiring Prime Minister is exclusively a matter for the Sovereign's personal decision.

"May I ask," he concludes, "why the King's prerogative and consent have been entirely ignored in these premature but authoritative announcements? I can imagine, or rather I cannot imagine, how Queen Victoria would have expressed herself in similar circumstances."

Whether authoritative or not, the announcements have been made, and time will show whether they were authoritative or not.

But it seems pertinent to inquire why Queen Victoria should be invoked. There have been a King Edward, and a King George since then, and also a gentleman "bred in the constitutional tradition" by his father, whose sole complaint when he left the throne was that he was prevented from carrying out his kingly duties as he would have liked to have done.

Mightier Than the Pen

GOVERNMENTS are always tempted to give way to vested interests. The private Member is usually not so fearful of them. He worries chiefly about his own seat. "If he looks like falling asleep in it, his constituents should kick him, by correspondence, in the right place."

This is the advice of a well-known newspaper political columnist. He has forgotten the elector has a vote.

Making Money

SIR ERNEST BENN says: "If you want no more than to make money, if that is all there is in your mind, then the sooner you give up the idea the better for you and everybody else."

"Besides, you will find money a nuisance. The strain and trouble of not losing it is of itself an intolerable burden. It will tend to spoil your character, develop the spirit of meanness, get you into the habit of measuring by money values alone, bring you false friends; and further, there is the danger that it may be made at somebody else's expense."

All this happens because money is monopolised and kept in artificially short supply. Distribute it to everyone, and the terrific emphasis laid on money will vanish.

FEN FLOODS SCANDAL

(Continued from page 1)

Much of it is agricultural land not liable to rates.

3. Internal Drainage Board rates vary from 1s. to 20s. in the £, and average 6s. 2d.

In many areas an increased rate would simply drive land out of cultivation.

4. New drainage schemes have been started, with the Government contributing 75 per cent. of the cost of new works, but are far from complete.

5. The total income of the Board, from a 2d. County Council rate and the Internal Drainage Board contribution is under £60,000.

Of this sum about £16,000 is absorbed in loan charges, the peak of which has not yet been reached.

6. The County Council rate is already about 12s. in the £ apart from District and Parish rates.

"It is unfair," says *The Times*, "both to blame the Board for not having effected miracles, and to expect the general taxpayer to pay for everything."

No miracles are expected. Just ordinary engineering efficiency is all that is needed. The skill is available, the material, the men—and the foreknowledge of the dire necessity of doing, not miracles, just merely the job the Catchment Board was created to do.

The Catchment Board have failed to carry out a simple engineering job—in these days of scientific wonders an absurdly simple job.

They have failed in their responsibility and should be sacked without delay, and people installed who will do their jobs.

Their drivelling money excuses are of no interest to angry and flooded Fen dwellers. Dykes are not built with banknotes, but with more lasting and useful material.

And that material is there, and that skill is there, quite irrespective of the general taxpayer.

Leave him alone and get on with the job entrusted to you, Messrs. River Great Ouse Catchment Board.

Truth in Advertising?

"ALL my friends drive cars made in this country. They realise, for one thing, that in buying from the home market they're also helping the export trade."

The sponsors of this charming little "Buy British" advertisement (the italics are ours) might explain how the foreigner is to pay for the goods he imports from Britain, if everyone in Britain insists on "buying from the home market" and thus "helping the export trade."

Goods can only be paid for in goods in the long run, for foreign money is no use in Britain.

Sold Again

HOPES were raised recently by the headline in the *Daily Telegraph* which read, "New Bank of England"—only to be dashed again by the sub-heading which read, "Former Features Retained."

It's an Ill Flood

WE do not hear much now of the floods which recently devastated the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

The fact is good business is being done on the reconstruction programme. There's nothing like floods or earthquakes for prosperity under the present financial system—except a good war and that beats everything.

Government by Money

THE fortification of the Franco-Belgian frontier, which was to have begun in the near future, has been postponed for a year in consequence of the Government's decision to reduce extraordinary expenditure during the current year, says *The Times*.

It is not a fact that France is incapable of constructing these fortifications. France has all the necessary men and materials for the purpose.

Here is another glaring example of the international government of money which in every country in the world dictates what shall and what shall not be done simply by withholding or creating money.

Runaway Slaves Hunted Down at 2s. 6d. a Head

SLAVERY is not yet abolished. We are all slaves of the system which imposes a load of debt on us at birth, and forces us under threat of dire penalties, to work unavailingly our lives through, in the hopeless attempt to pay it off. Hopeless, because every succeeding generation falls heir to a greater debt.

The native races of South Africa are not allowed to enjoy many of such benefits as this system has brought into being, but they are given equality of treatment with the conquering white race in one respect, they are allowed to share the debt burden!

