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For Political and Economic Democracy

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Weekly Twopence

Alberta : Crisis

Is Mr. Aberhart preparing to charge an entrenched enemy?

ALBERTAN DEMOCRACY MAY YET TAKE A HAND

STEP by step Mr. Aberhart, Alberta's so-called "Social Credit" premier, has been forced by the steady pressure of public demand towards the carrying out of his election promises.

He is now faced with the necessity of undertaking a task which would have been difficult enough of achievement in the first flush of popular victory at the polls, but which has now become probably impossible as a result of ill-conceived measures which have played into the hands of the financial power and alienated a large section of his followers.

It should be clearly recognised that the sanctions which Mr. Aberhart possessed upon his spectacular election were quite unusual.

In the first place, while not wholly unexpected, the extent of his victory came as an unpleasant surprise to the financial interests, and they had not had sufficient time to organise against energetic action.

He possessed further sanctions in the well-known disposition of the Western Canadian and American to "try anything once."

He has lost this latter sanction by applying the label "Social Credit" to a number of measures which were not Social Credit and which were not sufficiently attractive to the general population.

He has lost a further sanction by dealing with provincial loans in such a manner that, while the holders were penalised, the general population was not benefited, since the only result was a nearer approach to a balanced budget in which they were not interested.

The result of this situation is that trench warfare is more important now than ever it was. But Mr. Aberhart disdains trench warfare at a time when the enemy has become thoroughly entrenched, and he is apparently falling into exactly the trap which the financiers have laid for him.

The proper course for the democracy of Alberta is to exercise their prerogative of choosing their executives, while in no way relenting from their determination to get results.

Further comment on a situation, which is greatly dependent on decisions by the party caucus which will not be available before we go to press, is made editorially on page two.

MR. ABERHART AND THE FACTS

Last week's editorial in SOCIAL CREDIT was reproduced in Canadian papers, and has elicited a characteristic reply from Mr. Aberhart in which he complained of what he described as "The dog in the manger tactics of Major Douglas."

He hoped, he said, that Social Crediters in Great Britain and elsewhere would realise how insincere Major Douglas was.

Major Douglas, he asserted, had refused the chance of bringing in Social Credit in Alberta, and moreover lacked all comprehension of provincial and constitutional authority. No comment need be made as to the manner of the above statement. As to facts, the four following quotations, from many available, speak for themselves.

In our editorial last week we emphasised this passage:

"Further, since Mr. Aberhart refused the advice of Major Douglas, and the assistance of a thoroughly qualified substitute, to pilot the action to be based on their advice through its preliminary difficulties, it is completely reasonable both for Mr. Aberhart to take other advice and for anyone who feels that, in these circumstances, they can be useful to offer it."

The following telegram was sent by Major

Alberta The Key

"**A**T the outset it must again be emphasised that a distinction should be drawn between any particular plan for the utilisation of the public credit when control of it has been acquired and a strategy for acquiring the power to deal with the public credit.

"If this distinction be understood it will be realised that plans for dealing with the public credit are wholly premature while the power to deal with it has not been attained."

(Extract from First Interim Report, dated May, 1935, on the possibilities of the application of Social Credit Plans to the Province of Alberta, made by Major C. H. Douglas as Chief Reconstruction Adviser to the Alberta Government.)

Douglas to Mr. Aberhart on March 13, 1936, a few days before *The Times* stated that a letter breaking off negotiations had been sent from Alberta. Major Douglas never received this letter, if it was in fact sent, and technically is still Chief Reconstruction Adviser to the Government.

"All action taken to strengthen your Social Credit hand propose should send qualified colleague assist implement suggestions already made followed by visit from me initial cost expense basis strongly advise acceptance.—Douglas."

The next two quotations go back to 1935. The decision of the Alberta Government to call Robert J. Magor, of Montreal, noted actuary and engineer, to Edmonton to confer in the capacity of Financial and Economic Adviser was announced today by Premier Aberhart following a Cabinet meeting.

"Mr. Magor has not been engaged by the Government, he is coming here to confer with us in order to clear up the financial situation left by the old government," said the Premier.

Premier Aberhart stated he expects Mr. Magor to arrive here within a week. It was necessary for that action to be taken as the first step in the introduction of Social Credit.

The Premier also stated that the preliminary work after consultation with Mr. Magor was necessary before Major C. H. Douglas, British Economist and Reconstruction Adviser to the Government, comes here to assist in preparing a Social Credit

Plan.—From "The Citizen," Ottawa, October 9, 1935.

Declaring that R. J. Magor, Adviser to the New Alberta Government, "placed Newfoundland on its feet for Great Britain," Premier Aberhart in a Sunday broadcast spoke in praise of the Montreal actuary and Vice-President of the Canadian Chamber in connection with the oldest Dominion.

"It is our intention," said the Premier, "to make Alberta Bonds 'gilt edged.' The Budget will be balanced by the cutting out of the orgy of spending of the former government.

"We cannot begin Social Credit for a while yet," he stated. "We cannot afford to have Douglas here idle until we have cleared away the debris."

R. J. Magor, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and prominent figure in Eastern, commercial and banking circles, has been engaged as Adviser by the Alberta Government for six months. He will accompany Premier Aberhart to the Provincial Federation at Ottawa.—From "The United Farmer," November 13, 1935.

