

No Party  
Politics  
In Local  
Government  
Page 3

# SOCIAL CREDIT

WE live in the Power Age, with ability to produce wealth enough for all. This paper exists to champion The People's right to proper distribution of this wealth; to declare the subservience of all financial and other institutions to The People's will; and to demand the National Dividends our country can well afford, so that all may enjoy the Plenty that is now possible.

Overseas  
News  
Page 7  
Charles  
Jones' Story  
Page 6

Vol. 8. No. 10 Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.  
Postage (home and abroad) 4d.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1938

Weekly Twopence

## Widespread Demand For Lower Rates

THERE have been stormy council meetings in many towns during the last two weeks. From all sides come reports of wrangles lasting till late hours of the night.

The cause of all this heat is the resistance of ratepayers to threatened increases in their already intolerable rate burden.

Finance committees, all unconscious of their fate, have met and agreed to recommend an increase, only to find the most determined opposition at the council meeting. A typical headline from a local paper comes from Tipton:

at 9.30 p.m. proposed  
rate increase  
was 10d.

at 12 midnight—2d.

The reports make pathetic reading as yet. The imagination of councillors does not at present rise beyond quarrelling about decreased spending on their pet services, for the most part.

Council meetings are beginning, nevertheless, to be the scene of pungent comment on the fantastic sums which are swallowed up in moneylenders' charges. For example, at a recent meeting of Stourbridge Council the establishment by the State of a central credit office to finance the country in peace-time such as is done in times of war was advocated.

Ratepayers' Associations also are waking up to the loan racket which has been flourishing under their noses.

The Local Government Debt total of £1,421,502,000 has been built up, it seems, almost unnoticed. What a paradise for moneylenders this country has been for too

long! What an awakening there will be when it is generally realised that the principal moneylenders, the banks, lend by "creating the means of payment out of nothing," as the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" succinctly puts it.

That awakening is at hand, and the work which readers of SOCIAL CREDIT have been doing for so long will soon bear fruit.

### Conscription Prepared

THE Prime Minister, speaking in Birmingham and referring to the discussions in the press and elsewhere as to the ways in which individuals can do something to show their willingness to put their services at the disposal of the country, said that he concluded that a voluntary register would not be likely to give satisfactory results.

During the course of his speech he said: "At any rate, I dare say many of you know the employment exchanges today have got exact particulars of the qualifications and whereabouts of over 12,000,000 workers in industry and commerce, and I may tell you, too, that we have already prepared a carefully-thought-out scheme of compulsory registration which in an emergency could be put very rapidly and very smoothly into operation."

## West Fulham Gets A Dirty Deal

THE recent by-election in West Fulham, which resulted in a Labour victory, is a striking example of the way in which electors have the wool pulled over their eyes by party politicians. The election was fought on the issue of approval or disapproval of the N.B. Government's foreign policy.

It is probably true to say that not one elector in a thousand in West Fulham has the knowledge necessary to form a judgment on this point. And what of the candidates—a coal merchant and a doctor—what do they know of foreign affairs, except what their party bosses choose to tell them?

What the people of West Fulham do, or

should, know is the results they want of the system under which they live. Probably the desires of all but a small minority could be summed up as "peace and plenty in security." Instead of demanding such results, on which they could have united, they have been divided into two warring groups, each of which claims that by this method only can peace be maintained. As for plenty and economic security, such as National Dividends would give to all, they forgot all about them in their desire to pose as experts on foreign affairs.

"Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

## Democracy in Bradford

### Demand for Traffic Lights Succeeds

LAST September Bradford Democrats hitched up to a demand for traffic lights at the dangerous King's Road-Queen's Road Crossing. Within a few days 700 signatures were obtained and sent to the Town Clerk. The councillors were approached. A special meeting of the Watch Committee was called and the Chief Constable recommended the erection of traffic lights.

The Watch Committee acted at once like true democrats and obeyed the will of the people by making application for the erection of traffic lights to the Minister of Transport. Then followed months of delay, because the matter was now out of the hands of the Local Government (the Ministry of Transport pays two-thirds of the cost and has the biggest say in the matter).

However, the application was granted,

but there were still formalities to be completed.

Letters were sent to the press, objecting that formalities should be the cause of delay, and in November a fatal accident occurred at this corner.

Democrats continued to pester the councillors to bring pressure to bear on the Minister of Transport, and at last THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE IN THE COURSE OF ERECTION. C.B.

### What Is YOUR Rates Figure?

MERTHYR TYDFIL continues the highest rated area in the country, with a rate of 26s. 6d. in the pound.

The rate for Abertillery, which is next highest to Merthyr Tydfil is 25s.

The lowest-rated place is Hove, with a rate of 7s. 9d. in the pound.

Other towns with rates of 20s. in the pound or over are:—

West Ham, 20s. 4d.; Aberdare, 22s. 9d.; Caerphilly, 24s.; Gellygaer, 26s. 2d.; Ogmores and Garw, 22s.; Pontypridd, 24s. 3d.; Rhondda, 25s.; Tredegar, 20s.

Among the most highly rated areas are:—

Blackpool, 8s. 6d.; Bournemouth, 7s. 10d.; Darlington, 8s. 8d.; Eastbourne, 8s. 4d.; Oxford, 8s. 10d.; Southport, 8s. 6d.; Maidstone, 9s.; Wimbledon, 9s.; Worthing, 8s. 7d.; Walton and Weybridge, 8s. 4d.

In the large cities the rates levied are:—

Belfast, 10s.; Birmingham, 15s.; Bradford, 16s. 2d.; Bristol, 11s. 6d.; Cardiff, 12s. 6d.; Derby, 14s. 8d.; Hull, 19s. 8d.; Leeds, 15s.; Leicester, 13s. 9d.; Liverpool, 15s.; Manchester, 15s. 6d.; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 10s. 3d.; Norwich, 18s.; Nottingham, 14s. 4d.; Plymouth, 10s.; Sheffield, 18s.

Among the metropolitan boroughs Poplar is rated highest, at 17s. 6d. in the pound. Westminster is lowest with a rate of 9s. 9d.

## ANOTHER GOVERNMENT THROWN OUT

A WRITER in the *Sunday Dispatch* on the Cabinet Crisis in France says:

"Every Premier must reckon with the Bank of France.

"The Government appoints its Governor and Vice-Governors—the bank is a private institution with a charter—but they can be outvoted by other regents, over twelve of whom the Government has no power.

"Now if these twelve regents do not like the Government, they can say to the Treasury when credits are required, 'Not another penny.'"

Exactly. Premier Blum has been thrown out twice, in spite of the backing of the "Front Populaire." The fall of the Labour Government here was similar, and the push in both cases came from the same angle.

Electors everywhere should realise that M. Blum and the "Front Populaire" (no different to the Labour Party in Britain) will make no investigation of the nature of the power that overthrew them. But it is not investigation that is required from politicians; rather is it the will to represent the will of the people, and with that backing, to rule finance in the public interests.

A NATIONAL DIVIDEND IS MONEY TO BUY THE GOODS THAT ARE DESTROYED AND THE PRODUCTION THAT IS RESTRICTED

## WHOSE PLANS?

IF war comes, famine will come, too, for though more home-grown food is needed in case of emergency, the fine of £5 an acre imposed on farmers who want to grow more potatoes still stands.

Last week in Parliament, during the debate on the Sea Fish Industry Bill, the bureaucratic lawlessness of various "Boards" armed with the powers to inflict heavy money penalties for all sorts of new crimes such as "planting too many potatoes"; catching "too many fish" and so on, was challenged.

Said Mr. Foot (Dundee, L.), "... the marketing boards sat in London and imposed penalties on producers. Moreover, the ordinary rules of evidence did not apply..."

Mr. Beechman (St. Ives, L. Nat.) said: "In the case of marketing boards they had a tribunal which was not only judge but prosecutor. Terrible hardship would be inflicted on poor people in the small fishing villages of Cornwall and elsewhere if the same procedure was applied to the fishing industry."

Mr. K. Griffith (Middlesbrough, W.) said: "The arguments of the Minister were purely Fascist arguments. He was setting up totalitarian bodies in each industry... If people were to be affected, and mulcted in their pockets by decisions of the Board, they should be properly tried..."

Mr. Macquisten (Argyll, U.) said that nothing was more monstrous than the powers given to the marketing boards. The *Star Chamber* was nothing compared with them. They were like the Russian OGPU... The boards were the creation of unemployed lawyers, who were as dangerous in a community as sharks in a bathing pool.

But the Minister, Mr. W. S. Morrison, was undisturbed. Since October 30, 1936, as Minister of Agriculture, he has allowed almost 400 acres to go out of cultivation every day of his office. Total, 200,000 acres.

Also, six hundred and four farmers and small holders have gone bankrupt.

We have, since his administration, 200,000 fewer pigs and five million fewer fowls in the country than before.

The *Daily Express* refers to Morrison as "The Man Who Failed." But has he failed? Oh, no; he is succeeding in the plans of restriction (for which he was selected in his office?) very well!

The point is, his plans are NOT YOUR PLANS, are not for YOUR BENEFIT, and even now they have reached the point of rendering the country liable to famine if the war emergency arises.

## Buying a Car?

### ERNEST SUTTON

Can supply you with new or used cars for cash or credit.

AUSTIN MORRIS FORD  
SINGER FIAT OPEL

The finest and largest stock of immaculate used Rover cars.

CALL or PHONE MAYFAIR, 4748

We do a large used car business and often have real bargains at very low prices. Everyone knows the lucky motorist who "picked it up" for £20.

It was probably at Ernest Sutton's

ERNEST SUTTON LIMITED  
24 BRUTON PLACE, W.1

# WIDEN THE CIRCLE

THE Rates Campaign is proving at every turn that Social Credit dynamics are in tune with human nature. There is not a town, a village or suburb that does not contain a majority of latent supporters, people waiting to be brought face to face with their own problem.

As our campaign proceeds these people are springing into activity by the thousand, and of each thousand there are some who are able and ready to grasp the relationship which exists between their own local objective and the broader objective of Social Credit.

The time has come when the noble few who have until now borne the full burden of Social Credit expenditure will find their load being distributed over a widening circle of new adherents.

The next step is for everyone who is now contributing to Social Credit funds to try and draw one new contributor into the lists.

Every week it is becoming easier to approach prospective supporters, and I feel quite sure that most of our contributors will welcome this suggestion of finding new "points of revenue" rather than having further requests made upon their already overstrained personal resources.

Can it be done? Let us all make an effort.

**W. WILSON**  
Asst. Director of Revenue.

# Every Man Is Worth Two — In Association

POST ONE OF THESE FORMS TO-DAY

To the Treasurer, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

**FORM A** I wish to become a Registered Supporter of the Social Credit Secretariat, Ltd. I can afford to pay

£ : : a week  
month  
year

and enclose my first contribution.

Name .....

Address .....

Subscribers to Social Credit Funds under this plan who are also direct subscribers to the Social Credit newspaper are entitled to receive the Monthly Supplement.