Apparently this form of equality does not appeal to them, and in the Transvaal recently, defaulting native taxpayers have been rounded up by court messengers who were paid 2s. 6d. per catch. The words in italics are those used in a question asked in the South African House, which, like most questions designed to expose any section of the tax ramp, was ruled out of order.

THE FIG TREE

A quarterly review edited by
Major C. H. DOUGLAS

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G.K.'s WEEKLY
7/8 ROLLS PASSAGE, LONDON, E.C.4

G. W. L. DAY Tells of—

Our National Slate Club
THE TREASURERS ALWAYS ABSCOND

EVERY year in all parts of Britain people save up their pennies and hand them over to the treasurers of their local slate clubs. To me, there is something ludicrous and pathetic in this. All that these subscribers expect from the treasurer is that he will hand them back their money with or without interest so that they can buy their Christmas dinners.

Surely it would be just as safe to put the pennies in a box? Safer, in fact, because times without number treasurers spend the money, or gamble it away, and then default. But the need for pennies is so fierce and exacting that we trust ourselves even less than we trust absconding treasurers. Hence slate clubs continue to be popular.

There is something pathetic about it because, did we but know it, we all belong to a National Slate Club from which we have every right to draw a good many pennies, not only at Christmas but at regular periods throughout the year.

To this club we all contribute, but because our contributions are not in cash we don't realise that we have any right to a share-out. We don't see that our treasurer absconds every share-out day and always gets away with it.

What exactly are these contributions of ours? I will take the case of a new form of public service, television, and try to explain.

At the present moment, televisions are still too expensive to enable large numbers of people to buy them. A further reason why comparatively few sets are being sold is

that television broadcasts are not yet up to the standard of sound broadcasts.

The public therefore feels a little dubious about spending, say, £60 for an instrument of less entertainment value than, say, a £5 radio set for sound.

If, now, there were suddenly an extra million people who were ready to buy televisions, the B.B.C. would at once consider it worth while to put on better television programmes, and the manufacturers would find it possible to lower the prices of their sets.

All this may seem a little too obvious to need stating. But the point I want to emphasise is that everybody connected with television—the manufacturers, the B.B.C. and the people who use sets—all contribute something by their association towards the television service.

Take away a single looker-in and this association is affected. Each man who uses a set, therefore, contributes something of material worth.

The same thing is true of any other form of public service you care to consider. The telephone system is a good example. Everybody who uses a telephone is a contributor. By having a telephone installed in your home or office, you are giving a leg up to the entire British telephone service and helping to make possible things which were previously impossible.

Let me put it in another way. If each telephone subscriber had to have a separate system to himself, or if each member of the G.P.O. staff were working on his own and not co-operating and associating with the others, no telephone system would be possible.

A thousand men working in co-operation can produce far more and far more efficiently than a thousand times one man working alone. In the same way the service that can be offered to a thousand patrons, purchasers, or subscribers should be much more than a thousand times better than the service that can be offered to one.

Now, if we go back a few centuries in history we shall find a state of affairs corresponding more to the thousand separate workers than to the thousand working in association.

In other words, what I have fancifully called our National Slate Club had only recently been formed. The membership

was small, the contributions were meagre, and the undistributed benefits—namely, the Unearned Increment of Association—had not yet swollen to any great size.

But with the advent of the mechanical age, the flocking of workers into the towns and the general organisation of industry and markets, a great change took place, culminating in what is known as mass production and mass selling.

This last corresponds to maximum membership and contributions to the Slate Club. Undistributed benefits have been accumulating fast for over a hundred years. What has happened to them? This is where the story of the absconding treasurers comes in.

Just like the hidden reserves of banks and insurance companies, the undistributed benefits of our National Slate Club are very carefully concealed. They exist, not in any notes or bullion that you can see, but in money which like the babies in Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird," are waiting to be born.

Unhappily it is the dishonest treasurers who call these unborn babies to life and issue them to us, the subscribers, as loans. We are thus most miserably cheated, and it is not exaggerating to say that the greater part of the world's troubles today can be traced to this cause.

I HAVE already remarked on the pathetic gullibility of the slate club members who trust treasurers with their money year after year, although not a year passes without one of these latter absconding.

But what is this compared with trusting our precious Unearned Increment of Association to treasurers who always cheat us, and who add insult to injury by preaching to us into the bargain?

At this very moment some hundreds of millions of pounds of our undistributed benefit is being materialised by the National Slate Club treasurers to pay for rearmament, and we are being debited with the amount. Mr. Neville Chamberlain and his successors will see that we don't default.

It is irritating to feel that we are being cheated like this; all the same, it is nobody's fault but our own that such things are happening. We don't realise it, or if we do realise it we are doing nothing as yet to bring it to an end.

The Better Half

LADY STAMP spoke last week to the Free Church Women's Council at Leicester. Said she:

"Blindness to facts does not constitute purity as we so often thought in the past."

Dare we hope that Sir Josiah will read these simple words?

