

# SOCIAL CREDIT

## For Political and Economic Democracy

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Weekly Twopence

# BOONDOGGING HITS AUSTRALIA

## or MAKING WORK DOWN UNDER

**"Boondogging" is the word used in the United States to describe the frantic efforts of the Roosevelt Administration to make work, however useless, as an "excuse" for letting people have enough to eat. This extract from a letter from Australia shows how the victim sees it.**

MY life is regular in its course. I have an accountancy practice that brings me in a few bob on which we "hang out" for about eight or nine months of the year; the remaining three or four months I don a khaki shirt and pants and join up with what is known here as Intermittent Relief Work. This would be tantamount to your "dole." Procedure:—Having sworn blind you are "motherless broke," etc., etc. (ways and means test) you are duly delegated by the local cop to report to such and such a gang. These gangs are usually to be found in the neighbouring streets. A portable corrugated iron shed marks the spot on the roadside. This shed houses picks, shovels and sundry navying gear for the use, or should I say abuse, of the "boys." It also houses the boys for their lunch respite.

Having reported to the local ganger about 8 a.m. you are given a pick or shovel. Then the boys stroll off in bunches of six or so. You all spread out in the neighbouring streets. There the popular idea is that you will dig up weeds that grow on the footpath, remove any rough knobs of soil that may have formed, and act in general as a road-maker should. If you are fortunate enough to have a cinch job it usually consists of making a heap of the debris and shovelling it into a dray to cart away. For this you receive 13s. 6d. a day.

Having chummed up with a mate you both make a heap of rubbish, then light a fag, lean on your pick (for preference under a shady tree) and tell yarns for half-an-hour. Then you both get tired of doing nothing, whereupon you dig another heap and repeat the process from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Those are the supposed hours. It actually works out something like this. Gather at

shed at 8 o'clock, tell yarns until 8.30, then work till 10 o'clock. Knock off for morning billy of tea (regulation 10 min.) for which another half hour is taken, then work till 12 noon. Lunch hour resolves itself into anything up to 1 3/4 hours! 3 p.m. sees the boys having afternoon "smoko" (regulation 10 min.) for half hour; 4.30 p.m. sees all tools locked up and the boys homeward bound.

The allowance is 13s. 6d. a day for a period of anything up to three days a week, depending on how many dependents a man has. The average weekly income can be said to be 35s. a week for two and a half days. This done, the rest of the week is your own—truly a leisure age and very nice if the income were only what it should be. Friday morning sees the boys gather at the local police station for their pay and to discuss how they whiled away the time.

### Futility

That is the average life of probably a third of the breadwinners here. Apart from the miserable income I personally find it a spell to get out in the fresh air—quite a change from my sedentary occupation; and the mild exercise of swinging a pick when the urge comes upon one is to my liking.

If one is fortunate and an "old-timer," one gets to know the ropes, resulting in selecting cushy jobs. Early this year I finished up at a Baptist church nearby. The job was laying down concrete footpaths and lawns round the church grounds. Honestly, apart from the financial aspect, I was sorry to leave it to go back to my own practice.

The gang was a rather select one, consisting of about six men, most of whom were Douglasites, who wangled each other in. We

gathered at 8 o'clock in the meeting room under the church. Here we had the use of a ping-pong table and set of quoits. I believe we averaged about four-and-a-half hours work a day.

Being a "king pin" in the Douglas Movement, I used to spend most of my time in converting the padre to that gospel, with the approbation of the ganger (a Douglasite).

### A Foretaste of Leisure

I have gone to some length to paint this picture to illustrate what a farce the work complex has become over here through the depression. To my mind it has educated more men to a leisure age than was intended. The only bad features are the meagre pay and the fact that it comes out of taxation.

I don't know what the English conditions are, but over here the Australian is a most casual cuss and nothing on earth would make him work hard. I think this is largely caused by the sunny clime, as one does not feel like swinging a pick seriously with the thermometer round about 100 degrees.

However, enough of that. Having received a few quid from my clients for work done, I took the family and self to a mountain holiday resort for a fortnight. Here we rented a flat attached to a dairy farm, fed ourselves up with milk, cream and eggs, and spent our days hiking about the mountain or swimming in icy cold waterfalls—not a bad life.

This resort is only three hours motor run from Brisbane, is 1,800 feet above sea level, and in January (the height of our summer, when Brisbane is sweltering with the heat) every evening up there at sundown it is necessary to don sweaters.

Tambourine Mountain has become a Douglas stronghold.

"All earthly things must have an end,"

wrote a poet—so our idyll of a holiday has ended and I am once more a respectable accountant and city dweller for three or four months whilst funds last, then back to my "health course," as I designate my relief work.

Working my practice from home as I do I can make my own time, although sometimes stress of work forces me to burn the midnight oil. From a financial angle I have largely ceased to worry, my policy being to give to the family as good a standard of food and clothing as income will allow.

### Stalemate

I occupy a house which I did intend to purchase, under a Government scheme, until the futility of trying to meet the proper instalments dawned upon me—likewise the fact that the Government, deep down, doesn't want my house and, consequently, although occasionally threatening dire action if I don't bring the arrears up to date, won't kick me out.

The rates are nicely in arrears, thank you, and the funny part is that if the government department exercised its rights and foreclosed on my mortgage, it would have to foot the bill to the council for the arrears of rates. Fortunately I know this, and knowing that a similar state of affairs exists with possibly a third of the Brisbane properties, I don't spend too many sleepless nights over it.

You see, if they repossessed all the properties, the real estate market would be flooded and values would drop like fun, with all sellers and very few buyers. That would mean most of the mortgages could not recover their money. So whilst the government doesn't give a damn what happens to us blighters, we reciprocate by not giving a damn whether they are ever paid.

## A GREAT SHIP—YES!

### A Marvellous Job. But—They don't eat on Thursdays!!

Mr. H. K. Hales, who started awarding the Blue Riband of the Atlantic, and hopes to see the Queen Mary bring it back from its Norman conquerors at last to England, can take a chance on it and start feeling proud this afternoon.

**But there are the 4,000 others who built the Queen Mary with cranes and derricks and hammers and blowlamps and paintpots and rivets and honest sweat, who are proud today as well.**

Proud—but mainly on the streets.  
Proud—but they could mainly do with a square meal.

Proud—but wondering, some of them, what else there is to pawn in a house where everything has been pawned already.

Proud—but in bedraggled agony of mind to see the shifts their womenfolk are put to, to see their children without enough to eat. They are proud of the job they've done.

They did it well. They've the right to be. But "they don't eat on Thursdays."

The Queen Mary is a big ship. It carries 3,000 people—crew and passengers.

They need a lot of food. But so do the 4,000 men it doesn't carry.

There are 4,000 chickens and ducks aboard the Queen Mary—one for each of them.

There are 4,000 lb. of tea and coffee—1 lb. for each of them. There are 4,000 gallons of milk aboard her—a gallon for each of them.

To-morrow is Thursday.

A lot of this will be eaten on the Queen Mary on Thursday. But the men who built her don't eat on Thursday. A curious local habit of theirs. You see, they can't make their money stretch beyond Wednesday evening. — Basil Nicholson, in the "Daily Mirror," May 22.

## A PROPER DEMOCRAT

### And a Feather in the Cap of the United Democrats in Ireland

In the Debate on the Coal Mines Bill, Sir William Allen (C. Armagh) said:

I have here a telegram from the Corporation of Belfast advising me to vote against the Bill unless certain alterations are made. The point we are discussing is whether we shall adjourn—which is, after all, a technical parliamentary point. I do not think that on that technical point I should oppose the Government. If such amendments will be introduced as will make it agreeable to the people who sent me here then it is my duty to vote for the second reading. **If after discussion on second reading, I find that these amendments do not meet with the approval of my constituents I shall find it my duty, in spite of the fact that I have constantly, or almost constantly, voted for the Government, to vote against it.**

## The Fight Is On

MY agency in promoting the passage of the National Bank Act was the greatest financial mistake of my life. It has built up a monopoly which affects every interest in the country. It should be repealed; but before that can be accomplished, the people will be arrayed on one side and the banks on the other, in a contest such as we have never seen before in this country.—Salmon P. Chase, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, 1861-64.

### Their children will wake up homeless . . . !

If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issuance of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks, and corporations that will grow up around them, will deprive the people of all their property until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.—Thomas Jefferson.

### "A MOST SACRED RIGHT"

Any people, anywhere, being inclined and having the Power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and form a new one that suits them better. This is a valuable, a most sacred right—a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world.—Abraham Lincoln.