To the Treasurer, Social Credit Expansion Fund, c/o Social Credit Secretariat, Ltd., 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

**FORM B** I enclose the sum of £ : : as a special donation to the Social Credit Expansion Fund, to be expended by the Administrators at the sole discretion of MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS or his nominee.

Name .....

Address .....

If you like deflation, with its accompanying business depression, or inflation with its scramble for markets, leading to a major war, I would not wish to interfere with your pleasures.

But if you do not like these things I appeal to you as free individuals and Britons to say so with no uncertain voice, and to demand that the system which is responsible for the present state of affairs shall be radically amended.

Major C. H. DOUGLAS at Aldwych Club, London, 1937.

# ★ COMMENTARY

Perhaps you've read these items in your newspapers—our comment will give them a new significance

## Nottingham Budget Debate

(The recommendation of the Finance Committee was that the rate should be raised from 14s. 4d. in the £ to 15s. 8d.)

Alderman Bowles, chairman of the Watch Committee, said that within two months the Council might be called upon to provide an extra 2s. rate for Air Raid Precautions.

Meanwhile, it is quite possible that the members of the Council will be "called upon" by the ratepayers to do something quite different.

Otherwise, whatever happens, the ratepayers can only blame themselves, for the information of how to get what they want is now available.

## The Free Press

A QUESTION was asked in the House of Commons concerning the strike at Hawker's aviation works at Weybridge.

(Incidentally, at the time of writing, there is another strike at the Birmingham "shadow" factory under the control of the Rover Company.)

COMMANDER MARSDEN: Are the strikers in receipt of strike pay?

MR. E. BROWN: No, Sir; this is an unofficial strike and the unions are using their best endeavours to get the men back.

Who are the "unions" trying to get the members concerned back?

Or did he mean "officials"?

Meantime, have any press reports appeared telling the public what the men are striking about?

## Which Lord?

"THE earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

At least one financial institution has this text carved on its façade.

But does it refer to the Creator and Lord of Life, or to the creators of money and the lords of finance?

Financial magnates have no doubt whatever as to their own claims to the property rights of the fulness of the earth. Even the natives, or the Government of any nation, are only correct when they understand and bow to this arrogant assumption of sovereignty.

The rights of International Finance come first, and therefore the absence of outside interference with a Government concerning its internal affairs becomes a "real danger" in the light of the blasphemous creed of Mammon.

"There is a real danger that Washington will adopt too complacent an attitude towards Mexico, for the Roosevelt Administration is disinclined to interfere in the internal affairs of other American countries." —Financial Times.

## Rate Racket

AMONG the rises in rates recently fixed are: Heston and Isleworth, 12s. 4d. (10d. up); Southgate, 10s. 9d. (9d. up); Tenterden, 10s. 3d. (5d. up); Frinton and Walton, 13s. 4d. (4d. up); Beaconsfield, 5s. 3d. (5d. up); and Hythe, Kent, 12s. 6d. (8d. up).

High Wycombe, 13s. (1s. 9d. up).

Do ratepayers like this?

No wonder the racket worked by the Bank of England makes that institution the

## Bank of England

MR. MONTAGU COLLET NORMAN has been re-elected Governor of the Bank of England for the nineteenth successive year.

The following directors were elected:—  
SIR ALAN ANDERSON, M.P.;  
MR. DALLAS G. M. BERNARD;  
MR. GEORGE M. BOOTH;  
MR. CAMERON F. COBBOLD;  
MR. P. ASHLEY COOPER;  
LORD CRAIGMYLE;  
SIR ANDREW R. DUNCAN;  
MR. ALBERT C. GLADSTONE;  
MR. CHARLES J. HAMBRO;  
MR. JOHN C. HANBURY-WILLIAMS;  
MR. EDWARD HOLLAND-MARTIN;  
LORD HYNDLEY;  
SIR ROBERT M. KINDERSLEY;  
HON. R. D. KITSON;  
MR. CECIL LUBBOCK;  
MR. JOHN MARTIN;  
SIR OTTO E. NIEMEYER;  
SIR EDWARD R. PEACOCK;  
LORD ST. JUST;  
SIR JOSIAH C. STAMP;  
MR. FRANK C. TIARKS;  
MR. JAMES G. WEIR;  
MR. WALTER K. WHIGHAM;  
MR. ARTHUR WHITWORTH.

Mr. Cameron F. Cobbold and Sir Otto E. Niemeyer are new directors, taking places rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Evelyn J. Bunbury, an executive director, and Mr. Laurence J. Cadbury.

"envy of the world"! (meaning, of course, the world of international finance.)

The Bank put us in debt (at no real cost to itself) for our own credit, then charges us a nice fat fee on top, called "loan charges," for this service (!) camouflages the whole procedure under the generic term "rates," arranges that the collection thereof shall be made by "public servants" (paid by the public, but really working for the bank) and all because the ratepayer has been bamboozled into thinking he is paying for "social services" when paying rates, and that if he doesn't pay there is no other source of money!

What a racket! And it will go on just as long as we stand it, but no longer.

## The Time is Short

THE East Yorkshire branch of the Farmers' Union, at its meeting at Hull on April 6, passed the following resolution:

"Those who know the facts are seriously disturbed by the apparent anarchy of the Government in case of war, and believe it should be made widely known that—

"The position in agriculture is infinitely worse than in 1914.

"The standard of cultivation is lower.

"The available man-power is seriously diminished.

"It would be impossible in reasonable time to secure from the land an adequate supply of food to meet a national emergency."

The meeting decided to call on the National Union to bring this situation to the notice of the public.

Evidently the Government's policy of restricting production, or fit it into the existing financial system, has been only too successful. It would be surprising if it had failed, for it is discouraging, for example, to be fined £5 an acre for growing potatoes without a permit.

Question is, is this your policy, or do you want to be enabled, along with all other people of course, to buy all that could be produced? If you want the money system made to distribute instead of to restrict, it is about time you said so. Soon it will be too late.

## The 'Fodder' Question

SPEAKING in the Canadian Senate on amendments to the Pensions Bill, Major-General Griesbach urged the Government, with the lessons of the Great War in mind, to take such steps in regard to the conscription of man-power and the training of officers and men as would enable Canada to avoid the repetition of the misguided policy which had sent into Canada large numbers of men physically unfit to bear the ravages of war, or untrained (says a Times report).

Leaving out possible questions about freedom (which may appear seditious to some)—How can men become good cannon fodder unless they get good fodder in peace time, General?

# THE REAL CRIMINALS

A MARRIED woman appeared before the magistrates at Pembroke Dock last week to "show cause" why she had not paid the arrears of costs of a case amounting to 7s.

The woman and her husband had one child. Their total income was 18s. a week outdoor relief.

Their pathetic budget was: Rent 3s., coal 3s., bread 2s., firewood and oil 1s., husband's insurance 1s., groceries 8s.

The Bench decided that the wife had "shown cause." They remitted the costs.

The real criminals in this case, as in most others, are those who, through control of the money system, maintain conditions of abject poverty when really there is plenty for all.

These people should be called upon to "show cause" why they should not be indicted as the principal inciters of all crime—robbery, fraud, and even murder itself.

It is an acknowledged fact that, aided by science and invention, we can produce and secure by exchange enough to provide all with adequate food, warmth and shelter, without taking from any what they now have.

It is an acknowledged fact that the only thing that stands between people and plenty is lack of money.

It is an acknowledged fact that poverty—lack of money—is by far the most fruitful source of crime.

It is an acknowledged fact that the struggle for export markets, in which to sell what people at home lack the money to buy, is the chief, and almost the only cause of war today.

These are but a few of the evils that spring from that Pandora's box—the money system. The system is man-made and can be changed when we demand it. When we unite and demand National Dividends to buy the goods now restricted and destroyed, those who control this system will be called upon either to amend it or to "show cause" why they should not face indictment.


## By Royal Charter

THE oldest existing trading concern established by Royal Charter is the Hudson Bay Company — incorporated in 1670. Its full title is "the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay."

The Bank of England was formed in 1694. Next came the London Assurance and Royal Exchange Assurance, both incorporated in June, 1720.

Four others followed in the 18th century—the Royal Bank of Scotland in 1727, British Linen Bank, 1746, Bank of Ireland, 1783, and the Commercial Buildings Company of Dublin 1798.

The latest of the chartered concerns is the British Cotton Growing Association, founded in June, 1902, and incorporated in August, 1904.



# THE FIG TREE

A Quarterly Edited by Major C. H. Douglas

---

## CONTENTS

M

A

R

C

H

1938

Contributions by

<p style="margin: 0;">The Editor Miles Hyatt L. D. Byrne Charles Jones W. L. Bardsley F. M. Angelo A. W. Coleman</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Self Immolation The Second Reformation in Europe Alberta Leads John Glave in Search Mr. Hawtrey's Giraffe: Part III The Present Economic Dilemma Australia and Credit Reform</p>
--	--

Major Douglas on  
The Policy of a Philosophy

R. L. Northridge, H. E. de Pré, E. J. Roberts,  
Bernard Rowntree, Geoffrey Dobbs, B. W.  
Kitching, B. M. Palmer, Herbert Bluen

---

The price of THE FIG TREE is 3s. 6d. quarterly or by subscription of 10s. 6d. for a year, post free everywhere. Please send your instructions to the Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

BOUND COPIES  
of the second volume of THE FIG TREE from June, 1937, to March, 1938, will be available at 15s. each to readers who apply for them before May 1. Separate binding cases 3s. 6d. each, post free.

Mrs. Palmer's Page

# NO PARTY POLITICS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT!

## A Woman's Point of View

WE had our Council elections this week, and they were slightly more exciting than usual. It was a three-cornered contest in our ward, a Labour candidate was standing for the first time. This so alarmed the man who was seeking re-election that he caused our quiet backwater streets to be paraded all day by loudspeakers, urging us to "Keep Labour Out!"

Let me hasten to say he was only speaking figuratively, as among his election promises he undertakes to try to provide work for the unemployed.

Three bills were pushed into my letter-box to help me make up my mind how to vote.

But I had already decided for myself. I know the type of men and women I want on the Council; men and women who will, to the best of their ability, carry out the wishes of those who vote them in. We recently had a woman member who said that after she became a councillor things appeared to her in a different light, and she could not fulfil her election pledges.

That is not democracy. She should have resigned her seat if she could not carry out instructions. Except, of course, in the absence of definite orders from her electors.

It is to be hoped that before very long people will awaken out of the apathy which has paralysed them for so many years and realise that the councillors are their servants in matters of policy, or politics. There are signs that this is happening. When it does happen and becomes general we shall have democracy, but not before.

Among the bills pushed under the door was one from the Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison urging me to vote Labour.

Now this article is not an attack on the Labour Party as such. Any political party is likely to confuse the issue because they confuse means with ends.

I was particularly annoyed by Herbert Morrison because he told me that I didn't know what I wanted, and in any case I didn't know how to get it.

The people of this town have shown themselves alive enough to sign a demand expressing their indignation at any proposed increase in rates assessments. Eight thousand signatures were obtained. As a result of this sane demand being made in many other parts of the country, Sir Kingsley Wood postponed the coming into force of revaluation for two years.