B.B.C. Must Link Up With Treasury

SIR JOHN REITH has met the Members of Parliament of this party and that, and "satisfied" them that there is not, and will not be, any "political bias" in the B.B.C. talks and programmes.

All the newspapers have had a good time denouncing and defending and putting up the usual sham battle of words over the matter. And so the tumult and the shouting dies.

The B.B.C. is actually one of the most carefully cherished agencies of propaganda in the power of the financial system. Its speakers may be "Red" or "True Blue" or even "Black"—but their song is the song their mother, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, taught them.

Last week steps were taken to make the link even closer. There is to be a "liaison" between the B.B.C. and the Treasury, with a view to facilitating consultation between the Treasury and the Corporation, especially on staff matters.

B.B.C. officials have been carelessly engaged in the past, no doubt, without reference to tests of orthodoxy in their outlook.

As a result of Bank of England director, Sir Josiah Stamp's Board of Enquiry into the Lambert v. Levita case, such matters will in future be supervised by the Treasury.

And the Treasury, said Mr. Montagu Norman, is Tweedledum to the Bank of England's Tweedledee.

Bank Profits Are £664,967

THE General Court of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England was held at the Bank last week.

The Right Hon. Montagu Collett Norman said that profits for the half-year ended February 28 last, after making provision for all contingencies, were £664,967, making the amount of the "rest" on that day £3,688,793. After providing for a dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, the "rest" would be £3,022,993.

HORNSEY CAN STOP MINISTRY SEIZURE

The Ministry of Health are backing Islington Borough Council in seizing by force a five-acre site near Hornsey Lane. The Council intend building flats on it.

Hornsey Lane residents are opposing the scheme, and Hornsey Borough Council is on their side. The residents and their Council can defeat Islington and the Ministry if they determine to make their will prevail.

It is their district, not the Ministry's.

Give Your Friends A PRESENT, —Help Us See Page 6

3,000 WOMEN WILL DEMAND

THREE thousand women, meeting on June 2 at the coming-of-age conference of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in the Albert Hall, will demand that:

The Government take steps to reduce the price of milk to all needy parents and schoolchildren.

The hire-purchase system be investigated.

Village drainage and sewage disposal be dealt with.

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★ **LETTERS** ★
Catholic Church and Poverty

YOUR correspondent who signs himself "Catholic Action" has evidently not understood the controversy between Mr. Mitchell and myself. I refer him to my letter of February 5th.

But I would warn him against thinking that the aim of Social Credit is the seeking of the Kingdom of God. You may have Social Credit in a totally atheistic state.

In my first letter I informed Mr. Michell that the epithet hypocritical would be more correctly worn by himself for blaming in the Catholic Church what he considers praiseworthy in Social Credit. He denied but did not disprove the charge of similarity of line of action.

Now he informs me that the Catholic leaders and Press are educating their people against the present poverty.

Further discussion would be, I think, useless, because I find it impossible to argue profitably with a person who proves the contrary of what he denies, in order to support his denial.

But as a last proof of my goodwill towards him I offer him, quite sincerely, several pieces of advice for his benefit in any future articles.

- (1) Avoid arrogance.
- (2) Do not sacrifice the truth for a word or a phrase.
- (3) Do not quote from other spheres of study if it leaves the way open for a harder back smash; e.g., quoting the Sermon on the Mount.
- (4) Study a subject before criticising it, e.g., Catholic Action.
- (5) Where the use of documents is involved, always, if possible, get hold of the original or authentic copies. If this is impossible then do not be categorical but state the source and the dependence on it.

(I have used an authentic copy of the pastoral letter and know that it has been misquoted).

J. McDOWELL

Sacred Heart Presbytery,
Hindsford,
Atherton.

[No further letters on this subject can be published.—Ed.]

★ **Appreciation**

MAY I join in the appreciation of your paper with your correspondent in Alberta, for as a scrutineer in economic matters of three leading newspapers, one of which is published in the U.S.A., you may consider that I am in a position to express some opinion.

Your paper appeals directly to the common sense.

Torrington, N. Devon

G.S.

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Vol. 6. No. 7. Friday, March 26, 1937

Democracy in Chains

AN extraordinary article by J. B. Firth in the *Daily Telegraph* on March 16 attempted to defend the muzzling of Parliament by the Cabinet.

"If exceptionally strict limitations are imposed on the free speech of members in debates on expenditure the explanation (thinks Mr. Firth) is that Governments dare not trust the House of Commons over far in dealing with such a subject as the Special Areas, because the House has so big a heart. The simplest appeal, if sincere, to pity, to sentiment, to emotion, to the common instincts of humanity, goes straight home."

And that, to misquote Gilbert, would be annoying for our far from susceptible Chancellor.

THE contempt for Parliament, and beyond Parliament, for the people, which stands out of this article can be illustrated by the sneering tone of the following reference to the recent Opposition protest against Standing Order No. 63.