This right is yours, this liberating power

### IN THIS ISSUE

Mr. Pillinger's Hallucination	-	-	131
Major Douglas and Alberta	-	-	132
Blackmail Without Risk	-	-	133
Women and War	-	-	134
Correspondence	-	-	135

## THE CURSE OF "CIVILISATION" MONSTROUS BIRTH IN 1799

Income tax was not known in this country before 1799, when it was invented by William Pitt the younger to pay for debts incurred in the French Wars. The rate was 2s. in the pound.

It was repealed at the Peace of Amiens in 1802 and reimposed when war started again in 1803, to be repealed after Waterloo.

It was imposed again by Robert Peel in 1842 and has persisted ever since, although almost abolished by Gladstone, who reduced it to 2d.

After the Boer War income tax rose to 1s. in the pound, and leaped to 6s. after the Great War, since when it has never been less than 4s.

is yours. Use it or lose it, that is the choice before you. Use it and secure your liberty, and life, and make your homes safe for your children. Use it, and get other electors to use it, by demanding the abolition of poverty. Fail to use it, and live to see the democratic power won by the blood and tears of our forefathers whittled away—AND IT IS BEING WHITTLED AWAY—until the financial dictatorship is complete.

The fight, which Secretary Chase foresaw, is now being waged in the U.S.A., and the same battle—the people versus financial dictatorship—is being fought throughout the British Empire and in many foreign countries. The enemy has unlimited means but its soldiers are mercenaries. The people's army is one of volunteers fired by righteous indignation and crusading zeal. The people's battle is being fought on the doorsteps by canvassers in the Electoral Campaign.

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Friday, June 5, 1936

### The Facts ARE Outrageous We MUST Act

A CORRESPONDENT whose letter we publish on page 135 expresses what we believe to be an opinion held at the present time by many. They know — or say they know—all about poverty and insecurity, and what it involves every day, every hour, every minute, in strife, starvation, suicide, and all the widespread suffering of which these are typical.

BUT—they don't know what to do about it. They don't realise what THEY—each one of them—can do.

Now, the reason we keep on telling our readers, and asking them to tell others, about the misery of the world to-day, is that they do NOT realise it! It is not so vividly present in their minds all the time as to make it intolerable to them.

They may realise it for an instant at a time, and dismiss it from the mind in case the knowledge should become intolerable and they should be driven to do something about it.

These are unpalatable things to say, but we believe they are true.

Well, what can these people, of whom our correspondent speaks, do?

There is only one thing that will put an end to the atrocities we now tolerate. They are unnecessary—because there is, or can be, plenty of all the things required to prevent them.

They take place because there is scarcity—deliberately imposed scarcity—of food, clothing and shelter; scarcity of all the other things as well that go to make for the sort of life we all want to live.

Everyone—perhaps we should say every intelligent person—now knows that there is no need to tolerate scarcity. The supreme problem of producers is—how to get rid of their produce!

When people reach the stage that an unnecessary thing is too atrocious to be tolerated; when they become mentally and even physically sick at the sight or thought of unnecessary suffering, they will NOT tolerate it. They will demand of those in authority that it shall be ended—and quickly.

This is what happened when child labour in mines was abolished, when slavery was abolished, when petty theft was no longer punishable by death (the time came when no jury would convict). The people simply wouldn't stand it—and said so.

We are reaching that stage to-day, slowly but surely. The right thing to do is not difficult. It doesn't involve anything more difficult than quietly but persistently putting the issue before everyone you can get hold of, and who has a vote.

A technique — an effective method — by which this can be done with the *minimum of effort* and the *maximum success*, has been devised for doing this. It is very simple, and those who follow it find it easy and interesting — though it can be hard and dull and unsuccessful if not done according to plan.

The United Democrats, whose address will be found at the foot of our back page, have made this their particular business. There are branches in many parts of the country, and more are springing up.

If you are worried about the unhappy tales we tell week by week in these pages, join the United Democrats, and do the only thing that will remove the cause of misery.

### THE FIG TREE

THE first number of a new Douglas Social Credit Quarterly Review, edited by Major Douglas, will be published shortly.

Many well-known writers have promised to contribute.

The title of the review will be THE FIG TREE and the price 10s. 6d. a year, or 3s. 6d. a quarter, post free, from The Social Credit Press, 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

Subscriptions are invited immediately.

### Pressure Politics

We have before us a letter addressed to shareholders of colliery companies asking them to communicate at once with their Members of Parliament requesting them to support the withdrawal of the Coal Mines Bill, 1936.

Enclosed with the letter is a notice drawn up by the Mining Association complaining of the compulsory interference in industry which is foreshadowed by this Bill, together with a letter addressed to chairmen of undertakings in other industries asking them to communicate at once with their Members of Parliament, calling for withdrawal of the Bill in view of the dangerous effect on industry which it is certain to establish. The letters are dated May 16 and 13. As we reported in SOCIAL CREDIT last week, the Bill was withdrawn about a fortnight later.

### Don't Vote for a Party

Mr. A. G. Walkden, general secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association, declares that, of course, the trades unions must dominate the Socialist Party. "They pay most of the money, don't they?"—*The Star*, May 27.

The party system, as Major Douglas has said, is a subtle distortion of democracy. Not only is it based upon the premise that one party can get what it wants only at the expense of another party—which is obviously a fallacy in an age of plenty, and is therefore a device to divide and rule—but it results in a struggle by vested interests to control party policy through control of party funds.

What of the elector in this democratic trap? Is he powerless? Yes, he is powerless for just so long as he accepts the fraud, and continues to vote for party labels instead of demanding results from his Member of Parliament, regardless of party.

### The Best Possible Taste

There may be serious breakers ahead, but that depends in the main on the attitude of the Labour Party, and the leadership of the Labour Party, with that almost morbid defensiveness which has become one of its most paralyzing characteristics, is inclined—we are given to understand—to "avoid trying to make party capital out of the affair."

Behind this attitude is the fear that someone will say "Well, after all, Thomas was one of you, wasn't he?" and someone else will say "Don't kick a man when he's down" and so on, and there is an odd fearsomeness and jumpiness in the Labour Party leadership which causes some of its members to hold the belief that if you cannot win in the best possible taste it is better not to win at all.—*The Week*, May 27.

The real reason for this jumpiness in the "leadership" is the fear of the question that at any time may seize the consciousness of the rank and file, and spread like wildfire—"Here, how can we be sure, if we put your party in once more, that the leaders won't sell us again?" The leadership has no answer to this, for there is none — except that of the Electoral Campaign, which involves the principle not only of the electorate telling politicians what they want done, but what they want done FIRST. This is the only answer to the fearful question.

### Off the Beat

The annual report of the Newcastle Police Aided Association for the Clothing of Destitute Children gives further evidence of the excellent work the police do among the poor, and especially for the poor children.

During last year 2,543 children were assisted, but rather pathetically, it is added, "507 could not be supplied owing to lack of funds."

Among the articles of clothing provided were 2,543 pairs of boots and a similar number of pairs of stockings, and scores of jerseys, shirts, etc. — *Newcastle Journal*, May 14.

Well done, Bobby, your good heart does you credit. But it's a bit thick you should have to do it. The goods which are now being destroyed, the production now being restricted, could go to these poor kids without you or any of us being losers by anything. And there is enough for a National Dividend for all of us into the bargain.

### Too Starved to Eat

One of the horrors about which our elders loved to read in their childhood was the way people lived on rats and mice during the Paris Siege. A final macabre touch was often added by a description of how, when the siege was raised and good food was given them, they fell upon it ravenously and were soon made very ill indeed.

But such unpleasant descriptions would surely leave this present generation cold? Similar things are happening all the time in the distressed areas. Mrs. Rayner, of

# A Word to the Wise

Teddington, speaking at the National Women Citizens' Association, described how unemployed lads transferred from Wales to a London suburb were so underfed that they were made ill when given decent food.

"These lads had been undernourished so long that they were immediately sick when given ordinary food," she said. "They had to be put on a special diet for a month before they could take a square meal."

The conference passed a resolution urging the Government to re-examine the whole question of dealing with unemployment without delay.

"Re-examine" is the word!

### What To Do About It?

An enterprising daily pursued the matter further and discovered the lady from whom Mrs. Rayner got her information.

"It is a common thing for boys coming from distressed areas to be undernourished," said this lady. "For years they have lived on a diet of bread and margarine, and when brought to London their underfed condition make it impossible to serve them with a full working man's meal right away."

"We have to feed them much as an invalid is fed. After a few weeks of decent living, however, a remarkable change is seen in them. They gain several pounds in weight and lose their initial shyness. Even the expressions on their faces change."

In face of such horrors, what wife of an unemployed workman would wish to bring a child into the world? Surely the first thing to do is to sweep away such atrocious conditions on a wave of public indignation? See our leading article this week.

### Sweated Labour Among Children

Who would think that it is still legal to work a child of 14 for 12 hours in a factory, with breaks totalling only two hours?