Herbert Morrison says we ought not to have asked for this because it will mean that

those areas which are at present assessed very low will not be asked to pay any more at present, whereas "my interests" demand that their valuations should be brought up to a common standard, and they should be made to pay a fair share.

This reminds me of the little boy who, while being chastised by his father, sobbed out:

"I don't mind how much you beat me, daddy, as long as you beat Tommy, too!"

This is the usual plan of a political party—to get people off the simple thing which they really want, in this case lower assessments, and confuse them by arguing about technical details such as "equalisation," and so on.

This, of course, is not democracy either.

The people must realise that they have every right to demand low assessments; but it is not their business to decide how the assessments are to be kept down. This is a job for the Ministry of Health. How can an ordinary citizen understand technical details of valuation?

A good housewife runs her house without interfering with the woman next door. It should not be our business to decide what valuation should be adopted in other parts of the country.

So when a canvasser comes along and tells me (a) what it is that I want; (b) what technical arrangement will get it for me; I reply (a) that I know very well what I want; (b) that all I need to do is to get as many of my neighbours as possible to join in the shout for it. It is the business of the experts to get it for me.

No, we want no party politics in local government to put us off the scent. We have quite enough of that at Westminster.

Our Labour candidate gave a long list of the different committees she had served on, housing, finance, assessment, etc., and of the committees of which she had been chairman. All quite unnecessary. There is no need for a councillor to be an expert in anything but one thing—the united and clearly expressed will of their electors.

We must make sure that we get what we want—lower assessments and lower rates—and leave the other parts of the country to manage their own affairs. And we get what we want by putting pressure on our local councillors, who in their turn bring pressure to bear at Westminster.

One day last week a candidate for re-election told me that assessments and rates have got to go up. I wanted to know why.

How is it that every year expenses become greater and we get deeper and deeper into debt? A large part of our county rate goes into loan charges every year. This is enough, in all conscience; but in other parts of the country the debt is colossal. Birmingham, for instance, paid £4,213,452 in loan charges, and collected in rates only £4,685,452. The total local government debt in England and Wales for 1935 was fourteen hundred million.

I am not a financial expert, and I certainly do not intend to tell the experts how to do their work, but I do say that those who are responsible for this state of affairs are very much to blame.

Should I employ a decorator who does his work badly I do not instruct him how to use a paint-brush. I merely take on another man in his place.

To me it is quite plain that the only thing to be done is to instruct our representatives

to let the financial experts know that we are not satisfied with the results they have obtained, and that unless we are quickly relieved of the intolerable burdens they are trying to lay upon us with increasing weight, we shall send them packing.

As one of our councillors said last week—did he know he was quoting Douglas?—"The experts must be on tap, not on top," and we must let them know who is to be master.

Of course, this is not a party matter! Anyone who has a local government vote can help by joining their local Lower Rates Demand Association, or by getting one going if it isn't already in existence. A woman can do this quite as easily as a man.

### Sanctions!!!

RESIDENTS in Yardley (Birmingham) have not forgiven the City Council for insisting on turning the green meadows of Marshall Close into a housing estate.

A chance to get on level terms came their way on Saturday at a meeting in Church Road Schools to enlist support for the Centenary pageant.

Cheers greeted a statement by Mr. J. P. Bridgwater "that it was adding insult to injury for the City Council to say to Yardley, 'Although we are spoiling your district and acting entirely contrary to your strongly-expressed wishes we want you to assist us in the celebration of our centenary.'"

"Many of us in Yardley," Mr. Bridgwater went on, "feel that in view of that injustice and lack of regard for the wishes of the residents, we cannot join in such celebrations."

### Money Shortage Helps White Slavers

A SISTER of the Church Army's Outdoor Rescue staff said that there was a growing number of girls from Durham, Wales, and other distressed areas coming to London to take up small-pay jobs.

"There are at least 25,000 girls in London who are living on the verge of starvation because they cannot get hostel accommodation."

"In many cases," she said, "their pay is barely sufficient to cover the cost of a room and their food."

"Every week we hear of fresh cases of girls giving up the unequal struggle and going astray."

Miss Brook, secretary of the Central Council for Social Welfare, said:

"Hundreds of girls are living hand-to-mouth, for the difference in price between a hostel and ordinary lodgings is considerable."

"Many of these cheap lodgings, too, are of undesirable type, and thus they are exposed to moral temptation. It must be tackled at once on an ambitious scale."

So to deal with a shortage of money in the pockets of the girls it is now suggested that State Hostels shall be built in every city, and graded so that the more expensive ones could help pay for the others.

Why do all the charitable societies consistently fight shy of the money question?

Are they largely helped by those financial institutions, whose policy is the prime cause of the misery and mass tragedy they profess to help?

### LETTER on - - BIRMINGHAM'S FINANCES

(From the "Birmingham Gazette")

IT cannot but strike the citizens as ludicrous that the richer Birmingham becomes in material assets the poorer it becomes in terms of financial debt—i.e., the debt has more than doubled within the last 15 years, and now stands at between £55,000,000 and £60,000,000.

Can it be that the next step in municipal finance will be to obtain additional powers for the Municipal Bank to create the financial tokens of the city's "real credit," thus avoiding the "money monopolies" extortionate tribute? Yours, etc.,

Erdington

J.R.M.

## SOCIAL CREDIT LITERATURE

THE FIG TREE, Edited by Major C. H. DOUGLAS (Quarterly 3s. 6d. or 10s. 6d. a year)

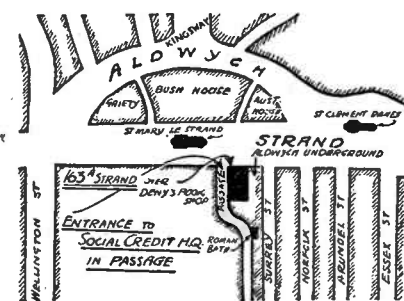
The following are Standard Works by Major C. H. DOUGLAS

- |  |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
| ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY (4th Edition 1934). (The original statement of the philosophy and proposals of Major Douglas. First published 1918) .....               | 3s. 6d. | THE CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTION (2nd Edition 1934). (Demonstrates that governments are controlled by international finance, with a commentary on world politics) ..... | 3s. 6d. |
| CREDIT POWER AND DEMOCRACY (4th Edition 1934). (A complete re-statement contrasted with current theories, with draft scheme for the mining industry) ..... | 3s. 6d. | THE MONOPOLY OF CREDIT. (2nd Edition, 1937, revised and enlarged). (The latest technical exposition, with the Statement of Evidence before the Macmillan Committee) .....         | 3s. 6d. |
| SOCIAL CREDIT (3rd Edition 1933). (The philosophical background of Social Credit, and the draft scheme for Scotland) .....                                 | 3s. 6d. | THE ALBERTA EXPERIMENT (An important new book, giving a full explanation of the position in Alberta. Includes Major Douglas's Interim Report to the Government of Alberta) ...    | 5s. 0d. |
| WARNING DEMOCRACY (2nd Edition 1934). (A collection of speeches and articles treating the subject from various angles) .....                               | 3s. 6d. | THE TRAGEDY OF HUMAN EFFORT. (Liverpool Speech.) By C. H. Douglas .....   | 6d.     |
| THE DOUGLAS MANUAL. By Philip Mairet .....   | 5s. 0d. | INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL CREDIT. By M. Gordon Cumming .....   | 6d.     |
| THE MEANING OF SOCIAL CREDIT. By Maurice Colbourne .....   | 3s. 6d. | POVERTY AMIDST PLENTY. By C. F. J. Galloway .....   | 6d.     |
| MONEY IN INDUSTRY. By M. Gordon Cumming .....  | 3s. 6d. | POVERTY AMIDST PLENTY. By The Earl of Tankerville .....   | 6d.     |
| WHY NOT END POVERTY? By Father F. H. Drinkwater .....  | 3s. 6d. | AN OPEN LETTER TO A PROFESSIONAL MAN. By Bonamy Dobree .....  | 6d.     |
| THE A.B.C. OF SOCIAL CREDIT. By E. Sage Holter .....   | 2s. 6d. | THE NATURE OF SOCIAL CREDIT. By L. D. Byrne .....   | 4d.     |
| LIFE AND MONEY. By Eimar O'Duffy .....   | 2s. 6d. | THE NATION'S CREDIT. By C.G.M. .....  | 4d.     |
| PROPERTY. ITS SUBSTANCE AND VALUE. By Le Comte W. G. Serra .....   | 2s. 6d. | SOCIAL CREDIT. By A. Hamilton McIntyre .....  | 3d.     |
| WHEN THE DEVIL DRIVES. A Play by Margaret Carter .....   | 1s. 3d. | SOCIAL CREDIT RESTATED. A REJOINER TO PROF. CORKEY, M.A., PH.D., M.P. ....  | 3d.     |
| YOU AND PARLIAMENT. By Dr. Tudor Jones .....   | 1s. 0d. | SOCIAL CREDIT PRINCIPLES. By C. H. Douglas .....  | 1d.     |
| THESE PRESENT DISCONTENTS: THE LABOUR PARTY AND SOCIAL CREDIT. By C. H. Douglas .....  | 1s. 0d. |   |         |
| LE NATIONALISME ECONOMIQUE. By Henri Bonhaben .....  | 1s. 0d. |   |         |

Obtainable (postage extra) from SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2

### SOCIAL CREDIT CENTRE

163A STRAND LONDON, W.C.2



OPEN daily from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Closes 1 p.m. Saturdays. Refreshments. Inquiries to Mrs. B. M. Palmer.

Open meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 21, Mr. R. L. Duck, "Social Credit and Communism." All are welcome.

Every Wednesday, 7 to 9.30 p.m. Study Group (newcomers 6.30 to 7 p.m.) No entrance fee. No collection.

**SOCIAL CREDIT**

For Political and Economic Democracy

The Official Organ of the Social Credit Secretariat, Limited.

163A, Strand, W.C.2. Tel. TEM 7054.

The Social Credit Secretariat Limited is a non-party, non-class organisation and it is neither connected with nor does it support any particular political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

Subscription Rates, home or abroad, post free. One year 10/-, six months 5/-, three months 2.6.

Vol. 8. No. 10. Friday, April 15, 1938

**Hit The Nail On The Head**

LONDONERS have now got quite used to the presence of large demonstrations and processions, complete with flags, banners, bands, etc., shouting "Save Spain! Save Democracy!" continually for several hours on end. Before that it was "Save Austria! Save Peace!" and before that "Save China!" and before that, you remember, it was "Save Abyssinia!"

It is astonishing that anybody should expect that these remote places could be "saved" from powerful and determined enemies by a loud noise in Trafalgar Square or Hyde Park, but in any case the method has proved a signal failure, since none of these places has been saved, nor is likely to be by us, except by a bloody and victorious war waged against all their aggressors at once. And that we are not strong enough to do, even if we wished.

IF democracy is to be saved democracy will have to be practised, and that is a thing which can be done only by individuals, not by large crowds marching and shouting, which looks much more like practising Nazism. Curiously enough, if you wish to drive a nail into a piece of wood you have to do something about it. Shouting slogans or singing even a ~~million times~~ about it will not do it. Furthermore, there is only one relevant action to do; that is to hit the nail on the head. It is no good hitting the wood, or your thumb, and still less to get fifty men with sledge-hammers to pound the whole neighbourhood into a pulp, or even to use a fifty-ton pile-driver at a spot two miles away.