"The acrimony imported into the discussion arose from the Opposition's injured sense of dignity and pride. If the House of Commons is elected by the Democracy, the sovereign people, why, they ask, should the Cabinet lay down such narrow lanes and tracks of discussion . . . Is not this muzzling the chosen representatives of the people and no less a sacrilege than to choke the conduit-pipe of an oracle?"

DESPITE these sneers, the writer admits that the severity of the restriction was not denied, but was admitted to have been deliberate.

He has no doubt there will emerge from the Select Committee which was appointed some suggested verbal amendment which will gratify but not satisfy.

"For at the back of all that display of indignation over phraseology is the crucial question as to where lies the real seat of authority at Westminster. Is it in the House of Commons or is it in the Cabinet?"

THERE is no equivocation in the obviously approving but outspoken answer which he gives to his own question:

"Ministers thoroughly understand the real position at Westminster, which is that in all legislation into which finance enters, the seat of authority rests in theory with the House of Commons but in practice with the Cabinet.

"They would rather not have the question raised, especially as it may be raised rather coarsely. They neither wish to claim power too openly nor assert it too brusquely.

"But they believe it to be absolutely essential to keep the real control over expenditure in their own hands, because Democracy, as Lord Morley once said, is 'spendthrift.'

"So when we talk of the control of the House of Commons over finance we do but dress up a fiction."

WE have quoted extensively from this article, because it is a fair indication of the mind of a large number of people on the subject of democracy today.

The people are regarded as a rather ridiculous set of "voices off" to which no attention should be paid on any account.

Their elected and paid "representatives" are regarded as a silly bunch of gullible and susceptible busybodies who must not be allowed to stand in the way of finance.

All wisdom lies with the Cabinet!

In short, in the writer's own vivid phrase, "Democracy is only safe when it is kept, so to speak, on the chain!"

What Are These Wise Economist Guys Saying?

PROSPERITY TOO GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE

A FEW economic experts, and politicians masquerading as economic experts, have been warning us not to count too much on prosperity.

Prosperity, booms, eating plenty of food, wearing plenty of clothes, having good times all round, are, in the opinion of these wisecracs, much too good for the common people.

They always hasten to dub a period of prosperity "artificial." The fact that the food eaten, the clothes worn, the luxuries enjoyed are good, solid merchandise, and that no earthquake, only a collapse of their wretched accountancy system changes a boom into a slump, never penetrates their figure-hypnotised brains.

In Edinburgh, Paris, New York, they are busy telling the world.

*

"WE can avoid a slump only if we take steps to avoid a boom," declared Dr. J. A. Bowie, Principal of the School of Economics, Dundee, when speaking in Edinburgh last week.

One of the two great tasks of this generation, Dr. Bowie went on, was the creation of some form of conscious control over our economic destiny.

We used to expect the unfortunate in the time of slump to starve if need be, but men who knew that abundance lay just round the corner would no longer starve quietly.

Or, as "The Times" would say, prosperity creates new problems!

Discussing the question of whether we were in a boom today, Dr. Bowie said he would be inclined to say that the historian looking back, would fix 1937 as the peak of the boom, followed by a plateau period, and then a definite recession in 1938.

To curb a boom, and so avoid a slump, we needed a conscious plan by which the supply of money could be cut down when business starts to bolt and new money poured in when it stagnates.

What a prospect! What a remedy! What an outlook! What rot!

*

SIR CHARLES ADDIS, the economist and banker, formerly a director of the Bank of England, and a signatory to the infamous Cunliffe Report which planted the ten-year post-war slump on our people, addressed members of the American Club in Paris last week on what he was pleased to call the New Economics.

After describing the "recovery" which had taken place since the economic crisis of 1931, Sir Charles Addis went on to say that they had to realise that the economic truths which they had absorbed in their youth were no longer valid when applied to modern conditions.

Laissez-faire ceased to have any meaning to a community whose institutions were already to a large extent socialised, and freedom of competition, as postulated by the old economists, was a thing of the past.

Moved by some vague and indefinite fear of impending disaster man had been led more and more to barter his individual freedom in exchange for increased security by the State.

That is pretty frank, anyway. A Daniel has come to judgment here.

After a eulogy of the Gold Standard (the New Economics!) he was not prepared to admit that all the virtue had gone out of principles which embodied the accumulated wisdom of the past. Governments were no doubt more efficient and more honest than they were in Adam Smith's day, but he wondered if they were wiser. There were silent economic forces at work which they opposed at their peril.

My hope for the world (Sir Charles Addis concluded) is that it may be found possible to pursue a middle course, a compromise between capitalism and collectivism.

What a hope! What careful avoidance of what really matters! What nonsense!

*

LAST week Mr. Daniel C. Roper (United States Secretary of Commerce) said that he saw a possible danger signal in the recent increase in industrial production, which was 20 per cent. above that of last year, while business generally was 15 per cent. higher than in 1936.