Not only is it legal, it is being done. The Worcestershire County Council stated in a report to the County Councils Association that young girls are being employed in some factories from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that in the opinion of their Tuberculosis Officer "such long hours are not only detrimental to health, but tend to lower resistance to disease and increase the risks of tuberculosis."

With nearly 2,000,000 unemployed hanging about, it is obvious that sweated child labour can be needed only in attempts to snatch money profits—not to make good any shortage of productive power. Sweated child labour is thus a reflection of a money system which values money above human welfare.

Human values can be restored by human beings if they will exercise their will.

### Be Fair to Pussy!

For their own benefit cats should be taxed. The much-abused domestic cat is capable of showing a lasting and affectionate return for kindness.

Give the cat legal rights. A tax will do this. The above letter, signed "M.H.," appeared recently in the correspondence columns of a local newspaper. It is immaterial whether the letter was written in all seriousness, or is the product of an impish sense of humour—it represents the reduction to the last degree of absurdity of the idea of taxation.

It is man's way to make a virtue of necessity, and to retain as a virtue that for which the necessity has passed. So it is quite possible, even if the writer of that letter thought it a great joke, that there are actually alive to-day people who believe that to tax is a kindly act which confers a benefit upon the taxpayer.

The cat, meanwhile, is, in this matter, still the fortunate creature which walks by himself.

### Conquest By Debt

Italy went to war to obtain Abyssinia. That is plain to all—there is no mistake.

But we are reminded by the *Financial Times* of May 26 that we are still in default on our War Debt to the United States. The Washington correspondent of that paper notes the strong feeling in the States that we should pay what we owe, and suggests that if the debt is to be paid it should be by means of a nominal sum in money coupled with an offer of some of the West Indian islands.

There is certainly a determined effort being made to establish the pen as mightier than the sword or even than patriotism and the bonds of Empire.

### Too Much Unhappiness

More people are ill because they are unhappy than unhappy because they are ill,

declared Dr. L. P. Lockhart, of Nottingham, to the British Federation of Master Printers annual congress at Margate, last week.

We heartily agree, and more people are unhappy because they are poor, because they are frustrated, because their lives are drab and barren in this age of teeming plenty and fecund production than ever before.

The statistics of suicide and mental breakdown are utterly horrifying—more dreadful and shameful than the much-boomed toll of the road. For these are the swift results of an instant's negligence, while those are the slow, grinding, cumulative results of long-drawn-out mental torture. Such torture as either drives its victims out of their minds or to a furtive death by their own trembling hands.

### Too Busy To Live

Poverty, and the desperate struggle to escape from it, the frenzied struggle to avoid it, is at the root of the hectic life which human flesh and blood endures so needlessly to-day. The industrialist, in his endeavour to keep selling his product or go under, cuts costs, ruthlessly reorganises, steels his will to regard human beings as "cannon fodder" for his factories. And this is how Dr. Lockhart describes the result:—

The remote control of industry by persons having no direct contact with it—being, in fact, almost irresponsible—was one of the most disturbing and unsettling factors in industrial life to-day. The worker was at the mercy of people whom he never saw and who never saw him . . .

As you raise the tempo of life—as competition becomes more hectic and jobs have to be rushed and everything gets complicated—we all tend at times to react, in extreme cases to succumb to illness, in less extreme cases to become vaguely unfit, and in mild cases to become relatively inefficient and a nuisance to those with whom we have to work.

### Social Atrophy or Social Dynamics

The most serious warning that Dr. Lockhart sounds, however, is of the menace to individual will power and initiative of super organisation.

The sinister activities of the "planners," whether it be industrial planners of the P.E.P. or Harold MacMillan variety, or the world planners, the H. G. Wellses and advocates of an armed League of Nations, all tend in the same direction—the subordination, of the individual human, or of the nation composed of humans, to an omnipotent taskmaster.

Horrible as the idea is in itself, it is the danger to man's spirit which is worse than the shame of slavery itself. It is the abomination of desolation, for as Dr. Lockhart says:

If organisation leads to a machine madness which codifies everything down to the last button and leaves nothing to individual initiative, sooner or later we shall be faced with a serious dearth of people capable and willing to take responsibility and occupy posts of authority and supervision.

Before it is too late the will of the people for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness must be crystallised and mobilised into action.

### Another Means Test?

Twelve men and two women have been appointed to be a committee to advise the Minister of Labour on methods of collecting information, by means of family budgets, showing the approximate weekly expenditure of working-class families on items included in cost of living index numbers.

Mr. Maxton sardonically asked whether the Minister would say where this mass demonstration is to be held, but behind his irony lay, we imagine, an uneasy premonition of what all this forbodes of inquisition, and of "savee faces."

Certain people, like Sir John Orr, and Miss Sutherland, have been making embarrassing investigations on their own account. They have disclosed terrible conditions existing among more than a quarter of the population of this rich and civilised country. Millions living on a bare 6s. a week for food, more millions on less than 4s., and a ghastly minority dragging out a foul existence on 2s. and 3s. Week after week. Month after month. Year after year.

Are we to have another gallant white-washing expedition? Are we to have more hypocrisy to the effect that these people have plenty of money but do not know what sort of food to buy? Or are we to have a repetition of the attempt, made not so long since, to find out what is the minimum diet which will maintain life, for the purpose of perpetuating it?

Let us hope that these fourteen investigators will not have the stomach for that sort of job. Let us hope, *pace* Mr. Maxton, that they are too many to succumb without a fight to the bloodless financial Moloch.

# Mr. Pillinger's Hallucination

By Charles Jones

MR. Pillinger was suffering from two inebriations. First, after twenty years membership of the South Metropolitan Choral Union, he had been given a solo part. It consisted of at least three impassioned ejaculations in a dramatic cantata of obscure authorship, and to these Mr. Pillinger's robust tenor did, if anything, a little more than justice. One of them presented some difficulty because it began on a very high note, and Mr. Pillinger's initial inebriation had ensued upon the discovery that after seven or eight attempts, he had got it. "Hold it!" shouted the conductor, and Mr. Pillinger had held it with such throaty tenacity and abandon that when he let go the choir were on the next page.

Such feats produce a pardonable elation in men of modest temper. The mind of Mr. Pillinger dwelt throughout the remaining choruses upon the thought that the piece should be costumed and acted—but it was, unfortunately, a concert version.

It may have been due to baffled ambition that, after the practice was over, Mr. Pillinger celebrated his top note in a manner which was as excess added to excess. A very little was excess for Mr. Pillinger for he was not accustomed either by habit or inclination to ardent waters. In the subsequent mood of pot-valiance he essayed the "A" in alt. in the bar-parlour of a public establishment near Cannon Street Station where it happened that music was not in great favour.

Soon after his ejection he walked a little unsteadily into that echoing cavern, Cannon Street Station, humming dramatically to himself. The evening was then far spent.

At a first glance, the sole living creature in that vast emptiness besides himself was a somnolent ticket collector, who told him that his train, the last on that particular line, was due out in half-an-hour's time.

Mr. Pillinger enquired politely whether the ticket collector could direct him to a place of refreshment, but that individual merely drew his hand across his mouth as though to stifle any information his heart prompted, and indeed, treated the enquiry with such levity as to say, "Go hon, you!"

Thereupon Mr. Pillinger gazed around the great hall and eventually set himself an objective towards which he travelled by dint of strong concentration of the will, and with the aid of his umbrella poised as Blondin used his pole, in a trajectory which would have looked a little unhealthy on a temperature chart. But it served. The objective Mr. Pillinger had selected was a uniformed person in red jacket and straight, black trousers who, he imagined, would be able and willing to give the information he required.

The constant bellows-like action of the diaphragm which is customary among competent singers induces appetite, and after two solid hours' practice culminating in a well-sustained note in the upper register, Mr. Pillinger was, to use his own inward comment, peckish.

"I don't mind what it is," he said to himself, "but I must have somethin' to eat. I'm peckish."

When he arrived alongside his quarry, who stood stiffly at attention in a gloomy corner, Mr. Pillinger found a little difficulty in expressing himself. Singing, he reflected, makes the voice fatigued. But after a little muscular preparation of the larynx he articulated, "Sir, c'd you advise me where t'obtain 'freshment? Anythin', anythin' at all o' boy—packet o' raisins, bar o' choc'lit, anythin'."

The commissionaire-like person was dumb. Mr. Pillinger carefully repeated his question, but no notice was taken of it. This was exasperating. Mr. Pillinger found it distinctly so.

"Shir," he exclaimed, outraged, "shir, I regard you as an enemy, a personal enemy, shir!"