One small boy with a tack hammer who hits the nail on the head is doing more towards the desired result than any number of people who do things which are "off the point," and in the same way one determined democrat who starts an action to get himself and his neighbours what they want from their elected representatives, is doing more to save democracy than any number of mass meetings.

THAT is why the rising wave of democratic action against local taxation is so extremely relevant in the present situation. Moreover, it leads to an exposure of the Debt System, and a direct attack upon the Money Monopoly, which is the true enemy of peace and democracy in this world of strangled plenty.

Only minds trained to think in terms of unrealities can fail to see the relevance of this sort of positive action in times like these, when even the freedom and happiness which we have are in danger. But, alas! that includes most of us, for at school, in business, through the press, the film and the wireless, we have been ceaselessly taught to regard the abstractions—the World, the State, the Church, the School, the Board, the £—as the real things, and the real things, such as plenty of food, clothes and other goods for everybody, as woolly-minded idealism.

IT is not surprising, therefore, to find that people who think of "hard cash" as real, and the square meal, or the motor car, or the child, which they cannot "afford" as mere dreams, should expect to control distant and powerful dictators before they can control their borough council. It is usually not much use telling such people they are wrong, for they will naturally prefer not to believe you, but we can show them that we are right, for facts speak louder than words, and the Rates campaign shouts for itself.

It demonstrates success.

**Someone Must Suffer!**

By GEOFFREY DOBBS

OF all the perversions of the Christian religion that which encourages the idea that *someone must suffer* if anyone is to benefit is the most pernicious. Most people nowadays admit that we live in an age of power and abundance, and yet they continue to accept the idea that it is the nature of things that we cannot all be satisfied at the same time.

This may be partly due to the inertia of habit, but the gloating publicity given to the recent "car" sentences and the popularity of the demand that Edward VIII should sacrifice his wife to the State, seem to suggest that we must look deeper for the explanation. I believe in our heart of hearts many of us *relish* the idea of suffering, either in ourselves—we like to think ourselves martyrs—or, better still, on the part of somebody else.

The following quotations will illustrate the way in which this idea is constantly being "put over" on us, and apparently accepted as a matter of course by all but Social Crediters:

"So in Great Britain there may well be a million unemployed in what we call good times—it is part of the price we pay for the high standard of life secured by those who retain employment." (Sir J. Stamp in "The Science of Social Adjustment," page 41.)

... a rising toll of death and injury must still be regarded as a penalty to be paid for increased prosperity.—(Report of Chief Inspector of Factories, 1937.)

"Bankruptcy among individuals is by no means a bad thing. It results in a new growth and new opportunities for the coming generation."—(City Editor, "Evening Standard," November 10, 1937.)

"The City is beginning to realise that

this situation [the 'adverse' trade balance] has to be corrected, and it can only be done by longer hours and harder work by everybody" [else!].—(City Editor, "Evening Standard," December 6, 1937.)

THE quotations which follow are, with one exception, all taken from two copies of the *Evening Standard*, one dated June 11, 1936, the other February 24, 1938. They throw some light on the way this idea has worked out in the last two years:

1936. "London sugar brokers are beginning to despair of any revival of activity in the London sugar market. The range of prices in many of the active terminal positions over a period of one month have not exceeded 2d. to 2½d. Messrs. Golodetz point out that such small variations do not tempt even insiders into the market."

1938. "Talking to some of the sugar boilers, I learnt that they had found the variations of sugar prices particularly trying during the last six months." So someone has a bad time whatever happens to sugar prices!

1936. "Mawchi Mines 4s. shares at 31s. 3d. If things get really bad in China there may be a fall in tungsten exports from that country, which is the main competitor of Burma and Mawchi mines. In any event shares are a good holding."

**BLACK MAGIC**

Ancient and Modern

By Ernest J. Atter

1. Among the savage peoples of old the witch-doctors openly declared themselves to be the only rain-makers.
2. The people being dependent on the crops and the crops on the rainfall the rain-makers were supposed, by the people, to be of the greatest importance. Hence they became chiefs and they openly served and ruled, by the people's consent, so long as they satisfied the people.
3. As rain-making monopolists they became rich; they permitted no rivals.
4. The people looked to them for results (favourable rainfall), so their position was precarious.
5. In times of scarcity the people blamed the witch-doctors and punished them by beating them until the rain came.
6. Repeated failure to appear to control the rain—failure to give satisfaction to the people, proof of being unworthy to be the rain-making servants of the people—caused the people to rob them of all their ill-gotten gains and drive them away or kill them.
7. Later on the sacred kings of Egypt, whose job it was to serve the people as weather controllers and who were blamed for bad crops, found a way of "passing the buck."
8. They invented sacred beasts and held them responsible for the weather, and if they did not deliver the goods they slew them.
9. Thus the ancient doctors of black magic perpetuated their rule and paved the way for their successors—the present-day black magicians, the international financiers.
2. As money-makers they secretly rule as hidden dictators.
3. As money-making monopolists they become rich, not merely in what they have in money and goods but chiefly in their power to create money at will. They permit no rivals.
4. As most people are not aware of the rule of the money monopolists, nor of the fact that they control nearly all the newspapers, the educational system and the titular governments, the money-makers' positions are comparatively secure.
5. In times of scarcity of money (always due to the bankers' policy) most people do not realise that the bankers are to blame so they do not beat them (as their ancestors did the rain-makers) until the money comes. Instead the bankers contrive to fool the people into believing that the shortage of money (and the consequent depression) is an "Act of God," and they encourage their henchmen, the witch-doctors of economics, to announce with ponderous solemnity that it is due to spots on the sun.
6. Repeated failure of the money system—failure on the part of the bankers to provide the people with a satisfactory money system—is not punished by the people. Instead the money witch-doctors are allowed to "get away with it" and even, through their secret control of governments, to award themselves high "honours."
7. For many generations the ruling bankers have been experts at "passing the buck," the responsibility and blame.
8. They use, in the role of "sacred beasts," the political parties which they allow to hold office in turn, and they blame the titular government (the incumbent "sacred beast") for the economic weather which the bankers themselves have created.
9. From time to time the financiers cause the incumbent "sacred beast" to be slain by a power of the financiers' own manufacture. The people are fooled into believing that they themselves perform the slaughter, but the power that directs the vote-sword which they wield, the power of public opinion, is manufactured by the

financiers through their control of the press. So as one "sacred beast" is killed another is installed, the hopes of the populace for better economic weather rise, the witch-doctors of finance quietly create a little extra money, thereby giving the weather a bit of a boost for the encouragement of the people and of the new "sacred beast," which is thus given an auspicious start. Hope springs anew and the modern witch-doctor settles down to another period of secret dictatorship and freedom from responsibility.

The "ignorant" savages of old demanded results from their servant the witch-doctor. And if he didn't deliver them they put him out of his misery.

It behoves all the civilised voters of today to prove themselves at least as smart as were those ancient savages by likewise demanding results—not plenty of rain but plenty of money and a lower cost to live. See Electors' Demand and Undertaking Form on back page.

**RELATIVITY**

TWO HOAX SCHOOLS

MR. ALBERT EAGLE, the Lecturer in Mathematics at Manchester University, has been saying that the intellectual life of the last quarter of a century has been befooled as never before. He was referring to Einstein and Eddington, not to the professors of Economics.

There was a young lady named Bright,  
Whose speed was far faster than light.  
She went out one day  
(In a Relative way)  
And returned on the previous night.

There was an old banker named Wealth,  
Who made people poorer by stealth.  
When asked why he did it,  
He said, all a-fidget:  
"Starvation is good for the health."

Space reserved

by—

# THE UNITED RATEPAYERS' ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

Secretary:

John Mitchell

DO you want lower rates? Do other rate-payers in your district want lower rates?

Residents of Gateshead, following the advice of the U.R.A.A., have just succeeded in reducing a threatened rate rise by 6d.

The first step we advise is to start, in your district, a local Lower Rates Demand Association with the object of demanding from your representatives on the Local Authority lower rates with no decrease in Social Services. Only two or three people are needed to start this; these leaders then arouse interest in the association by holding meetings, by distributing leaflets and in other ways. The leaflet, "Lower the Rates," describes how ratepayers in Sheffield, Belfast, Poole, Northampton and elsewhere prevented rises in rates and assess-

ments by acting in the right way. A point should be made of sending this to anyone known to be hard hit by rates or assessments, and to those whose assessments are likely to rise in the near future because of improvements in the property. Practically everyone wants rates lowered, and they are willing to act to that end as soon as they know the right line of action, but a few will show themselves particularly keen. These can be recruited as organisers to get the demand for Lower Rates and no decrease in Social Services going along the same lines as Sheffield and the other towns.

There is no difficulty of financing the Lower Rates Demand Association, as people who are enthusiastic will always give a

shilling or so towards the expenses of a campaign to save themselves pounds. Books of receipts are available, costing 6d. each, containing 20 receipts for 1s. Out of every 1s. 10d. is retained for local expenses, and 2d. is sent to the U.R.A.A.

For further information on how to start a campaign in your district, send for the "Lower Rates Supplement," price 2d.

"Lower the Rate" leaflets (10s. for 1,000).

"The Lower Rates Supplement" (price 2d.).

Revenue books (price 6d.).

All of these may be obtained from:

JOHN MITCHELL,  
Secretary,

U.R.A.A., 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

Placing Posters with Tradesmen:

"Do you want crowds to come into your shop?"  
No tradesman will answer "No."  
"Then try putting this poster in your window."

LOWER the RATES  
Join the Campaign NOW.  
Apply for particulars inside.

The new "Lower Rates" Leaflet:

A new lower rates leaflet is in the press. In towns where rates campaigns are in progress, there should be a very wide sale for this. With Posters, Leaflets and Action all advertising "Lower Rates," it is worth giving a large order to the U.R.A.A. and selling them through the newsagents. Get the newsagent to display the posters, too.

## Two Letters In The Local Press

SIR,—The Public Economy Association has received a large number of inquiries from ratepayers' associations in South Wales and Monmouthshire requesting information concerning communications received from the United Ratepayers' Advisory Association.

This is a recently formed organisation run from the offices of the Social Credit movement, a body existing to propagate the views on banking and the creation of credit propounded by Major Douglas and experimented with in the State of Alberta, Canada.

Although the literature issued by this organisation does not refer by name to the Social Credit movement it is made quite clear that its primary object in local government is the application of part of the theory of social credit as a specific remedy for the burden of interest charges.

Locally the association is operating under the name "Lower Rates Demand Association," and in view of the burden of local rates it is not surprising that many ratepayers' associations in South Wales and Monmouthshire have failed to appreciate the political aspect of the organisation concerned.

### Non-Party

Ratepayers' associations in this area are strictly non-party political, and if the objects for which they have been established are to be achieved, it is essential that the movement should not be permitted to become the channel for the expression of political views by any party.