Mr. Roper said that he would like to suggest a series of conferences with a view to being sure that this increase was on a sound basis.

Mr. H. A. Wallace (Secretary of Agriculture) has joined Mr. Eccles (Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board) and Mr. Roper in expressing concern regarding the possibility of another "boom" and subsequent depression.

What optimism! What unanimity! What balderdash!

PLAN MANIA: By The 'Next Five Years' Group

THE "Next Five Years" Group have issued a pamphlet called *A Programme of Priorities* as another stage of their campaign of plan-propagation. Under the caption "Human Needs" is advocated:

The demolishing and replacing of a further 300,000 houses to follow the completion of the present programme, and to determine the rate of building in relation to the employment situation, strengthened by a new and stiffer definition of overcrowding.

Extension of the milk-in-schools scheme, and the development of similar schemes to make available essential foodstuffs for those unable to buy adequate supplies.

Expansion of National Health Insurance panel system into a public medical service to cover dependents of insured workers and to include non-insured workers.

Further measures to restore and maintain the personal qualities of long-unemployed persons (e.g., instructional centres, physical training centres, unemployed classes, and voluntary schemes).

Typical planmongering by people who are quite certain they know best what is good for other people.

≈

Part two deals with "Efficiency of the

Economic Machine," which includes proposals for:

Preparation of plans for public works in advance of the next set-back in recovery . . . Planning and direction of location of industry . . . supervision by independent public commissions . . . Nationalisation of coal royalties . . . Electricity commission to have full powers of compulsory amalgamation . . . Appointment of a national investment board to control the capital market and encourage and direct the flow of savings into industry . . . Monetary policy to be directed to encouraging the highest practicable level of stable employment, production and trade . . . New taxation, where necessary, to be directed mainly to unearned income, property passing by inheritance, and increment on land values . . . Further equalisation of rates as between rich and poor districts . . . The setting up of joint industrial councils with statutory powers to enforce agreements arrived at concerning maximum hours and minimum wages.

≈

It would be difficult to imagine a more insidious form of tyranny than is here being plotted. For the benefit of those who do not know, the Next Five Years' Group professes to be an association of persons belonging to all political parties and to none, who have found themselves in substantial agreement as

to a practical programme of action for the immediate future.

The group do not say so, but the programme is the same as that advocated by P.E.P. Also it is the programme gradually being riveted on us through our Cabinet rulers—all under the label of democracy, all camouflaged under the semblance of sweet reasonableness.

But the subtle principle of the soviet underlies it all. Note the phrase "with statutory powers to enforce agreements." Have we not already had enough boards armed with Acts of Parliament containing clauses which enable these unknown "public servants" to alter the Acts without consulting Parliament?

≈

I cannot believe that all those whose names appear in the long list in the foreword of this pamphlet realise to what end they are being used.

One short quotation from the pamphlet under the heading "International Relations" should suffice: "Simultaneously, an effort to re-establish a system of collective security . . ."

What, again? Yes—again!

G. Hickling

India Falls For The Party

The End of Life is Work

—Says Oxford Professor

RESearch Fellow in Economics H. D. Henderson, M.A., of All Souls College, Oxford, read a paper to the Royal Society of Arts on Wednesday—“The Displacement of Labour by Machinery.”

It seemed that Mr. Henderson was all the time conducting a secret sparring match with an invisible opponent. The shadow of Major Douglas, good-humoured and enquiring, so obviously haunted the speaker's mind.

As his objective he took the familiar one—the necessity for keeping people at work and making more work for them to do if possible. This desirable result, he claimed, the industrial system still performed, in spite of modern developments.

Five years ago, he said, it seemed that machinery was producing unemployment and this was the chain of cause and effect. Such a “fashionable economic cliché” made him feel the incredulous surprise of one looking at the photographs of men dressed in the mode of 20 years ago.

This bright thought was unfortunately followed by a direct misstatement. Speaking of the Luddites, he said that no one subsequently had attempted to emulate their methods of direct action in breaking up machinery.

I could not help feeling that Mr. Henderson would not have got away with this had there been any members of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners present.

He then stated the orthodox argument that every £100 worth of goods creates £100 worth with which to buy it.

“Every hundred pounds worth of goods sold to the ultimate consumer gives rise to a hundred pounds of income” distributed somehow among those who helped to make and sell the goods. Put in this form, we remained one large question mark as to where the ultimate consumer got the hundred pounds to start with—and who exactly the ultimate consumer was!

Mr. Henderson disposed of what he called “the Robot theory” by putting forward the antique argument that the making of machinery absorbed all the labour which machinery displaced, and proving it up to the hilt by the motor-car industry!

The argument seems to be (1) motor-cars are machines; (2) the motor-car industry has expanded rapidly; (3) therefore all industries making machines are expanding rapidly. (If the shadowy figure of Major Douglas murmured “cotton-spindles” or “shipping,” Mr. Henderson must have turned the other ear.)