Then a green light suddenly bobbed up

near to Mr. Pillinger's elbow, followed by a red one. With a flashing of imitation valves and a preliminary whirr, a strong masculine voice announced that he was the Master Mind, and that if any of those listening to him would place a penny in the slot and gaze steadily at the crystal, he would psycho-analyse him and give a true reading of character. Mr. Pillinger fumbled in his pocket and found a single penny there which he straightway invested in a pennyworth of psychology.

The mysterious voice of the Master Mind informed Mr. Pillinger that he had a strong inferiority-complex, but that he should take courage for he was a capable artist; and the obvious truth of this delineation so impressed him that he turned to his companion and ejaculated, "Stonishing id'n it?" but in the glare of the electric valves illuminating the dwelling of the Master Mind, his companion was fully revealed—a chocolate machine!

"Blesh my shoul!" exclaimed Mr. Pillinger in amazement, "a moment ago there wash my fricn', I beg hish pardon, my enemy the hotel portah here, and now — he's turned 'imself into a choc'lit machine!"

Some might say it was an unusual hallucination which was visited upon Mr. Pillinger at that late hour in Cannon Street Station. Yet men and machines have points in common. Who has not noticed the almost uncanny likeness between a petrol pump and a Professor. That bald, domed brow (one can neglect for a moment the vulgar inscription across it); the long slender arm, stretched as in demonstration, with, as it were, a chalk in hand at the end. And then, the almost perfect mimicry of that occasional gurgling in the throat when anything is required of it! What, if it could but bend, could more perfectly fit a Chair of Economics?

I myself, can seldom see one of these tall pumps, standing in lonely dignity before the corrugated sheets of a corner garage without glancing about instinctively to discover where the microphone is concealed. It exudes, as it were, the very spirit of the broadcast, regurgitating at every touch of the skilfully concealed handle, and stopping under the adroit guidance of the hand that rules it, as soon as it has spilled the last drop of the last permitted gallon. Wilde has truly said that nature imitates man, for these gaily painted growths at the by-pass junctions are true effigies of our human nobility.

But this is a digression only permissible in so far as it explains Mr. Pillinger's delusion that he was confronting, not a chocolate machine, but a uniformed menial from whom courtesy, if not a servile readiness to give information might reasonably be expected. As he still cherished a certain exasperation on this point, Mr. Pillinger's subsequent behaviour can be well understood. First, he tugged at a little drawer in front of the dumb thing as if he were pulling its tongue out by the roots. As this would not yield, he thumped it on the chest, still rattling the drawer with great vigour. Then he rocked it on its feet until its internals chattered like loose teeth. He banged it on the back, poked it with his umbrella, and finally kicked it with such energy that his stubbed toes smarted woe-fully. Mr. Pillinger regarded this as an unwarrantable assault. The thing had deliberately stamped on his foot. His onslaught became vindictive, and he wrestled with it so violently that it seemed both must crash to the ground, for they lurched at perilous angles in a fast embrace.

At this juncture, the ticket collector, still suffering from the half-coma of prolonged

inactivity, wandered up with a stifled yawn and enquired wot the 'ell 'e was a doin' of.

Mr. Pillinger, breathing stertorously, heaved his opponent from him, and finding the perpendicular a delicate perplexity, sat down on the platform, adjusted his hat, which had become awry whilst he was defending himself, and gazed blandly at his interlocutor.

"This fellah," he said, waving a disdainful arm with shot cuff, at the chocolate machine, "refused, simply refused to gimme choc'lit. I'm peckish."

"Hm! said the railway official, rather puzzled, "Did yer try puttin' a penny in?"

A glimmer of light passed over Mr. Pillinger's perspiring countenance, and faded quickly.

"I . . . yah . . . I put penny in somewhere," he replied, with a frown.

"That was in the Master Mind. I 'eard 'im yoppin'" stated the ticket collector, with decision.

"Oh.h., yesh! Yesh. The Mashter Mind . . . reckernished me as 'n artist straight off." Mr. Pillinger got slowly to his feet, with the air of a man who is determined to do the right thing.

"'Ave you got such a thing ash penny?" he enquired.

The ticket collector withdrew a penny from his pocket and handed it to Mr. Pillinger between finger and thumb, with that solemn respect which Patagonians accord to sacred lunatics.

Then Mr. Pillinger, mild as Pickwick, placed his penny in the slot, gracefully removed a packet of chocolate from the drawer, and after removing the neat wrapping, began to eat it.

The ticket collector, pleased at this peaceful consummation of a disturbing rumpus, hurried Mr. Pillinger with generous support to his train as it clanked in. After placing him in a third-class carriage, where he continued to eat his chocolate with amiable content, the kindly official nodded goodbye, and forgot entirely to inspect his ticket, or recover the borrowed penny.

Of course, there is nothing, as one might say, that is socially creditable about this isolated incident in the placid life of Mr. Pillinger. But there is the point that we are all inclined, maybe, to regard machines as persons, to attribute malignant intentions to them, and to neglect the terms on which they offer service. Must we not confess that our eyes too are holden from the truth of these things, as surely as the eyes of Mr. Pillinger in the moment of his exaltation? Contemplative easterners with a languid eye on our western manners tell us that we are being destroyed by our own works, mastered by the machine. But, as Mr. Pillinger discovered, with the aid of a ticket-clipper's common sense, the machine is conquered if one has a penny for the slot. That is the secret which makes the machine laugh up its cylinder at the pranks of the silly mortals.

The Master Mind has analysed that, at any rate. The little gash above the delivery drawer is the vulnerable point of the machine; keep that inviolate, and this modern Samson has his locks. It won't disgorge so much as a packet of chocolate unless a penny goes in the slot. But the joke against us would be ended, the whole gaff blown, if we had enough pennies. To coerce the bigger and more adept Machine to such business as would cut out its giggling nonsense altogether, and make it yield up boots and vacuum cleaners, and wireless sets—the catalogue is too long, let us say plenty of everything—is, of course, what is known as a highly technical matter. Even Professors at the London School of Economics and other seats of learning cannot get it clear, that it presents no difficulties to petrol Pumps which, being machines, are more in the know.

There is no harm in giving the prescription, even if the duller type of reader cannot understand highly technical language. It is Nat. Lsdividends.

## FAMILY OF FIVE SLEEP IN YARD

HOMELESS AND FINED £2

"I don't care what they do with me so long as they find a place for the wife and boys. It is a shame I should be like this."

James Hayes, of Farnworth, near here, told me that earnestly to-day just after he had been fined for sleeping in a house which was the subject of a demolition order.

He had been summoned at Bolton County Police Court for unlawfully entering the house in Balmoral Road, Farnworth.

**He told the magistrates that before they entered the house his wife, his three sons, aged sixteen, fourteen and eleven, and himself slept in a yard.**

He appealed to the magistrates to allow them to remain in the house till they could obtain other accommodation.

Hayes was ordered to pay a fine of £2 within seven days or go to prison for fourteen days, and if he did not get out of the house immediately he would be liable to a fine of £5 each day he remained in it.

An official of Farnworth District Council told me to-night:—

"I do not see that we can do anything for these people. They had no right in the house, from which we had already removed a previous tenant. What can we do?" — *"The Daily Mirror,"* May 22.

## THE BATTLE WITH GOLD BULLETS DANGER AHEAD

The Bank of England is steadily adding to its gold reserve, which stands at a record figure of over £200,000,000.

France, Switzerland and Holland are losing gold at the rate of £25 million a week, and the Bank is stepping in and buying it up.

Many of the gold-buying operations are kept secret, but some cannot be concealed. The Exchange Equalisation Fund, secretly worked by Montagu Norman and Neville Chamberlain, has bought nearly £150 millions of gold in eighteen months.

The £200,000,000 odd is entered in the bank at the old value of 84s. 10½d., according to *The People* of May 24. As its present price is over 140s. an ounce the correct valuation is much nearer £350,000,000.

This is an old bankers' trick. They do it with securities and premises constantly to conceal their reserves.

This is the comment of *The People*:

The building up of this big gold reserve would enable Britain to switch over on to a gold standard basis without any serious dislocation of the currency.

And it is believed that such a step may be taken in the near future if the French Government finds itself forced by an internal crisis to abandon the gold standard.

That would be the signal for the calling of a world currency conference, with Britain taking the lead for the return of the whole world to a gold currency standard and more stable economic conditions for international trade.—*The People*.

## FINANCIAL DOMINATION

AND THE WAY IT WORKS

Another step towards stopping the hoarding of gold by French nationals was taken this week when the Bank of England requested bullion brokers and the banks to refrain from dealing in gold coins at a premium. While the Bank's request has been acceded to, it has aroused many protests. Three important points are raised, i.e., the extent to which a liaison between the Central Banks of two countries can be extended with advantage, **the degree of control which can properly be placed on the financial life of a country by "request" of the authorities,** and the effectiveness of the embargo now made.