The Public Economy Association, which is the parent organisation of practically every ratepayers' association in this area, regards this attempt to obtain the support of the ratepayers' movement for political ends as an abuse of the objects and purposes for which these associations have been established, and strongly urges all such associations to resist this and every attempt to utilise the movement for political purposes.

Yours, etc.,

HORACE A. MORGAN, General Secretary,  
Public Economy Association  
(South Wales and Monmouthshire).

46, Stuart Street, Cardiff.

★

SIR,—There has recently been formed an organisation named the Bradford Lower Rates Demand Association, and ostensibly formed for the purpose of obtaining a reduction in the cost of local administration. The Bradford Citizens' League considers the public should be given the facts in the league's possession.

The Lower Rates Demand Association is working under the advice of a central London organisation, which claims that the only way to obtain a reduction in rates is to compel the banks to provide credit for local authorities free of interest and at a nominal charge to cover the cost of book-keeping. This is one of the principles of Social Credit, but they have been particularly careful to avoid any reference to Social Credit in the literature to hand.

The Bradford Citizens' League will have nothing to do with Social Credit, and have, incidentally, refused to co-operate with the Lower Rates Demand Association on being approached by that body, as the principles put forward by the central organisation referred to would have the effect of revolutionising the financial structure of the country.

The Bradford Citizens' League is a purely local organisation working on practical lines, and claims that the only sane method of dealing with this question of rates is by advocating wise spending and economical and efficient administration.

B. JOHNSON, Secretary

9, Market Street, Bradford.

Main comment on these letters, the first of which appeared in the Welsh papers, and the second in the *Yorkshire Observer*, is to point out that in Sheffield and Northampton (Assessments) Belfast, Poole, and Gateshead (4d., 2d. and 6d. rates respectively) and other places, ratepayers acting according to our advice have saved themselves *hundreds of thousands of pounds*.

### Our Advice Brings Success

The first objective of the U.R.A.A. is to advise ratepayers on democratic action, that is, how to organise and direct pressure on Local Authorities and other institutions to gain the RESULTS that people want. In this case the people want lower rates.

Local Authorities are increasingly subject to dual pressure, from the Central Authority for an increase in social services and amenities and from ratepayers for a decrease in rates. The situation is becoming intolerable.

In prosecuting the objective stated above the U.R.A.A. has therefore laid before Local Authorities information that is frequently overlooked as to the direction in which this dual pressure may be transmitted with greatest effect in producing the results required both by ratepayers and by the Central Authority. This information is given for the convenience of the Local Authorities; authoritative sources are quoted for the basic statements made.

Meanwhile, since there can be no doubt whatever that the majority of ratepayers want lower rates, nor that by following our advice they will get them, members of the Public Economy Association and the Bradford Citizens' Union should consider very carefully whether they do not wish to take part in a movement affecting them so closely.

Never forget that we are advising ratepayers HOW TO GET WHAT THEY WANT. If these other "parent organisations" and "local organisations" had done that, there would have been no demand for the U.R.A.A.

We are in a position to provide services to ratepayers. The position is not, as a few seem to think, that ratepayers are doing us a favour by using our services.

## WHAT'S BREWING IN BURTON?

AN amazing situation has occurred at Burton-on-Trent. The Finance Committee had recommended a levy of 13s. 6d. in the £, an advance of 11d. compared with last year, but after a heated discussion the Town Council, by a majority of three, passed an amendment making the rates 13s.

This was to be done by using a sum of £7,140, part of the reserve of the Electricity Department, and speakers for the Electricity Committee hotly opposed the amendment.

A surprise development is that a special meeting of the Council has been called with a view to revoking its decision. The Finance Committee will again put forward their original proposal for a total of 13s. 6d., making the increase 11d. instead of 5d.

There is a strong agitation in the town against the many new expensive schemes which the Council have committed themselves to during the last few months.

Who called this second meeting of the Town Council to revoke a decision that was to the advantage of the ratepayers—the sovereign power in their area? There can be only one answer. But there is no reason why the ratepayers should not have the same, or better, service without increased rates. How to do it is told on this page.

## GATESHEAD RATES SUCCESS

YET another great victory for Democracy has been won in Gateshead. Ratepayers put such pressure on their representatives that a threatened rate-rise was decreased by 6d.

The Gateshead Town Council fixed a rate of 16s. in the £, an increase of 1s. over last year, but 6d. less than the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

In all, 9,000 ratepayers participated in protest and instruction to their councillors, organised by the North Durham Ratepayers' Advisory Association. This Association is taking the advice of the United Ratepayers' Advisory Association.

### Higher Rates Already Levied

At the beginning of April it was taken for granted that the rate-rise of 1s. 6d. recommended by the Finance Committee of the Town Council was inevitable. So much so that in some districts rates of 16s. 6d. had already been levied although the rate had not been fixed by the Council. A group of Gateshead business men, alarmed at the enormous burden so lightly inflicted, started a campaign against higher rates. Enthusiasm greeted their efforts; ratepayers were practically unanimous in their concurrence.

The culmination of the campaign was a resolution, submitted on behalf of 9,000 by

a deputation composed of prominent Gateshead business men, demanding that no increase be made in the rates *but that the essential services be maintained*.

The council meeting at which the rate was fixed lasted nearly four hours, and discussion was fierce; political party ranged against political party and attention was divided between loyalties and the expressed wishes of the ratepayers, who, irrespective of party politics just wanted a definite result, LOWER RATES.

Answering a question by Councillor T. Foster, Alderman T. Peacock, chairman of the Finance Committee, who submitted a general statement of explanation, said Gateshead's total debt at the present time was £2,086,000, and that the average cost of the interest is 3 3/4 per cent.

Another interesting point made by Alderman Peacock was that loan charges, including interest and redemption, were costing the borough £160,189, or a 6s. 3d. rate.

"We do not want to put the rates up any more than is necessary," said Alderman Peacock.

Councillor Hepple suggested that the Central Government should be approached to provide interest-free loans to municipal governments.

## Colchester: Ratepayers Protest

THE Colchester Council was on Wednesday recommended to make a general rate for the next half-year of 7s. 3d. in the £, plus 1d. for that portion of the borough for which the Council act as burial board.

The rate for the half-year just ended was 6s. 8d. in the £, so the proposed increase to 7s. 4d. represents an addition of 8d. in the £.

The Colchester Ratepayers' Association held a protest meeting on the Monday at the Albert Hall against the proposed increase in rates, and the attendance was such that it brought back to mind the memorable inaugural meetings at the Moot Hall. In no uncertain terms the meeting voiced its disapproval of any increase in the rates of the borough.

The Chairman, Mr. G. Robinson, then moved the following resolution:

At this time when the country is called upon to face stringent financial burdens and with every prospect of those burdens being increased, the members of the Colchester Ratepayers' Association urge upon the Town Council of the borough of Colchester at their meeting on April 6, 1938, not to increase the rate for the current half-year, and if possible to decrease the present rate. It is also urged that action should be taken to impress upon the Essex County Council the necessity of reducing its commitments and the rate for the next half-year.

Mr. Nash formally seconded, and the meeting showed their approval with a burst of applause.

### The Rate Increase

The Chairman explained that the real reason for the meeting was a possible increase in the rates. The Council proposed to increase it from 6s. 8d. to 7s. 3d. and a penny for the Burial Board, which would mean an increase of 8d. to most people. This time they really had to let the Councillors know about these continued increases in the rates. Every ratepayer would have to stress more and more that these increases were becoming harder to bear, especially for those people with fixed incomes. The great curse was the increasing loan charges, mounting higher and higher, with commitments above the reasonable point. Seldom in this town one heard a Councillor getting up and say—  
(Continued at foot of next column)

## STOURBRIDGE RATE RISE

STOURBRIDGE ratepayers are to pay fourpence more in the £. This decision was made at last night's meeting of the Town Council. The general rate was fixed at 6s. 8d.

At the Council meeting, Mr. Leather moved that the general rate be for the same amount as in 1937-38, not as a protest against the extravagances of the Council. Although he opposed the building of the Council Chamber, Councillor Pearson would remember that his remarks were directed against the practice of financing from loans and bringing them further into debt. He took the stand he did because he felt the people of Stourbridge needed some relief from the appalling bondage in which they found themselves. He thought their municipal debt stood at about one million pounds.

In protesting against the appalling weight of loan charges, he felt it was possible to relieve the people of that if Stourbridge in concert with other rating authorities would urge the Government to finance our peace-time needs as they did our war-time needs. The money for financing our next war—we had not paid for the last—had been found most mysteriously. There was the American debt which ran into astronomical figures. We had ceased to pay it, but nobody said we had defaulted. He urged the Council to refuse to increase the rates and so give a lead to other local authorities to make a definite effort to relieve themselves of these unnecessary debt charges.

Bravo, Mr. Leather! And now it's up to Stourbridge ratepayers to back you up.

ing, "I think the rates are high enough and we must call a halt." This meeting was to let members of the Town Council know that ratepayers were getting fed up with being told they would just have to pay. Everyone realised the necessity of essential services, but it was very easy to hide behind the permission of the Ministry to get more money than they really wanted.

Action is also being taken at Colchester; the ratepayers are putting pressure on their elected representatives to carry out their expressed will for no increase in rates.

Easter Story . . .

# The Meal Of Shewbread

FATHER ALLDAYS, of the Church of St. Alban, in the gloomy suburb of Debtford, was a small man with a face like a lamp lighted. You did not notice his stature or his features, which were unexceptional, but you could not escape his radiance.

He was a liturgical scholar, and, like many priestly men of like knowledge, he had a passion for those brilliant pageants which are sometimes dismissed, with a gesture hung over from the Reformation, as "Catholic." He was also an inspired psychologist, for among the slums and hovels of Debtford he had gathered a Church which revered the things he stood for, because they revered him.

Gradually he had built up a choir of boys and men who sang, not with bare competence, but with the sure vigour of art and the felt power of beauty which he communicated to them.

About him there circled a group of devoted lads, singers and servers, and tiny boys who were cope-bearers or who proudly bore the incense-boat in procession, all drilled to their offices, from swinging the censer to ringing the sacring bell, or delicately lifting the hems of the chasuble at the Elevation, until the slow, orderly services of St. Albans were precise pageants of colour and movement which stirred the heart with a sense of ineffable mystery.

Father Alldays stood on the steps of his church, saying goodbye to his boys on the Saturday night before Easter. Swarming about him, and clinging to his cassock, was a cluster of cockney boys who, though they sang with the triumphant energy of birds, were now in a noisy uproar. In the church, lit only in the loft window, the organ pealed and rippled in fluty arpeggi whilst the solo tenor ran over for the last time or two, the Sanctus of the Messe Solenne.

TOMORROW was to be a great Festival, and the choir and acolytes, torch-boys, thurifer and crucifer, had all been schooled to a quiet, slow, dignified enactment of the drama of the Mass.

Father Alldays bade his boys goodnight with warnings to be early on Easter morning. "Goodnight, little Owl!" to a wide-eyed youngster hanging to his black robe. "Goodnight, Pipit! . . . Goodnight, Linnit! . . ." Each one turned as his nickname was called in the priest's deep voice, and a piercing fusillade of farewells shot back to him in high trebles.