It only remained for the speaker to show that the object of labour-saving machinery was to create more labour in making labour-saving machinery. His case would then have been complete. Unfortunately, he left it there and proceeded to talk of primary products.

RESTRICTION IGNORED

With considerable skill he avoided any figures of restriction, and set out to show that less food and less primary products in general were being used because the standard of living was higher.

What happened, he asked, when people got on in the world? They gave up eating potatoes and such baser commodities, going in more and more for expensive luxuries. This reduced the demand for potatoes.

As for poor people, they tended to concentrate on enjoying “services as distinct from commodities.” Was Mr. Henderson referring to the social services, so beautifully demonstrated by the Means Test?

Conclusions reached were that the old economic argument was still correct: displaced labour was not in fact displaced, only transferred; but the position was complicated by changes in the population trends.

One cannot argue with a person of Mr. Henderson's type of mind. The only valid question: “What do you suppose is the purpose of invention, of the use of machine-power, of living?” is not one that would convey any meaning at all to him.

Obviously if he supposes that the power-age of 1937 is incapable of giving any more leisure than the days of the first steam-engine, the end of life is work and yet more work for him.

Swindle

VOTERS CANNOT READ, TOLD POLICY BY SYMBOLS

THE first elections for the governments of the Indian provinces, under the new constitution, have resulted in a majority for the extreme nationalists, the Congress Party, in six out of the eleven provincial governments.

Prior to the elections, members of this party had announced that they were undeterred by opposition to the constitution and if elected would not assist to work it by taking office.

Victory at the polls has resulted in political ambition overcoming nationalistic principles, for at a National Convention of the Congress Party last week, it was decided that members shall take office in the provinces where the party has a majority.

Thus one more country is going to demonstrate to the unthinking, that democracy will not work. Actually, it will not be tried, for party politics is a denial of real democracy.

Party politics is fundamentally false.

RESPONSIBILITY

Whereas people should unite in demanding the results they want of those who control the system under which they live, party politics divides them on technical questions which few can understand.

Furthermore, by voting for technical programmes, people empower their representatives, who themselves are not experts, to impose their methods on the real experts, who thus evade responsibility for the results produced.

Under real democracy, the people's representatives should represent the people's will for results.

They need not be experts on anything unless it be parliamentary procedure, and the power they derive from the people should not be used to impose methods on the real experts, but to make them produce the results demanded by the electors.

COULD NOT READ

The absurdity of voting for programmes has never been demonstrated more strikingly than in these provincial elections in India. Probably every one of the thirty million voters knew what he or she wanted of the system under which they live. But they were given no opportunity to demand it, instead, they had to choose between various sets of technical proposals, each of which they were told by the candidates, would produce the desired results.

Many could not even read the party programmes, and for their guidance, each party adopted a symbol, which appeared on the ballot papers against the names of its candidates.

In the old days in this country, each tradesman hung out a sign indicating the goods sold, for the guidance of the illiterate. The illiterate shopper could at least examine the goods, but the illiterate Indian voter had no such chance, he or she had to buy a pig in a poke.

It may appear far-fetched to compare the illiterate Indian voter with the average voter in this country, but it is not.

The British voters may be able to read the party programmes, but how many are experts on public health, problems of defence, tariffs, trade treaties, export trade, import trade, industry, commerce, and most important of all, finance.

Yet all these matters and many others are dealt with in party programmes.

MISLED

You have just as much chance voting for them as you would have voting for a symbol and holding your man responsible, if you can!

The people of India have been grossly

misled under the pretence of giving them the benefits of self-government on Western lines.

They will not get the results they want from their new constitution, they were not intended to do so, for had they been, the dirty farce of party politics would not have been foisted on them in the guise of democracy.

It is a sad betrayal of their faith in Britain, for which their own leaders, Gandhi among them, are in no small measure responsible.

M.W.

Optimism

An income tax collector had died and a subscription was raised in a Wall Street office for a wreath. The boss promised \$5. A few days later, one of the clerks called to collect the money. The chief handed him a \$10 note.

“You want \$5 change, sir?” asked the clerk.

“No,” growled the other. “Keep it and bury another income tax collector.”

—Wall Street Journal.

MORE WHEAT RESTRICTION

Because recent heavy shipments have considerably reduced the country's total holding of wheat, the Argentine Grain Board announced last week that restrictions to safeguard home requirements are possible.

SOCIALISTS BANNED

A parish meeting of Saltwood, near Hythe (Kent), decided last week to prohibit the use of the centuries-old village green for Socialist speakers.

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Page For Women

EASTER BRIDE

Now:

—Her nature warped by the unnatural conditions of modern life

WHEN I was a child we used to watch the coster weddings on Easter Monday. The clergyman married the couples in batches. No registry office for them. Mauve was the favourite colour, and silk velvet the favourite material. Even little boys had plush suits, trimmed with pearl buttons. Their mothers wore enormous hats weighed down with magnificent ostrich plumes.