As one authority said in discussing the matter, the two banks "are now in each other's pockets." . . . Control may have proved profitable to the Treasury, but the policy involved in it is not governed by any question of profit. *World currency stability is the aim.*

There can be no doubt that the continual interference by the authorities with legitimate business operations is causing a considerable amount of irritation. **Regulation by "request" without the force of Parliamentary decisions has now become a commonplace.** Those concerned have loyally acted in accordance with the desires of the authorities, but the position is becoming strained. — *"The Observer,"* May 24. [Our emphasis.]

## THE FIGHT FOR EXPORTS

HEAVY REVERSES ON LOCOMOTIVE FRONT

Mr. C. Bruce Gardner, chairman of Armstrong Whitworth Securities Company, told the shareholders that competition in the locomotive export business was as fierce as ever. He exhibited charts showing that in the five years to 1930 exports had averaged over £3,000,000 approximately, while in the five subsequent years they had averaged little more than half a million.

This is economic war waged for lack—not of productive ability—but of effective demand for abundance.

## TRAGIC MOTHER REPRIEVED

Death sentence passed on Mrs. Gladys Amelia Varley, aged 26, of Dover, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

She is the third woman to be reprieved since King Edward came to the throne.

Sentence was passed on Mrs. Varley for the murder of David, one of her five-months-old twin sons, both of whom were found dead.

**When arrested she told the police that she had no money to buy food for the babies. In her room were found only a piece of bread and a farthing.**—*"Daily Herald,"* May 2.

## TAX GATHERERS

MR. F. J. PALMER, Managing Director of a leading Sydney firm of men's outfitters, states that taxation accounted for almost 70 per cent. of dividends paid to the shareholders of his company, and that the Government was really the largest shareholder in the business!

As the proportion received by shareholders is subject to further taxation, it may soon pay the firm to hand the business over to the Government. Businesses to-day are rapidly developing into registered tax gatherers for the Credit Monopoly.—*The New Era*.

# MAJOR DOUGLAS AND ALBERTA

## Correspondence between Mr. Aberhart and Major Douglas—I

EARLY in 1935 it became evident that Social Credit would be the issue of the next general election in the Canadian Province of Alberta. The Government in office at that time invited Major C. H. Douglas to be its Chief Reconstruction Adviser, as the foremost living economic expert. He accepted the post and visited Alberta in May, 1935, and on May 23 presented his First Interim Report to the Premier, Mr. Reid (United Farmers of Alberta).

The Report was published in full in *SOCIAL CREDIT* on June 21, 1935. On August 22, under the leadership of William Aberhart, a Social Credit Party was elected with an overwhelming majority, and the eyes of the world, and particularly of Social Crediters throughout the world, were turned expectantly to Alberta, where there was, it seemed, a chance that history might be made.

We are now privileged to publish the complete text of all the letters and cablegrams which passed between Major Douglas and Mr. Aberhart from August 24, 1935, to March 24, 1936. We will not for the present make any comment on them except this:—

Major Douglas was at no time under any obligation to produce a "Social Credit plan" for Alberta. He stated specifically in his report to the U.F.A. Government that "plans for dealing with the public credit, are wholly premature, while the power to deal with it has not been attained." He has repeatedly given the warning that to prepare any kind of cut-and-dried plan prematurely is merely to give valuable information to the credit monopoly whose interest it is to frustrate such plans.

*Note.—For the sake of brevity the formalities of address in this correspondence have been omitted.*

**Letters and cables between Major C. H. Douglas and the Government of Alberta from August 24, 1935, to March 24, 1936—I.**

To Douglas, London, August 24.

Victorious. When could you come?—Aberhart.

To Aberhart, Calgary, August 26.

If necessary could sail middle September. Suggest calling me telephone ten morning Edmonton time.—Douglas.

To Aberhart, Calgary, August 28.

Dean of Canterbury agreed commence speaking tour across continent September eighteen Montreal. Will turn election if suitably supported.—Douglas.

To Aberhart, Calgary, August 30.

Buy me five Alberta dollar bonds sixes ninety or lower. Further five eighty-five or lower. Cheque on receipt account.—Douglas.

To Douglas, London, September 4.

Cables gratefully received. Before taking further action executive council wishes full information by letter or preliminary directions.—Aberhart.

To Aberhart, Calgary, September 5.

Cable received. Letter follows by quickest route.—Douglas.

To the Hon. W. Aberhart from Major C. H.

Douglas, London, September 5, 1935.

Dear Mr. Aberhart,

I have this morning received your cablegram reading as follows:—"Cables gratefully

received. Before taking further action Executive Council wishes full information by letter or preliminary directions."

I have deferred writing to you, as you are necessarily involved in unavoidable routine business for a time, but I take this opportunity of assuring you that you have a solid body of many millions all over the world behind you, and that anything I can do to bring these forces to bear to ensure your success will be done. I am attaching you a statement which I have put out through many sources in the Popular Press in England, which has had a circulation of eight or nine millions.

Coming to the subject matter of your cable, it is probably unnecessary to emphasise the immense importance of getting the largest possible favourable "bloc" of members at Ottawa in the coming Federal Elections. It is quite possibly impracticable to obtain a majority at this Election, but a large body would have a strong moral effect and could harass the flanks of the Parties which will support the Bank of Canada's certain offensive against you. You will probably also realise the importance of maintaining permanent touch with the electors of Alberta and of broadcasting as far as possible the efforts made to hinder you in obtaining your objective.

### Immediate Measures

(1) It is, of course, difficult at this distance to know the exact alignment of forces in the Province. I should suggest that every advantage be taken of the coming visit of the Dean of Canterbury to place the moral obligation of supporting you squarely on the shoulders of the well-to-do and more conservative section of the population. I feel sure that he will have considerable success in this direction, but after making every effort of this description, I should not hesitate to pillory by name, either through the Press or through the agency of Radio, in every possible way those who refuse to assist.

(2) There has been a suggestion in certain quarters that one of the Chartered Banks would assist you. While I should like to have had the opportunity of assisting you personally at an interview which might be arranged with such a bank, it may not be possible to defer this until such time as I may be in Alberta. I should, therefore, after most carefully preparing the ground and endeavouring to avoid any conference which seems likely to produce a refusal, make the following suggestion:

(3) That the bank should credit the account of the Provincial Government with a sum of, say, five million dollars, such credit to be free of interest and non-callable, i.e., the property of the Government, and that the bank should be paid for its services one sum of, say, one and a half per cent. The bank should be paid further sums to cover cost of book-keeping. This account should be drawable upon only by cheque and such cheques should be specially marked, "For deposit only in the (let us say, Imperial Bank)." Such proviso would, of course, prevent any variation in the bank's cash ratio and

could not subject them to any financial difficulty whatever. You will understand that such cheques when paid in would be credited to a separate account which could not be "cashed."

(4) Every effort should be made to accumulate Dominion, English, or American credits by exchanging cheques upon the account explained in (3) for cheques payable at any other bank, without restriction. The cheques should be popularised by giving them five per cent. premium in payment of taxes.

(5) Should it be impossible to obtain the co-operation of any bank upon these lines, a census of the stocks and shares held by private individuals in Alberta should be conducted as rapidly as possible, and the owners should be asked to exchange these stocks for short-date Alberta Bonds bearing interest at one per cent. on condition that they also receive the interest of the original stocks, but have no lien on the stocks. The banks should then be approached and the best terms obtained for a short-date loan on ordinary commercial conditions issued, the private stocks obtained in the preceding paragraphs being used for securities for the loan. The bonds should be retirable either by payment of the face value in Dominion currency or the return of the stock.

I make these suggestions as being, possibly, helpful in meeting your immediate requirements. Somewhat more drastic suggestions are at your disposal if these cannot be negotiated. The general outlines of a permanent plan are well under way, but it seems expedient not to commit them to paper at the present moment, in case the information should come into wrong hands.

C. H. DOUGLAS

P.S.—On the face of it, it seems desirable that any visit I might make to Alberta would be more useful after the Federal Election.

To the Hon. W. Aberhart from Major C. H. Douglas, Southampton, September 6, 1935.

Dear Mr. Aberhart,

My letter of the 5th inst. in reply to your cable, which I am sending via the Dean of Canterbury, was written under the impression, derived from the Press here, that you were being subjected to an immediate financial economic blockade, and that immediate and emergency measures were necessary. I am still sending you this letter in question, but I see from this morning's *Times* that you are going to Ottawa with a view to getting Federal assistance on orthodox lines.

I quite agree with this policy if on reasonable terms, and will write you at length by next mail on the assumption that the immediate situation has been met.

C. H. DOUGLAS

To Aberhart, Calgary, September 6.