Father Alldays turned and entered the church, fluttering down the aisle in his sombre robe like a black crow, to the Lady Chapel, where a floating wick in a hanging chancel lamp flickered before a closed Tabernacle.

That Tabernacle was indeed a triumph, for it was long before Father Alldays could get a faculty to install it. It was only when the

vast congregation of the slum church stood behind the priest they loved and demanded the right to worship how they would that a reluctant Bishop came to the inescapable conclusion that he was a servant of the flock, despite the weight of episcopal tradition behind him.

Now the Tabernacle was there; not too ornate, but like a living presence to enhance the great Festival. Yet Father Alldays held no complicated creed. He believed in the Father, in the Logos; in the friendly presence in the universe of a principle of Rightness to which all things that work for human weal

By  
**Charles Jones**

and human emancipation must conform; in something most nearly approached by the human idea of love. But he celebrated his simple belief passionately, in the form of a mystery.

He genuflected solemnly before the altar, and passed into his vestry, where he was occupied with details of preparation for the morrow until a late hour, for the old sacristan was ill. Then, suddenly, in the quiet of the fallen evening, he heard a little cry—then a heavy thud in the stillness of the church. It made him jump, and his startled heart bounded. Then the soundless quiet was resumed, and his muscles remained tensed. His hair pricked under the biretta on his head.

He entered the church on tip-toe, leaned forward in the gloom, and peered around him, but discerned nothing. There was not a sound.

HE made his way slowly to the Lady Chapel in the darkness, and there, on the altar steps, lit only by the white glimmer of the swinging lamp, was the crumpled form of a ragged boy, his face buried in the blue carpet and one slender hand flung out like a fallen leaf. A consecrated wafer had fallen on the carpeted step, and shone in a white disc.

The Tabernacle had been rifled! Father Alldays shuddered at the desecration. A deep anger rose in his breast which he stifled with an effort.

Then he knelt, and tenderly turned the ragged bundle. He recognised the boy; one of seven living in two rooms with an injured father and a mother worn to a shadow. He lifted the frail form in his arms and carried him away to his own house.

When the boy was recovered from his faint, and warmed with hot milk, and fed, the gentle priest listened to his sobbing tale of the rumour that bread was kept in the box on the altar, and how in his hunger he had gone tremblingly to the dark church and stolen the wafers to eat. And then a great fear had come over him, and blackness.

Sadly the priest looked on the tearful, slender waif, whose weak body was slumped in his own deep chair, and whose eyes were wet with misery.

"It is the body of the Lord given for the succour of men," he said, musingly. "It is the Bread of life . . . we will say nothing of it. Nobody will know of it but you, and I, and the good Father who gives bread for His children. Come, I will take you home."

It was as he led the small boy home, laughing and chatting, through the mean and dingy streets, that the great light broke on him.

The Easter message was that death was conquered. And not death alone, but poverty, the death in life.

SURELY the miracle of civilisation was that the ghoul Poverty, the Moloch of mites like this laughing boy, was routed. There is no need for hunger any more. Our good Father has given bread in plenty, and the Church must see that it is not destroyed, but freely fed to those who hunger, as it was to the five thousand . . . and not bread alone, but fish, and milk, and all the abounding plenty which is God's covenant of peace with man of the sweating brow.

Oh! there is a work to do here! A truth to tell, which the Church must cry aloud to the suffering world as a new note in the whole gospel of salvation.

The simple mind of the priest, inspired by an idea, did not fall to pondering ways and means; the wonder of the organisation of the huge city of London with its myriad quick services and great business had always been to him a matter of admiring bewilderment. He knew nothing of the enterprises by which bread and milk and what not could be carried to each door; nothing of water and gas and electricity which flowed along their own hidden channels; nothing of the transport which brought fish fresh from the sea and green stuff from the fields. He could not have run a grocer's shop. But with his own eyes he saw what was possible. He knew the charge that was laid upon the organising genius of man. It must be done. Poverty must be abolished because it is possible to abolish the ugly thing. Plenty is in the land. The Church must demand it for her children. The truth that mattered was in him.

It is said that on the Easter morning, a very small boy who could not sing as yet, was robed in a purple cassock and lace cotta, and walked in procession with the choir bearing the blue banner of the Children of Mary, as they sang "Hail Thee, Festival Day."

And the form of Father Alldays when he preached appeared in the shafts of the clerestory windows to be clothed in light like an angel; and his words were as tongues of fire, bidding men proclaim not only that Christ was risen, but that He called upon all men of goodwill in the fulness of this time to strike down the dark powers of disease and want and death, and set up the city of love and abundance and freedom.

## Is It Worth It?

THE problem of finding markets for herring caught in the firth of Forth is having an extraordinary sequel. The hauls have been so huge that many fishermen have dumped their catch into the sea again.—*The Observer*, April 3, 1938.

Mrs. Edward Yates, of Drivers Buildings, Mile End, E., who stood nervously at a five-pence-per-head luncheon last week and told Lord Horder and other distinguished guests how she fed a family of three on 10s. 2½d. a week, has had her 18s. weekly subsistence allowance stopped—because she broadcast.—*Sunday Express*, April 3, 1938.

Is it worth it? Is a country where such things as this can happen worth fighting for?

The throwing away of God's bounty in the form of herrings has become a regular incident, and is systematic of a volume of waste and destruction so huge as to be almost unbelievable. Most of it, of course, is concealed from us.

At the same time, all over the country, people are being slowly starved to death. So slow and so insidious is the process that few actually die of starvation; instead, they die of diseases to which it makes them an easy prey, or through that blessed outlet—the gas oven. Thus the politicians can say "None need starve."

Now, apparently, they want to say "All must serve"—serve to preserve a country in which such things happen!

To me, the answer is obvious. So long as these things continue, the country is not worth fighting for. I served throughout the last war and saw friends killed and disabled. Eight thousand of my comrades who returned have since committed suicide, to escape from a country fit only for heroes—or knaves—to live in.

Before I will fight again, this country must be worth fighting for. Until it is, I will fight and fight to make it so, but never to maintain it as it is.

EX-SERGEANT.

## How to Preserve Highland Beauty

THERE is a fierce controversy raging over the proposal to erect 60ft. dams and flood lovely valleys in the Scottish Highlands in order to produce electric power for the manufacture of carbide.

The people of the Highlands are poverty-stricken, and even those who dislike the prospect of spoiling the natural beauty of the country seem to imagine they should not oppose the Caledonian Power Bill because the project would bring work to the people.

Is it work—of the sort this scheme would bring—that the Highlanders want? Or would they rather have access to the abundance that is already available and for which producers cannot find markets?

The answer to controversies like that over the Caledonian Power Bill is to be found in the form at the bottom of our back page.

## This Freedom and That

IT must be realised that freedom carries with it responsibilities. A free man can only remain free if he is prepared to make sacrifices.

"We must eliminate the old prejudice against the army, and get the women to tell their menfolk what a fine thing it is to defend their country."—*Lt.-Col. Sir Ronald Charles, speaking at a meeting of the Army, Home and Empire Defence League.*

It is time that the Army chiefs realised that freedom to starve, which is all the freedom that millions of British citizens—many of them ex-soldiers—have had for years, is hardly worth fighting for. Further, as is proved by the necessity to "feed up" recruits, such freedom does not even produce good cannon fodder.

When National Dividends have transformed freedom to starve into freedom to live, the Army will never lack recruits should that freedom be threatened.

## The NEW ERA

AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL CREDIT WEEKLY  
24 Pages. Illustrated. 12 months, 12s.

The New Era, Radio House,  
296 Pitt Street, Sydney, Australia

## THE NEW LOWER RATES SUPPLEMENT

During the early stages of the Lower Rates Campaign, the ordinary issues of the Social Credit Supplement will be suspended. Instead Registered Supporters will receive copies of a special Bulletin entitled

### LOWER RATES

All readers of SOCIAL CREDIT may obtain copies of these special issues at 2d. each (postage ½d.) subject to their being unsold. A few copies of the first issue remain, and the second issue is

### OUT TO-DAY

It contains particulars of extra special discounts for quantities which will be allowed on the April 22 issue, designed for distribution to the public.

ORDER NOW FROM  
SOCIAL CREDIT,  
163A, STRAND, LONDON,  
W.C.2.

## Bigger Guns for Bigger Exports

THE seeds of war are in every village, because the power to buy is restricted in every village.

The necessity imposed by an out-of-date financial system for producers and traders to recover more money from the pockets of consumers than they put in, is the prime cause of the struggle for markets, be they local or international.

Sellers fear bankruptcy, and consumer buyers simply haven't enough money to liquidate all the prices.

War is the fruit of this money shortage, which has its roots in every home market, and, because this is true, no remedy can be found in International Treaties.

THE American and British Governments have decided that bigger battleships to carry bigger guns are necessary for bigger exports. We are to have 16-inch guns, and America may have 18-inch. The ships to carry them will cost anything from £12 to £20 million apiece.

This should "larn" the recalcitrant foreigners to buy our goods instead of Japan's.

Blame for this new expense is put on Japan, who refused to divulge the size of the foreign-customer-persuaders she intended to build. America and Great Britain sent peremptory notes to Japan demanding information, the secret service of the former country having, it is said, first secured full

details of the Japanese programme. Japan could not respond to such demands without "loss of face"—as, of course, was known in advance.

Really, if export trade is to be so expensive, it might be cheaper to give National Dividends to the people at home. The bankers will do so when we unite to tell the Government we want them.

GET your SOCIAL and COMMERCIAL STATIONERY, and your PRINTING from  
**BILLINGTON-GREIG**  
32 Carnaby Street, Regent Street  
(behind Liberty's)

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

**Announcements & Meetings**

All London Residents and Visitors are welcome at the Social Credit Rendezvous, 163A, Strand, W.C.2 (entrance in Strand Lane, close to Aldwych Station). Open meetings:

Thursday, April 21, 8 p.m., Mr. R. L. Duck, "Social Credit and Communism."  
Wednesday, April 20, 8 p.m., Mr. Feather.

**Bangor (Co. Down) Social Credit Group**, 65b, Main Street, Bangor, open from 3 till 10 p.m. every day. **Public Meetings:** Every Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. **Reading Room:** Social Credit literature available. **Whist Drives:** Every Thursday at 7.45 p.m. Tickets 1s. **Meetings in the afternoons.** Refreshments. Bring your friends.

**Belfast D.S.C. Group.** Public discussion circles every Thursday evening, 7.45. Monthly group meetings first Tuesday of every month confined to members. Come plenty and come often. There is always work to be done for the cause, especially on distribution of "The Voice of Ulster."

**Birkenhead Social Credit Association.** Enquiries to the Hon. Secretary, 16, Tilstock Crescent, Prenton, Birkenhead. Phone B'head 4405.

**Birmingham and District.** Social Crediters will find friends over tea and light refreshments at Princes Café, Temple Street, on Friday evenings, from 6 p.m. in the King's Room.

**Blackburn Social Credit Study Group** meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., Limbrick All welcome. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., 47, Whalley New Road, Blackburn.