Sometimes the Pearly King appeared, but the last time I saw him he was holding a collecting box.

What a sad fall from grace, to wear his regalia as a catchpenny.

The costers used to have plenty of cash, but they have been badly hit by the multiple stores. They could not afford silk velvet and ostrich feathers today, even if they were in fashion.

There was a full-blooded joy about those weddings that seems to have gone from the life of the people today.

The bride and groom were usually very young, in their early twenties.

Vulgar they were, but they were unashamed and unafraid.



The bride of today calmly discusses ways and means with her groom, settling long beforehand whether there will be a child or not. She prides herself on her commonsense, not realising, poor thing, that her nature is

Then:

She is marrying, simply for the fulfilment of the ideal she sees

warped by the unnatural conditions of modern life.

But today I will have none of her. I will indulge to the full my English passion for romance and picture the bride of some future Easter—how far hence?

She is tall, fair, and fearless. She knows, without a shadow of doubt, that the woman is no longer man's inferior, even in his thoughts.

She has had a long and happy childhood, and a wide education, planned to develop her



talents to the full. Now she is marrying, simply for the fulfilment of the ideal which each sees in the other.

What other reason could there be?



Bride and groom are very young, but once having chosen they can wed without sacrifice on either side.

For in this new age, the common necessities of life are available to all, and can never be taken away.

Both are skilled. They work three days a

week for six hours, and count themselves lucky to have such an opportunity of meeting interesting people. The "factories" are centres of great social enjoyment.

John makes scientific instruments. There is a great demand from the increasing number of people who are taking up research as a hobby.

Mary is a skilled needlewoman. She makes dresses for women who like to design their own, but have no talent for hand-work.

The materials are of the greatest beauty, with wonderful wearing qualities. Now that it is no one's interest to change the fashions every month, women are satisfied with fewer clothes, but each garment is a work of art expressing the personality of the wearer.

Mary is an artist.



How different the London in which they work. The air is pure, the buildings clean. Large gardens cover the deserts of bricks and mortar which were once the suburbs. There are fewer people in the magnificent streets, but they walk with the pride of free men, or sit and chat at the tables outside the cafés.

No one is afraid of leisure.

Mary's wedding will be a gala affair. These people know how to enjoy themselves.

They will live in the country because John wants a piece of land. He will have ample time to make a garden.

Mary will continue her craft as long as she wishes. They have a car, of course, but there is also a splendid service of trains, that provide not only seats for all, but real comfort.

Now that there is so little clerical work, and no advertising to speak of, less than a quarter of the present-day workers are needed. No longer do people waste their time as commercial travellers or insurance agents.

London is a great centre of art and knowledge, one of the universities of the world.



Mary is not afraid of having babies. She knows that the best maternity service in the world is ready for her. Her babies will each have their own income as soon as they are born.

Should her child be ill, or herself in need of a rest, she can return with it to the nursing-home at any time. There are plenty of nursery schools for the two-year-olds, and the "Mothers' and Babies' League" has been specially formed to tackle the problems of sleepless nights and holidays.

Their house has been designed by an architect, so that it can be run with the minimum of attention. It is perfectly adapted to be lived in. Moreover, there are excellent laundry and other services which can safely be trusted to do most of the drudgery of the home, and to take a professional pride in doing it well.

Mary will never have to mend socks or household linen. Articles of the best quality are turned out by the factories in large enough quantities to supply everyone. When worn out they are simply sent to the paper mills.

But the most wonderful thing about the New Age is the spirit of fellowship. Now that they are no longer obsessed with the idea of "making money" people have time for friendship, and for the art of living.



Fantastic, you say? Is there anything in this picture impossible of attainment by the resources at our disposal?

Those who like to be severely practical must forgive me for making this romantic excursion into the days when everyone will have a National Dividend.

But it is Easter, and the sun is shining for the first time in weeks.

Let us think of the time when our joy will be full.

Will advertisers please note that the latest time for accepting copy for this column is 12 noon Monday for Friday's issue.

Announcements & Meetings

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

Bradford United Democrats. All enquiries welcome; also helpers wanted. Apply R. J. Northin, 7, Centre Street, Bradford.

Cardiff United Democrats. Meetings each Wednesday at 34, Charles Street, at 8 p.m.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, will be 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. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome.

Portsmouth. Meetings conducted by Mr. Jackson are held every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 65, Elm Grove, Southsea, to prepare recruits for Electoral Campaign.

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DOCTORS URGED TO LEAD ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN

POOOR old men going to the infirmary in clothes insufficient to keep them warm, making up the deficiency with newspapers which announce that prosperity is just round the corner. . . .

Consumptives cured by good food, rest and fresh air and sent home to their sunless, airless back room in the slums to contract the disease afresh. . . .