Strongly advise you see Bowman Ottawa Citizen on arrival.—Douglas.

To Aberhart, Ottawa, September 10.

Please cable Dominion Office London I be granted all diplomatic facilities.—Douglas.

(To be continued)

with more representative electoral systems would be surprising, but more surprising things have happened; to us, who have the inestimable advantage of Douglas's personal leadership, it would be a humiliating exposure of our own inefficiency.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Dissatisfaction with existing conditions in the Union is growing, for despite a huge budget surplus and a booming mining industry—both due to the present high price of gold—the standard of living of the majority remains depressingly low. Further, even those "on the top of the world," the mining magnates and the bankers, show signs of a realisation that all is not as well as their increasing affluence seems to indicate.

To the average South African the suggestion that the use of gold as a currency basis is merely a superstition to be outgrown, is as bad as fox shooting to the foxhunter, vegetarianism to the butcher, or Douglas to a London School of Economics man; it simply is not done, it's in bad taste!

Nevertheless, when reading the South African press, one senses a feeling of disquiet at the possibilities the future holds in store, with the threat of the ever-growing Russian output, and the rapid increase in world stocks. This is understandable, for, apart from gold, South Africa is not a particularly wealthy country, and the whole economic system depends on the continued production and sale of gold.

### A Demand for an Enquiry

Mr R. J. du Toit, M.P., the Chairman of the Economic Reform Association, to which previous reference has been made in these columns, proposed a motion in the South African House of Assembly on March 10, calling for the setting up of a commission to report on the "failure of our present financial and economic system," and to suggest reforms "to eliminate the anomaly of poverty." The motion was seconded by Mr. Van den Berg, a Labour Member.

The *Cape Times* report of proceedings bore the sub-heading, "The Doctrines of Social Credit," which, to judge from a summarised report only, was misleading, for although certain speakers showed some knowledge of the Douglas proposals, none appeared to have a thorough grasp of them. The debate was useful, however, as drawing attention to the increasing discontent with the present system.

This debate was resumed on April 25, and talked out. The *Star* of Johannesburg commented: "Members gave the impression that they considered that speaking to the motion was a lesser evil than voting on it, so they spoke until they could reasonably adjourn the debate and go home." This was fair comment, for the debate—again to judge from summarised reports—seemed to lack decisiveness. Although many Members quoted illustrations of the bad conditions prevailing, none had any clear idea of what ought to be done, and none seemed to realise that any way, as Members of Parliament, it was not their job to devise a new system, but to give orders to those controlling the present one.

### The Native Bill—Divide and Rule

The March issue of *The New Outlook*, the Johannesburg Social Credit monthly, dealt most effectively with the Native Bill, which deprives Cape native voters of rights they have previously enjoyed by placing them on a separate roll. It points to the dangers of admitting the principle that certain sections of the population are not politically mature enough to exercise the vote. This Bill applies that principle to natives, but it may well be a step in the direction of its application to the white population—in fact a step towards Fascism.

It is suggested that actually the next step will be to restrict the voting rights of the Cape Coloured—the mixed races—who are becoming increasingly industrialised, and who, owing to dispersion over the Cape constituencies, exercise political power out of proportion to their numbers. This class could not be dealt with in the Native Bill, for their vote, together with that of the natives, might have defeated the attempt.

Because the existence of the native and the Cape Coloured is a standing threat to white labour, under the present system, they can look for but little help from the Labour Party, who may themselves suffer at a later date for allowing the principle of disfranchisement for political immaturity to be established.

Real democracy, in which the voter demands results, not methods, would not admit such a principle, for, however uneducated, every man knows what he wants. It is the one thing on which he can claim to be an expert.

M.W.

## Overseas Notes

### EAST AFRICA

THOSE who complain of the difficulties to be overcome by Social Crediters in this country, would be appalled by those met with by workers in East Africa.

Here in this country the main obstacles are apathy and the hostility of ignorance, for when we ask people to attend a meeting it is not like asking them to undertake a journey over miles of bad roads, almost impassable in some seasons, with the possibility of meeting a lion or other beast at the worst pothole. Nor is it necessary, as a rule, to overcome the fears of those we invite due to the knowledge that their bank will hear of their activities and might employ sanctions against them. Such are conditions in East Africa, where almost every man is a banker's thirl, and the majority of the white population are widely scattered.

But far from being discouraged, such workers as Count Serra have now made sufficient progress as to permit consideration of the formation of an association with offices in Nairobi and affiliated associations in various other centres, all kept alive and in touch with each other and Nairobi, by means of a journal devoted to Social Credit. The journal has already materialised; the

first issue appeared on May 1, under the title *Social Credit Review of East Africa*.

### Action

But this is not all, for thought is already being given to the question of a technique of action by which pressure can be brought to bear on the Governments of the different territories. A correspondent who has been most active in spreading Social Credit, writing on the possibility of launching an Electoral Campaign, observes:

"... Such a campaign... is a vital question anywhere and one which will force the issue much more quickly than any other method. You know that in Kenya, the Legislative Council is composed of a majority of Officials nominated by the Governor; and a minority of Unofficial Elected Members. It is not difficult, to my mind, to force this body—no matter how badly it may represent public opinion, European, Asiatic and Native—to a dilemma, and... to pronounce in favour of results."

The second number of the *Social Credit Review* contains an excellent article on the necessity for a united demand for results.

"Governments," it states, "are not doing their job, and it serves no purpose to tell them HOW to do it. But it is the people's right to insist that those who have accepted the responsibility of doing the job SHALL DO IT."

This shows a proper realisation of the meaning of democracy as defined by Major Douglas. It is unfortunate that the writer tends to spoil it, when he comes to deal with

the peculiarities of the Kenya constitution, by suggesting that, having demanded results, the people should "appoint responsible men who know how to do the job that is wanted of them—and who will do it." This is ambiguous, and may be read to mean that the people's representatives should be technical experts, which, as Douglas has pointed out, is neither necessary nor desirable.

### Results Not Methods

Elsewhere, in the same issue of the paper, the slogan appears—"Demand Results: Abolition of Poverty. National Dividends. Retail Discount." This again may lead to confusion, for whereas the first two points of the demand are results understandable of anyone, the third—the Retail Discount—is a method, about which there may be differences of opinion. In any case, as Douglas has made very clear, voters should not demand methods, for by so doing they accept responsibility which rightly should rest on the experts to whom the voters' orders should be transmitted by the duly-constituted legal authority—the government.

Doubtless these initial misunderstandings will be cleared up ere long—we in this country were by no means free from them in the early days.

In view of the difficulties to be overcome, Kenya's success in advance of other countries



# ACTIVE SERVICE



Poole and Parkstone Group Sandwich Board Parade

(Postcard reproductions may be obtained for 6d. each from Mr. A. H. Coles, Campaign Supervisor, Brent Tor, Alexandra Road, Parkstone, Dorset)

It pays to advertise, and Poole and Parkstone Group are finding encouraging signs of awakening interest in the Electoral Campaign on the part of householders as a direct result of the sandwich board parades. People are asking "When are you coming round our road?" and telling the campaigners on whom to call for certain signatures. This is sure evidence that the idea of the pledge is beginning to take hold of the people in the South of England, where thought moves slowly, if at all. It says a great deal for the determination and enthusiasm of the local workers when it is realised that these voluntary workers parade up and down the busy shopping streets every Friday. The collection of pledges goes ahead at the rate of one every five working minutes, slow perhaps to the minds of our Northern collectors, but then they do not know the Southern Englander.

Passing north to Liverpool, we find the Campaign roaring ahead. In one constituency 1,350 signatures fell to the lot of 24 workers in one evening. Here there were nearly 79 per cent. results from the houses

visited, and one pledge signed every two-and-a-half minutes.

Blackburn Group has been spending the winter recruiting workers. Last year when they ceased collection with four or five workers, they showed a very healthy total of results. Now they enter the field again with 19 actual workers, and all, especially the ladies, are real enthusiasts. Already the actual total of pledges has been doubled, but they aim at increasing the speed of collection, and we shall be expecting RESULTS from Blackburn within six months.

In the London district, Fulham continues steadily, and a lady from Switzerland is showing us how we should do our business. Mrs. Hatchell began campaigning only in March, and she gets in the pledges at the rate of 40 an hour, with a top score of 48. That is how it should be done, and Fulham will no doubt be having a number of enquiries from Northern England for the loan of their member if this continues.

Newcastle reports the garnering of another 1,650 pledge forms signed. T.H.S.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF MAJOR DOUGLAS

Copies of the photograph which appeared in SOCIAL CREDIT of November 29, 1935, can be supplied at the following prices:—

Postcards ..... 2d. each, postage ½d.  
Cabinet Size,  
unmounted ... 1s. each, postage 1½d.  
Cabinet Size,  
mounted ... 1s. 6d. each postage 2d.  
Quantities of one dozen or more post free.