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

**Cardiff Social Credit Association.** A weekly business meeting is held on Wednesdays at 82, Bridge Street, at 7.30 p.m. Information given to workers and enquirers. Hon. Sec., R. W. Hannagen, The Grove, Groveland Road, Birchgrove, Cardiff.

**Liverpool Social Credit Association.** Next meeting open to the public, on Friday, April 22, at 8 p.m., in Reece's Bank Café, Castle Street. Hon. Secretary: Miss D. M. Roberts, "Greengates," Hill-side Drive, Woolton.

**Newcastle-on-Tyne.** Weekly business meetings will be held on Thursday evenings at Lockhart's Café, Nun Street, at 7.45 p.m. Enquiries: Mr. E. Burton, Sec., 61, Bideford Gardens, Monkseaton, Northumberland.

**North Kensington Social Credit Association.** Will all those willing to help in a Local Objective Campaign, please communicate with Hon. Sec., E. Liddell Armitage, 43, Blenheim Crescent, N. Kensington, W.11?

**Poole and Parkstone Group.** Every Friday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome. **SOCIAL CREDIT on Sale** at W. H. Smith & Son, The Square, Bournemouth; Walker & Witterat, Post Office, Parade, Parkstone; and C. T. Snook & Son, Poole.

**Portsmouth D.S.C. Group.** Weekly meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m., 16, Ursula Grove, Elm Grove, Southsea.

**Southampton Group.** Public meetings every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. for lectures and discussion **Advisory Council Meetings (open to all members)** 7.30 p.m. first Friday of each month.—2, London Road.

**Sutton Coldfield S.C. Group.** Next meeting Friday, April 29, at 8 p.m., in Central High Schools, Victoria Road. General discussion. Visitors welcomed.

**Tyneside Social Credit Society** invite co-operation to establish a local centre for Social Credit action in all its aspects. Apply, W. L. Page, 74-6, High West Street, Gateshead.

**Wallsend Group.** Those willing to assist in Lower Rates Campaign please communicate with G. M. Masson, 23, Queen's Crescent, Wallsend-on-Tyne.

**Wallasey Social Credit Association.** Enquiries welcomed by Hon. Sec., 2, Empress Road, Wallasey.

**Wolverhampton D.S.C. Group.** Fortnightly meetings in the Ante-Room, Central Library. Next meeting, Tuesday, May 3, at 8 p.m.

**Miscellaneous Notices**

Rate 1s. a line. Support our advertisers.

**T**ypist. Voluntary typist required for Social Credit MSS. Will anyone oblige? D. Jackson, 99, Cottage Grove, Southsea.

**T**HE situation is grave because, all over the world, an organised attempt is being made to present to the public any attack whatever upon the present financial system as Bolshevism, or Communism, or Fascism, or any name likely to create unreasoning prejudice rather than a reasonable frame of mind for examining the facts.

Major Douglas, at the Aldwych Club, London, 1937

# Social Credit . . . Permeating All Canada

## CANADA Something "Phoney" About Parties

NEWS from Canada this week shows the immense indirect effect which the Albertan struggle is having all over the Dominion. Party government has been so much blown on since the Albertans voted for results that even in the Ottawa Parliament there is a movement for "reform"

This takes the form of a Bill for making voting compulsory and another to set up a permanent body to administer election funds and expenditure, with "an inspector-general to scrutinise contributions."

Of the first, one can only say that if there is something shady about political parties, making everybody vote for them seems an odd cure. The second Bill will be very useful if the committee insists on the publication of all party accounts and also if the inspector-general scrutinises every large payment to party funds with a view to finding if the individuals or groups from whom it comes are connected with financial institutions. Canadians should press for this interpretation of the Bill if it is to be of any value.

### East Edmonton's Record Poll

ORVIS A KENNEDY, the man who promised to do the electors' will in the East Edmonton election, had a majority of 1,985. In the 1935 contest only 16,212 voted. This year 20,335 went to the polls, a record figure for any East Edmonton election.

Press and banks were counting on the East Edmonton chickens long before they were hatched. Edmonton, the stronghold of the banks, would vindicate Sound Finance. Besides, had not the Liberal Party candidate promised "Government control of currency and credit" by 1945?

Well, the chickens are hatched, and the bankers do not like the brood at all. They are the sort of chickens who will one day very soon be singing the swan-song of Canadian financial tyranny.

## AUSTRALIA

### Churches Unite to Fight Finance

**T**HE Second Interim Report of the Inter-Church Social Research Council of South Australia on the Causes of Poverty, issued last month, contains some sound matter for Australian democrats.

"The raising of the bank rate," says the Report, "has more than once influenced the birth rate and the death rate, and altered the very pulse of life in modern communities, so sensitive is society to financial control. Yet in Australia and wherever this type of control exists, none of the millions concerned have the power to question these key decisions."

But there the Report is wrong. They have the power. If they will unite in a demand that banks be made to produce the results people want—that is, life and not death, life more and more abundantly—there is no financial power strong enough to stop them. People do not want to "question key decisions," and indeed they cannot, for they haven't the knowledge. No one questions the decisions of the driver of a 'bus in which he is travelling; there would soon be an accident if he did. But he does insist on having a 'bus which is taking him where he wants to go, and in just the same way the people of Australia can order the banks to take them in the direction of abundance and life, rather than towards death, poverty and despair.

### Gateshead Emigrant Writes Home

**A**ND while we're on the subject of Australia: "Things are bad out here, but they are trying to make out that times have changed . . . All the chaps who came out with me are having a bad time, and so are hundreds of others. We cannot get work at any price. We are put into a camp miles from anywhere, and no one has any idea of the conditions we have to live under for 30s. a week.

"There is a chance that emigration will start again, and if it does, what is going to happen to the emigrants?"

This is an extract from a letter sent to a sister in Gateshead by George Hodson, who was an emigrant to Australia under the Government scheme in 1929.

### A Little Spot Of Blurb

**C**ANADA'S chartered banks want your goodwill. It is only by goodwill that banks make a living—and bankers are your fellow-citizens, the same sort of people as you are," starts a two-column advertisement in a Canadian paper. It is explained as the first of a series of "chats" to show "how little of mystery and how much of service there is in the business of banking in Canada." "Why not drop in and get acquainted, You're sure of a welcome, because the bank manager wants to know you." "So if you think you have a new joke, drop in and spring it on your local bank manager—he'll appreciate it."

Will he? Albertans can take advantage of this offer to drop in and tell the banker a joke that is on him for a change.

### Who Was Offside?

**T**HE Supreme Court, which pronounced the Social Credit Act of Alberta *ultra vires*, was, according to the *Toronto Daily Star*, itself *ultra vires*.

"The Supreme Court was not asked to pronounce upon this Act at all," the *Star* announces in an editorial on March 7. "It was, however, asked to pronounce upon other legislation which hung upon the Social Credit Act, and the validity of that measure had to be examined."

This excuse is part and parcel of the undignified informality of the whole business.

Mr. Hodson might have kept himself alive on potatoes if he were anywhere near Glenlyon in the Daylesford district, where J. McMahon, a farmer, was advertising that anyone could have 30 tons of sound potatoes for carting them off his farm. He cannot find a market for them, and his cattle have eaten many tons already. Other growers in the same district are in a similar plight.

However, Mr. Hodson did not know this, and so instead he and five other hunger-relief workers, who had had nothing to eat for two days, took a meal in a café and then announced that they could not pay. They were arrested and at the police court proceedings—*fined!*

With Mr. McMahon's help they could pay the fines in potatoes, perhaps?

### Mass Production Man

**E**VERY German boy must join the Hitler Youth at the age of ten. At fourteen he may have finished his schooling and be apprenticed to a trade. The Party still claims him on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons; and through the *Reichsberuf-wettkampf* (National Competition for Apprentices) it keeps a tally on his technical skill. At eighteen he goes to a Labour camp for six months. At nineteen, or thereabouts, the Army claims him for two years. From childhood until he returns to his work at the age of twenty-one or twenty-two, he is organised, weighed, measured, card-indexed, drilled.—*Major F. Yeats-Brown, writing on "Education in Nazi Germany" in "The Observer," April 10, 1938.*

## NEW ZEALAND

**T**HE Rev. P. Paris, new president of the Methodist Church in New Zealand, in the course of his inaugural address, stated that politics was part of his religion. "My Christianity includes the whole of life in all its relationships," he said. "I believe that if we 'keep politics out of religion,' as we are often urged to do, we shall soon discover that we have kept religion out of politics and have built the City of Destruction instead of the City of God.

"It is amazing how much Jesus says in the Gospels about money. The Christian must believe that if a thing is right ethically it must be possible and practicable economically. There is no valid excuse for poverty amid plenty. It is our fault that we will not make possible the distribution of what God provides; that we will not make available sufficient money to obtain what God gives and they need."

Good work, Mr. Paris. If every Christian in New Zealand will determine with you that poverty shall no longer exist, the thing will be done.

### Words That Will Live

**"T**HE people of England regard the Bank with a sanctified attitude.

"In spite of the fact that there are 1,500,000 unemployed in England, nobody is allowed to go poor."—*Mr. Stevens, Premier of N.S.W., reported in the "Labour Daily."* M.H.

### Two and a Half Years Ago What Did We Say?

#### Defrauding the Ratepayers

**"A**CCORDING to the Bank of England's Statistical Summary for August, the municipal debt of Great Britain amounted to £758,400,000 in March, 1924, and in March, 1933, to £1,300,300,000. This tremendous figure represents part only of the cost of new houses, education, public health, highways, bridges, etc., for additional sums are paid for these purposes by the State.

"No wonder rates continue to rise, and no wonder the banks have been able to increase the amount of money in circulation, for probably at least 90 per cent. of the increase of £541,900,000 was provided initially by creation of credit. It is the old war-loan ramp over again. On a smaller scale, the banks use the nation's credit to put the nation in their debt. Trade has been assisted, just as it was assisted by the creation of debt during the war, but at what cost!

"All these municipal undertakings were physically possible, the men, the skill and the materials existed, but the men—the nation as a whole—permit such activities to be regulated, not by needs and possibilities, but by licences, and give the monopoly for their issue to an organisation outside their control."

\*

This is extracted from SOCIAL CREDIT of September 27, 1935.

### A Very Suitable Gift

**T**HE Nazi Party in Upper Austria has presented to Herr Hitler a prehistoric stone club as a symbol of the absorption of Austria by the Reich.—*"The Times," April 9.*

#### NEWSAGENT'S ORDER

To Mr \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply me weekly with a copy of SOCIAL CREDIT.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in and hand to your local dealer.

#### SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Send SOCIAL CREDIT to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

For 12 months I enclose 10s.

For 6 months I enclose 5s.

For 3 months I enclose 2/6

Post this to SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

# SWEATED LABOUR

WITH the Budget upon us, and the first instalment due on the next war, we are certain to hear some more about the pampered unemployed and the difficulty of getting demoralised loafers to do an honest day's work when they can live so comfortably on the dole.

Quite a lot of people seem to think the dole is absurdly high—as much as, or even more than, a man's wages. They say that unless benefits are reduced, a large proportion of the working class will refuse to do any more work.