Conditions so appalling that the death rate among legitimate children is greater than that among the illegitimate—who are so often exposed to neglect—because charitable organisations are able to save a greater percentage of them than survive where parental poverty prevents proper care. . . .

Mr. G. A. Smart, B.Sc., writing of these things in the University of Durham College of Medicine Gazette, in an article entitled "What's the Use?" urges medical men to tell the truth from the housetops and raise such a storm of protest that politicians will not dare disregard it.

Medical men, he says, have at times attempted to do something about it. They have tried to lay down the minimum amount of food required per man per week for an adequate (?) diet. This minimum figure of 5s. 10½d. has been seized upon with delight by the politicians, who have made it an excuse for imposing Means Tests upon already poverty-stricken people, although £1 16s. 3½d. is spent on food for Boo-Boo, the chimpanzee at the Zoo.

Farmers are fined for growing too many potatoes, and 40,000,000 gallons of milk are poured down the drains in one year. Fishermen are compelled to use nets with a very wide mesh so that they cannot catch so many fish.

*

All this is the business of the doctor as much as it is the business of every honest man and woman in the land. Mr. Smart starts from the assumption that probably the majority of those who enter the medical profession do so because either their father, uncle or other relative has a practice into which they can step, which offers them a living and a good standing socially, but goes on to say that, in his experience, as time goes on the greater number become imbued with the desire to serve humanity.

This desire is largely frustrated by the

terrible conditions under which so many of their patients are compelled to live.

What is the use of the doctors' hopeless struggle against disease and death, snatching one life here and patching up another there so that he can return for a few more years to the totally unnecessary fight for existence.

Let medical men do something which will serve a really useful purpose and help to abolish the poverty which continually baulks them in their desire to serve the community by safeguarding its health.

This article is a valuable contribution from the Social Credit standpoint, and Mr. Smart deserves the gratitude of all who desire a better life for all in our time.

FORBIDDEN TO BUY WHAT THEY PRODUCE

ON September 11, 1936, we reported a petition to the South African Government by a body named the Housewives' League, praying for a subsidy in aid of lower prices for home-grown foodstuffs.

At present South African grown foodstuffs are sold at high prices to South Africans in order to offset sales below cost for export!

The annual report of the South African Secretary for Agriculture refers to this petition, and the conclusion of the interdepartmental committee that "such a scheme would be attended by great economic and practical difficulties which would prove insurmountable."

The Housewives' League made two mistakes which made that answer inevitable—they asked for a particular method and they petitioned.

Methods should have been left to whatever experts the government chose to deal with the matter.

The League should have demanded the result it wanted, with a clear indication that failure would be penalised by adverse votes from all members at the next election.

It is to be hoped that the League will not be discouraged by this rebuff, but will now organise not a petition, but a demand backed by sanctions. As its members realise the scandal of depriving South African people of the goods they need, in order to sell them to the foreigner at artificially low prices, surely they will not be content to allow it to continue. They are responsible as members of a democratic community.

WORKERS ARE PAWNS IN FINANCE GAME

Coughlin Says Lewis Union Battles Are Sham

LAST week we suggested there was more behind the rapid successes in the U.S. of Mr. John L. Lewis's Committee for Industrial Organisation.

Comments in Father Coughlin's paper, *Social Justice*, tend to confirm our surmise that the P.E.P. brand of concealed Fascism is being planted on American workers by what will eventually become a kind of Government controlled "Labour Marketing Board."

Social Justice does not at present take this view, but, nevertheless, sees the incidents in question as a sham battle between Lewis and General Motors, to the advantage of the latter and to the disadvantage of the old American Federation of Labour, as the following extracts show.

Stripped of its fanfarish interpretations, and viewed in the cold light of reality, the auto strike settlement treaty constitutes a major victory for the large stockholders of the General Motors corporation and a defeat for those workers, both union and non-union, who were involved in the dispute.

General Motors stock was further concentrated in the hands of the du Ponts and other wealthy shareholders in the corporation. The stock was forced down in price during the 43 days of the strike, enabling the du Pont trust to buy cheaply.

John L. Lewis suffered a setback in his

plans to empower his United Auto Workers with sole collective bargaining privileges with the management.

LABOUR SPLIT

The strike itself was but a sham battle between John L. Lewis and the General Motors management both of whom were using the workers as pawns in their own plans.

Organised labour is split asunder with John L. Lewis and William Green contesting for control, but with no one leader on the scene capable of composing differences and welding the two factions together.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labour and a bitter foe of Lewis, charged terms of settlement amount to "surrender" by Lewis.

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WE WILL ABOLISH POVERTY

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, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Will you volunteer to help in the Campaign?

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

- 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 effective claims to such products as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want of them.
- 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 if I can for a candidate who will undertake to support this my policy, and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law making before this.
- 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.

Signed

Address

(Signatures will be treated confidentially.)

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