Group Revenue Supervisors and overseas readers may obtain supplies for resale at a special discount of twenty-five per cent. on all orders for one dozen or more cabinets. Orders accompanied by remittances should be sent to SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

## TO EVERY READER

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

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

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

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

Will you try it?

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

Don't delay—fill in your name and address overleaf, fix a ½d. stamp, cut out and post in an unsealed envelope bearing ½d. stamp to "PUBLICITY," SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, STRAND, W.C.2.

## CAUSES OF WAR SMUGGLING IMPERILS LOANS

China has made a strong protest to Japan about extensive smuggling into North China. The Note demands the immediate cessation of Japanese interference with the Customs and also steps to check the activities of Japanese and Korean smugglers.

The inroads on Chinese Customs revenue resulting from smuggling alleged to be countenanced by Japan are causing serious concern to the British Government, according to Reuter's diplomatic correspondent. To avert the consequent menace to the Chinese foreign loan service, which is secured on this revenue, consultations are now taking place between Britain and the other interested Governments, notably, the United States and Germany.—"Belfast News-Letter," May 15.

## ALBERTA INTEREST REDUCTION

Edmonton, (Alberta), May 27.—The Premier, Mr. Aberhart, announced to-day that as from June 1 Alberta will pay 2½ per cent. interest on all securities instead of an average rate of 5 per cent.—Reuter.

We are sorry to see no provision made for the unfortunate individual holders of these securities, as advised by Major Douglas.

## PROPAGANDA BY POST

If you wish to arouse the interest of your friends, if you wish to increase the sales of SOCIAL CREDIT, make every letter you send a propaganda letter by sticking on a Slogan Stamp. Penny stamps in two colours cost only 2s. a sheet of 25, and 6d. stamps in three colours 12s. a sheet of 25. The 6d. stamps can be used as receipts for small donations collected from friends.

Revenue Supervisors can buy these stamps for resale at a big discount. Is your Group taking advantage of this?

Orders accompanied by remittances should be sent to SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

## Women and War

NO sane person wants war—least of all do women. But in this matter the people must look to themselves. We shall not be served by our rulers. Half the time we do not know what our Government is about and the other half the Government does not know what it is about—hence futility and chagrin all round.

Naturally it is upon the women that the onus of responsibility falls in any effort to avert war.

First, they are in a large majority and can, if they will, make their wishes felt. Secondly, in matters concerning their vital interests, women have a natural shrewdness and an acumen which is denied to man. A woman cannot stop to argue when she wants to act—therefore she would be no use at Geneva. She can, however, and does leap to conclusions astonishingly and embarrassingly right to the male mind—especially to the political kind which is not given to "leaping" in any direction!

Women, moreover, have no illusions about war. They see it exactly as it is—as sinful, silly waste. Yet, with everything to lose by inertia, they do not act!

The reason is not far to seek. It is a case of disillusionment—more deadening than defeat. At first, women, with the rest of us, placed their hopes for peace in the ethics of Geneva. After one prolonged and astonished gaze however, at the eccentric gambols of that talented body, women, as it were, withdrew and buried their heads in the sand. They feel now that they are helpless to prevent what is coming, and remind themselves that "sufficient unto the day" will be the evil thereof. In their last conjecture they are, of course, quite right, but in the first entirely wrong.

For it is at last recognised beyond all question that the basis of all wars is economic. Remove poverty and you remove the chief cause of war—be it civil or international strife. It is here that the power of the majority may be the deciding factor. If women will but pledge themselves to insist on the abolition of poverty by means of the pressure of their votes, then the Peace may take care of itself. It is not a question of first "welcome peace" and then "smiling plenty," but vice versa. When we can afford our ploughs and pruning hooks there will be an exit of the bayonets and bombs.

Again then, if the solution be such a simple one, why are women so coy of accepting it? The answer is, because it is so simple. A "cause," they feel, demands a crusade. Like Naaman of old they "seek some great thing to do" and cannot believe that the cure of our sickness lies all the while at home. It lies at home and it lies with them. Naaman, we know, at length, acted on the counsel of a woman with satisfactory results to himself.

"In delay there lies no plenty . . . Youth's a stuff will not endure."

E. G. KYNOCH

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Pass this paper on to a friend  
or leave it in a bus.

Correspondence.—Will correspondents kindly note that, while all communications receive attention and care according to their contents, replies will be deemed necessary only when specific questions or vital issues are raised.

An understanding and acceptance in good faith of this arrangement will be appreciated.

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

Attacks on Social Credit.—No attack on Social Credit should go unchallenged. In this column we propose to publish each week a notice of all attacks published so that as many of our readers as possible may answer them direct. We hope readers will bring to our notice, for record in this column, any attacks of which they become aware, giving the full name and date of the publication containing them.

Holidays in Jersey.—Readers visiting Jersey who are prepared to assist the local Group by speaking at meetings organised in the hotels and boarding-houses are asked to write to T. L. Mawson, Sea Breeze, La Moye, Jersey.

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# CORRESPONDENCE

## Morbidity? Futility?

Although it may be desirable to harrow people with the truth of what poverty and insecurity involve, I do suggest that you are inclined to overdo it in SOCIAL CREDIT. I find some people are not reading the paper—just glancing at it—because they are already dejected enough without being further depressed by tales of starvation, suicide and war.

They know all about these things, but they don't understand what to do about it.

London L. RENTON  
[We comment on this in a leader on page 130.—Ed.]

## Goodwill

May I express my pleasure at the articles by clergy you are putting in your paper? I am glad you are doing this. There are many more of the clergy heart and soul with you in your endeavour than perhaps you know. We are hindered and hampered in many ways, but we are all doing what we can. I preached a sermon at St. Paul's Cathedral, which was described as a Social Credit sermon in the heart of the City, and I am doing all I can to help in my own parish and neighbourhood. There are very many of us doing this and I think you are wise to make this known. The Church is not yet officially with you, but the clergy are not against; very far from that, and by publishing these articles you are setting forth the truth, and hitting the idea, so readily accepted by some, that the Church is against this glorious movement for the destruction of poverty.

I trust that your paper will take a high tone—stress the moral side. We have to touch people's hearts as well as their heads.

Hindhead (Rev.) E. GARTH IRELAND  
[We are grateful for this letter, but while we may touch people's hearts and heads, these are

powerless until the people's will is crystallised, i.e.: their inherent desires clearly and insistently demanded until fulfilled. Thus Major Douglas: "To say that it is a matter of life and death is to understate the case. If civilisation, not merely for this generation but for many generations to come, is to be saved for a tolerable existence, it requires primarily a tremendous amount of collective will, such as perhaps the world has never seen in peace time, although it is not unknown in times of war. If this collective will can be mobilised in times of so-called peace as it has been mobilised in times of war, nothing can resist it. The highest manifestation of human will is that of martyrs—they subordinated heart and head to will. We have to induce, in people collectively, that will, a little in each to make a mighty united whole. It is to this end we ask all to help.—Ed.]

## Circulation

I am sorry to read the suggestion you publish that "everyone interested (should) make it a practice never to pass a newsagent without asking for a copy of the current issue" (of SOCIAL CREDIT) because I believe that such a method would in the long run do much more harm than good.

This method of trying to create custom (under a form of false pretence) is an old "gag" which experienced "men of the road" have told me is considered of a very low order indeed.

I am in close contact with several wholesale newsagents who tell me that the trade here would discountenance such a method.

Some while ago I personally inserted a number of small advertisements for a new weekly journal which I then had a great deal of enthusiasm for. I would suggest that such a method would be of a far more honest character than the canvassing of shopkeepers for an article (however good it may be) which the individual has no intention of purchasing personally in each case.

Glasgow R. ERNEST WAY  
[We agree.—Ed.]

## THE PRICE

*This poem is not nice, but at the same time it is a great deal nicer than that which it depicts. We have the men, the materials, the skill and the power to build a safe and efficient road system, but it is said that we cannot "afford" something that is created out of ink and paper by the banks. Meanwhile this is the price that we pay. How long are you going to let it go on?*

I WALKED along the pavement, dreaming, The roar of traffic surging through my ears,

Not penetrating to my mind. Suddenly a screech, of brakes, I think, A roaring blue and silver car Flashing obliquely along the pavement beside me.

A jolt. It stopped. Some soft brown object lay beside my foot, A hat, a small girl's hat. I jerked around. A strip of cloth Fluttered on the mudguard of the car. Behind, upon the centre of the road, A tattered heap—

Two black-stockinged legs splayed out, And a brown head Lying in a widening splash of scarlet. And as I watched, a man Ran from the other side of the road, Seized on the tattered clothes, And bore it, streaming blood, head hanging limp.