This view, of course, assumes that it is just and proper to use economic sanctions, which is highly debatable. But let that pass. Even allowing that the threat of semi-starvation is necessary, the dole may be nearly equal to wage-rates not because the dole is too high but because wages are too low.

This is a point which occurred to the Beveridge Committee which has been conducting rather an extensive investigation into the question, and their report fully confirms the fact that it is so. They found that on the whole wages amount to a great deal more than doles, but on the other hand that a large class of miscellaneous and unprotected workers are so badly paid that they starve rather more quickly in work than out of it.

It was found that the average weekly wage for adult men is 55s. 6d., while the average dole, allowances included, is 24s. 6d. a week. For adult women the corresponding rates are 30s. and 15s. 2d.

The investigation also showed the remarkably low scale of wages paid throughout all occupations. 55s. 6d. a week is not exactly affluence, but 10 per cent. of men earn under 42s. a week, 25 per cent. earn under 49s. a week, and no less than three-quarters earn under 67s. a week. Those who earn over 76s. a week amount to a mere 10 per cent.

Adult women, of course, earn still less. Over 10 per cent. of them get under 23s. a week, 25 per cent. get under 26s., and about one-half of them earn under 30s. a week.

Young men of under 21 earn even more miserable sums. One-quarter of them get less than 26s. a week.

The Committee, horrified by the high percentage of sweated rates of pay, next tabulated the occupations in which most of these cases occurred. They found that the chief sufferers are workers in miscellaneous

by G.W.L. DAY

occupations not covered by any Trade Board, and not necessarily in trades which are doing badly. On the contrary, many of these trades are quite prosperous.

Most of the victims are unskilled workers who have been driven out of superior forms of employment and are doing boys' work in hopes of getting better jobs later on.

The report shows clearly that large numbers of men are getting wages as low as between 14s. and £1 a week for full-time work, and that many more are earning still less for part-time work. In these circumstances it needs a good deal of courage to continue working rather than take the dole, which is actually higher than the rate of pay.

What, then, is left of the argument that doles should be reduced still further as a deterrent for slackers? It is most painfully obvious that wages should be increased.

But this, of course, immediately provokes a loud wail of protest from the employers. How can we increase wages, they ask, when we can only just make both ends meet as it is? If wages are increased we shall have to sack half our employees, or perhaps go out of business.

This is a vicious circle with which we have become familiar to the point of exhaustion. Less wages and more employment, or higher wages and less employment? Long hours and better pay, or short hours and worse pay? Such are the alternatives which perpetually confront us, and all the dim-wits who write pompous nonsense about Economics ring the changes on these.

And, of course, it all comes to much the same thing no matter how you arrange it. The only chance of producing any real change for the better is to break into the closed circle and inject some money into people's pockets over and above what is distributed to them by the industrial system.

## TOWN COUNCIL'S "KEY-MAN" PRATES

AT a special meeting of the Dewsbury Town Council, Mr. Henry Shaw, chairman of the Finance Committee, was obliged to resort to loquaciousness in order to hide up the rate racket. He said, "My view is that expenditure on social and other services will continue to increase, and unless there is a further adjustment of the burden by way of Government grant it seems to me that a revision of the whole method of levying local rates should be considered. I have in mind a revision, which would take two main factors into consideration, viz., *benefits received by the individual ratepayer and ability to pay.*"

Another matter that had achieved considerable publicity, Mr. Shaw said, was *Municipal Indebtedness*. Local authorities had been criticised by an eminent banker on this and other financial matters, and he had been answered on almost all points. What Lord Wardington failed to draw attention to, he added, was the one thing peculiar to municipal borrowing—the operation of the sinking funds.

The periods fixed for the redemption of debt bore a strict relation to the life of the assets acquired—indeed, in nearly every case the asset had many years of usefulness when the debt created for the purpose of acquisition had been fully redeemed.

This is a splendid bit of financial shadow-boxing to blind the public to the main issue. THE PUBLIC SLOGAN MUST BE, "LOWER RATES WITH NO REDUCTION IN SOCIAL SERVICES." G.B.

## WHY YOU?

IF you are poor, of course you will want to abolish poverty, including your own. You know it can be done. When governments pay the producers of goods not to produce them or to throw them away, the problem is obviously how to keep poverty in spite of plenty.

But suppose you are among the "comfortably off," and you have a private income, large or small, is it all one to you whether poverty exists or not? Don't mistake me; I am not going to appeal to your "better nature." I mean, quite bluntly, are you absolutely unaffected in your life by the existence of poverty?

I think not. Quite apart from the fact that some day, by means of a depression, perhaps, you may lose all your money, you are even now being constantly harassed by rising taxes and costs—both, often, due to money spent on trying to destroy abundance. Think how insecure you are in every way. Constantly the wind of war fans your face, and if the flames once reach you, you and all of us are done for. Revolution, disease, violence—all these are bred by poverty, and you are threatened by them like everybody else.

Not only the desperately poor are found to commit suicide. The "strain of modern life" often drives comfortably-off people to seek a way of escape when they can no longer stand the dreadful tension, the grim penalties of living in this hideously vulgar, shoddy, heartless state of existence which our rulers dignify by the name of Christian civilisation.

No. For the better-off as well as for the poorer, there is only one way to "protect our heritage," and that is to claim it and to see that all people have their rightful share in it.

MILES HYATT.

# CLASS

IT is at times rather depressing to witness the enthusiasm of masses of people on the continent of Europe and Asia with which they greet and uphold systems of government that in fact constitute formidable barriers to their individual freedom of action. Many must be exasperated at this apparent ease with which the masses of the peoples have their chains laid on them and how they can apparently be persuaded that the chains are not chains at all. Our own failure to arouse as quick a response, reasoning or unreasoning, for what is indubitably in the people's own and immediate interest, is no doubt due to the fact that all the main channels of education—or miseducation—of the public are closed to us.

The enthusiasm quite evidently engendered by Communism and Fascism can have an explanation in the neurotic state of the human mind. For instance, in Germany the senseless humiliation of the post-war years added to the nightmare struggle during the inflation period, left the majority of individual Germans mentally and spiritually exhausted. They welcomed, as a consequence, a system in which they could hand over the whole of their moral responsibility in at least one sphere to a man who was willing to think and act for them, so that nothing was left to them but to obey his orders. It was a relief to them, and is fully understandable to anyone who knows Germany. True Democracy, of course, entails added responsibility on the people, a responsibility which would help to free and expand a healthy mind; but might be felt to be onerous by a neurotic.

IN Russia the intolerable arrogance and petty, arbitrary oppression of the Czarist ruling classes, followed by the horrors of the Revolution, together with a complete transvaluation of values, resulted in a similar state of mental and spiritual exhaustion. There was in Russia, however, one other factor which helped to evoke enthusiasm for Communist ideas, and that was the ideal of a classless society. This is a misnomer in a way, as what was preached was a society in which there would be but one class, termed the proletariat. However horrible were the methods whereby this state of affairs was to be brought about, the fact remains that it was an experiment to attain an "ideal." That experiment has been a failure. Whereas those originally claiming adherence to some other class were either shot or allowed to die a "natural" death, e.g., starvation, there has arisen from the ranks of the proletariat a series of new classes, military, bureaucratic, Stakhanovites, etc., etc.

This failure of the experiment can be due only to two alternatives. Either it was not

conducted on the right lines in the specific instance, or it is based on faulty psychology. The former can almost be ruled out if only on account of the obvious sincerity of the original leaders and the ruthlessness of the methods employed. The second alternative is clearly the more likely explanation.

THE psychological make-up of man must be taken into account in any social, economic, or political reform. If ignored, there will be failure; if abused, the day of reckoning will come. Now, we are all snobs. We all think ourselves in some respects vastly superior to the rabble. We are also quite naturally prepared to give certain others, whom we recognise as superior in another respect, some hero worship. We there have the positive and negative states of mind that form the basis of class. We demand privileges in some respects and are prepared to grant privileges in others. The champion darts player at the local pub expects and receives them. The tennis tiger hardly likes to stand near the rabbit at the club bar. But the rabbit happens to be an eminent horticulturist, and when it comes to the local flower show the tennis rabbit becomes the hero and the tiger is very small beer. Now that is the point. Similar interests will bring people together, and there we have the germ of the class. Further, within each interest, be it golf, music, or engineering, we again have differing levels of capacity and achievement, another source for originating classes. We all know from our own experience that this is the very warp and weft of our psychological make-up, and that is why Communism as preached by Lenin and others has failed.

CLASS originates in a natural difference in interests, ability, or heredity. To aim at equality of opportunity for all is a very different matter, as opportunity is automatically circumscribed by personal limitations from which we all suffer. We are all fools in some ways and most of us are very clever in other ways. At present with few exceptions we are not in a position to develop our latent faculties. Only Economic Democracy, the freedom to choose or reject one thing at a time, can enable us to do that. In a thousand years' time, probably most men and women will be "in a class by themselves," and will certainly strive to be so, in some special subject or subjects. But that is a long way off and our immediate task is to clear the ground of obstructions to enable the people to see the way into such a glorious future. When we begin to succeed, we too will find to have aroused an enthusiasm now mainly reserved for meaner causes.

H.R.P.

## The Joys of War

MANUFACTURERS of textiles and equipment for the Navy and Army and Air Force have now completed plans whereby any big demand by the Government can be readily met, says *The Times*. A survey has been made of the cotton industry in regard to mass methods of production and quick output of khaki drill, ground-sheets, tent cloths, webbing, and all other textile articles used in the Services. Plans are ready to be put into operation at a moment's notice.

Why wait for a war? There are millions wanting extra clothing at this very moment?

How stupid we are to suffer unnecessary poverty in "peace time," and open the flood-gates of plenty only during war time.

### LECTURES and STUDIES

Courses available at lecture centres or by correspondence. CALENDAR AND PROSPECTUS, 3d., obtainable from Headquarters, or from the Information Supervisor of the nearest Group. All applications to join Correspondence Course to Miss Brill, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A, Strand, W.C.2.

### PRESS CUTTINGS BUREAU

Scrutineers wanted for the following papers: "Daily Herald," "Daily Mirror," "Daily Sketch" and "Sunday Referee." Please write to: D. A. Watson, Summerhill Villa, Samarès, Jersey, C.I.

## BEWILDERMENT!

"WHETHER rearmament will be paid for out of revenue or by loan, the bill will have to be met eventually by industry," declared Mr. R. P. Jenks, the retiring president, at the annual meeting of Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce recently.

Why "eventually," Mr. Jenks?

## RUINED — He Begg Work

FEDERAL income-tax authorities at Louisville, Kentucky, have received the following letter from a man ordered to pay £1 10s. od. tax:

"My salary was £80 a month. Somebody got my job, the finance company took my car, the bank took my home, my wife took the furniture, and somebody took my wife.

"All I have left is my health and education, and I would be glad to have the opportunity to work out the bill in your department."

His "education" has to be thorough.

## We Will Abolish Poverty

### 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

This is the form for Parliamentary electors to sign. It should be sent to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Signatures will be treated confidentially.

- 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 .....