On to the pavement beside me. There we stood and looked. There was nothing to do. Someone had gone for the police. Nurses, a doctor, were coming out of the Nursing Home

On the other side of the road, And on the pavement In another pool of blood, Flowing down sluggishly into the gutter, Lay that which had been a little girl About seven years old.

One cheek was scarlet and the other waxen, The mouth gaped and half-closed eyelids showed

The whites of eyes beneath. A little boy, her brother, standing by, White faced and staring, Suddenly choked, and ran off As fast as his small legs would carry him Home to tell his mother, And I too pushed my way Out through the growing circle of people And went home To dinner. C.G.D.

## More Dangerous Than Armies

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. Already they have raised up a monied aristocracy that has set the Government at defiance. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs—Thomas Jefferson.

## FOR THE NEW READER

1. There is obvious and acute poverty.
  2. Most people have less than they want.
  3. There is a general feeling of fear and insecurity. Individuals fear the loss of their jobs, which means the loss of their incomes. Businesses fear the loss or shrinkage of their markets, which means the loss or shrinkage of their incomes. Nations fear one another. The whole world fears war.
  4. The shops are full of goods which the shopkeepers want to sell to the public who want them but cannot afford them.
  5. The factories are full of goods which the manufacturers want to sell to the shopkeepers.
  6. The transport undertakings, and all who provide service want to sell service.
  7. Each nation has so much goods and services that it strives to export to foreign markets.
  8. There are not enough buyers to provide the markets that nations, businesses or individuals need in order to get rid of their goods and services.
  9. The solution of all the troubles enumerated above lies in the hands of the voters of any democratic country.
  10. It is not to argue about causes, remedies, parties or persons, but to demand, clearly and unambiguously an increased personal income for every individual—a National Dividend—to distribute what is now wasted or restricted.
  11. The demand must be made in such a way (see elector's demand on back page) that prices and taxes are not allowed to increase. No one need lose in this age of plenty.
  12. It is up to the people themselves to realise these obvious things, to put aside the futility of party politics, and to demand that the persons who are paid to represent them in Parliament shall urgently instruct (not beg) the Government to carry out the WILL OF THE PEOPLE.
- This is the simple means of solving The Great Universal Problem of Poverty in the Midst of Plenty, and the Root Cause of War. The time for action before the next great war is short; the matter is desperately urgent.

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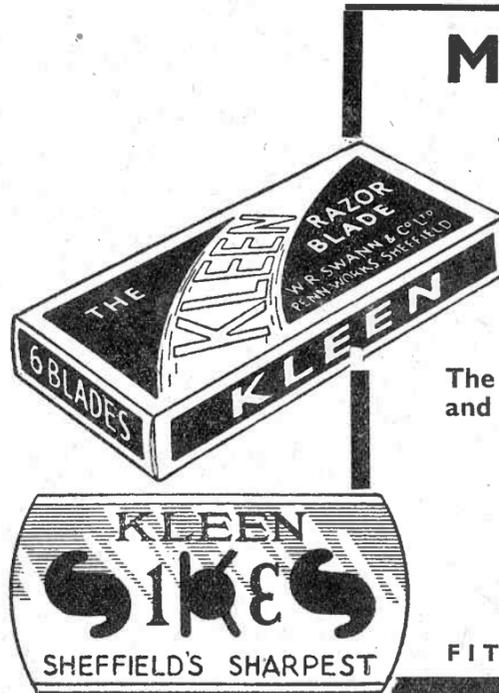
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- 1931 Morris Oxford Saloon, £30.
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- 1926 Rolls Royce 20 h.p. Barker Coupe, low pressure tyres, £195.
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Notices will be accepted in this column at 6d. a line, minimum three lines.

Belfast Douglas Social Credit Group
Group Headquarters: 72, Ann Street
Office Hours: 2.30 to 5.30 and 7 to 10 p.m.

Liverpool Social Credit Association
Meetings held in Reece's Cafe, 14, Castle Street,
first Friday each month, 7.45 p.m.

National Dividend Club
Electoral Campaign.

At all meetings time will be set aside for comments, discussion, questions and answers, for our mutual assistance in the Campaign.

There will be an open-air meeting at St. Leonard Street, Wilton Street, near Victoria Station, S.W.1., at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, June 11.

All enquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary: Capt. T. H. Story, 28, Ashburnham Gardens, Uppminster, Essex.

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Demand National Dividends

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For Recruiting.—Contains a space for address of local group or supervisor. For distribution at meetings, or delivery by post or from door to door after collecting signed demand forms.

Leaflet No. 5
Elector's Demand and Undertaking.—The instrument of the Electoral Campaign, in purple on orange or purple on white.

Leaflet No. 6
For Personal and Business Friends.—Not suitable for the house-to-house canvass, but for use in offices, factories, or by travellers, or at parties. Space for 24 signatures.

Leaflet No. 7
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Mrs. Cordial's Curtain Lectures

(With acknowledgments to the Shade of Douglas Jerrold)

MRS. C.: That you, John? (Unmistakable noises from below). Oh, it is. Well, don't forget to shut and bolt the door, as well as put the chain up—the last time you only put the chain up. (Mr. C. enters quietly). So here you are. By the way, did you switch the hall light off? I bet you did. You go down again and make sure. The last time I turned it off myself—in the morning.

You're late to-night. You've been to the club? I bet you have—now put that rug straight, you've kicked it into a heap.

What's that? You've been talking about the international situation? You would. What do you know about it, anyway? Newspapers? Yeah? What do you get from them but odd scraps of what they think you ought to know. What does it matter what you think of the international situation?

You look after your situation at home, my lad, and don't get big ideas. What's the matter with talking about England, the finest country in the world—as the school-kid said when she shocked the big-wigs.

Newspapers? Urcha! I looked through the newspaper this morning. I'm no high-brow, but I couldn't find any sense in it. More than half of it was advertisements either of things we don't want, or of things we do want and haven't got the money to buy. And what we want most of all, such

as a well-built comfortable house that you can look at without wanting to scream—they don't sell.

As for the news — nothing but trouble. but you'll look through the paper from end to end without finding the reason why. They know it, but they daren't print it.

What do I know about the international situation? Well, more than you do, my lad, and I'll prove it.

I'll tell you something to think about and to sleep on, too—it's the biggest fact in the world—but you won't find it in the newspapers. It's this: There's tons of everything in this world for everybody in it, but the powers that be won't allow it to be distributed. No, sir, they won't even allow it to be given away—they'll chuck it away sooner, and they do, too. And what's more, they deliberately fly in the face of Providence and stop food being grown and goods being made, so that they will be able to say in time that there isn't enough for everybody, and so keep the prices up.

What's that? Sounds balmy? I'll say it's balmy—it's Bedlam let loose. And, listen, every country in the world's doing that and the people who don't like it get dictators put over them to force them to like it.

Well, John, that's the international situation, and you can put it in your pipe and smoke it. Good night.

(Mr. Cordial very thoughtfully creeps into bed). J.A.S.

CALIFORNIA WAKES UP



CALIFORNIA'S TAX BILL 1935
\$ 550,000,000
MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1935
\$ 257,000,000

Cartoon prepared by the California State Chamber of Commerce

CALIFORNIA is an outstanding mining and petroleum state.

Last year the output of its mines and oil fields totalled \$257,000,000—all new wealth wrested from the earth.

But that vast sum was considerably less than half of California's tax bill for the year, which amounted to \$550,000,000. In other words, all the revenue from all the state's mines and oil fields for the entire year wouldn't pay the taxes for six months.

To carry the comparison further, California leads all the states in the Union in the

production of gold. Its gold yield last year was the highest in value since 1862, approximating \$30,429,000. Yet \$30,429,000, the greatest gold revenue in 73 years, would have been only a drop in the bucket for the tax collectors.

In fact, on the basis of the 1935 figures, taxes would eat up in less than four years all the gold that California has produced in the 88 years since James W. Marshall precipitated "the days of gold" by discovering nuggets at Sutter's Mill—and that total is just short of two billion dollars.—"P.G. and E. Progress," May.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

BELOW is the form Parliamentary electors are being asked to sign. Please read it carefully, sign (if you have not done so already) and send it (1/2d. stamp) to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Volunteers to help in the Campaign are wanted.

We Will Abolish Poverty
Elector's Demand and Undertaking

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

Signed.....

Address .....

(Signatures will be treated confidentially)

What to Read

The Works of Major C. H. Douglas

- Economic Democracy (4th Edition) 1934) ... 3s. 6d.
The original statement of the philosophy and proposals of Major Douglas.
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One of these two books is essential for the serious student.
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