THE NEWS IN THE PRESS

"Mr. Aberhart in Alberta is discredited. Social Credit is being recognised as a foolish experiment, and even his own following is rapidly breaking up and turning against him."

So said the *Evening Standard* on the Tuesday after Christmas—a fine flourish of inaccuracy to start the ball rolling.

A week later *The Times* reported Mr. Aberhart as facing drastic legislation recommended by members of his cabinet, including printing Alberta money, and also the resignation of the Minister of Mines, Mr. Ross (who had never been in sympathy with Social Credit).

Mr. Aberhart, according to *The Times* Edmonton correspondent, reiterated that he had "no intention of drastic radical legislation to knock the foundation from under finance."

AN INTERVIEW WITH ABERHART

Only a month ago the financial editor of the *Toronto Star* wrote:

"The last time we talked to Mr. Aberhart was just after he had been elected. He was full of hope for the co-operation of the banks and the financial interests in the economic experiment he was planning . . .

"He is still, he declares, hopeful and confident so far as his experiment is concerned, but of the banks and the financial interests he says 'the fight is on' . . .

"Pressed to explain how he proposed to meet the problem of getting Alberta credit accepted outside of the province by wholesalers and manufacturers, he declined to discuss the question for publication. 'Why should I,' he said, 'permit all our moves to be made public? It will only give our enemies a chance to block them.'"

The wisdom of Major C. H. Douglas, in those wonderful letters to Mr. Aberhart, is beginning to emerge in the utterances of his unwilling pupil, according to the passages we have italicised.

SMILE ON THE FACE OF "THE TIMES"

On Friday, January 8, a leading article appeared in *The Times* which demonstrated how very well informed that journal is about the situation in Alberta—whatever complaints we may have to make of its handling of that information.

Describing the pressure for results which Mr. Aberhart is feeling, it remarked that "the insuperable difficulty" is that money and currency is controlled by the Dominion, not the province.

"Mr. Aberhart," it remarks in a significant

DON'T TELL YOUR BANKER!

The Lord Mayor's Shillings and Pence Fund Appeal is a gigantic Tax Trap.

Don't be Deceived.

Spend your Shillings and Pence Yourself.

Don't Hand Them Over to Others. They may mean well, but they do you ill.

It's your money they want.

Playing Fields can be provided without sacrifice from you or anyone else. That would be a real memorial to King George V.

SEE OUR LEADING ARTICLE ON PAGE 4

sentence, "recognising this difficulty, marked time for over a year."

After pointing out that Mr. Aberhart has been experimenting with "disappearing money," after the Wörgl model (anything but Social Credit) it commented that the Dominion Government had not interfered to prevent "this usurpation of their authority" and suggested that this was "giving him rope."

The last suggestion may be compared with the conclusion of *The Times* Edmonton correspondent's despatch on New Year's day, reporting the activities of Mr. John Hargrave.

"The new plan," it says, "is described as 100 per cent. Douglas theory. As its recommendations are likely to envisage the complete economic independence of Alberta . . . there are doubts whether the Social Credit Party caucus will accept it all. Even if it does, the Dominion Government are certain to disallow portions . . ."

FROM THE "FINANCIAL TIMES"

"The question of putting Social Credit into effect during the forthcoming Session is now before the members of the Alberta Legislature who are in caucus here today and tomorrow [January 11 and 12].

"The Session opens on February 25. Meanwhile the Alberta Cabinet, under the leadership of Mr. Aberhart, the Social Credit Premier, has drafted a plan containing eleven points claimed to embody the financial theories of Major Douglas.

"Referring to the plan yesterday, Mr. Aberhart said 'We have at last come to the place where we propose to take our first definite step towards the establishment of Social Credit principles.'"

PREPARING FOR ACTION

Finally, we learn that there is to be a Royal Commission on the Western Provinces—preliminaries reminiscent of the reduction of Newfoundland from Dominion status.

WHERE WE STAND

We have gone into this matter at perhaps greater detail than it deserves, because we wish to make it clear that, beyond everything else in connection with Alberta we desire the institution of a Social Credit Society.

We have made no secret of the fact, however, that the golden opportunity presented by the past eighteen months has not been used as it could have been used.

The responsibility for this lies neither with the principles of Social Credit, nor with its leading exponents. And so far as is possible, we shall do everything to see that the prospects of Social Credit elsewhere are not prejudiced by bad leadership in any locality.

WORDS TO THE WISE

The Situation in Alberta

MOST conflicting reports, as might be expected, are reaching this country regarding the situation in Alberta.

We have been informed by Mr. Colin Hurry, managing director of the Carlton Publicity Co., with which Mr. John Hargrave is connected, that Mr. Hargrave (a) had been asked to produce a plan and had refused; (b) had been asked to look over "their" plan and agreed to do so without responsibility; (c) had no intention to pose as a technician.

It will be remembered that it was stated by *The Times* that Mr. Hargrave had been "summoned here by Mr. Halliday Thompson, the self-described ambassador at large of English Social Crediters."

Presumably the plan referred to as "their" plan is that of Mr. W. W. Cross, Mr. W. A. Fallow, Mr. L. Maynard, all the members of the cabinet, Mr. R. E. Ansley and the Secretary of the Alberta Social Credit League—not to be confused with the "Douglas Social Credit League."

The Times refers to Mr. Hargrave as technical adviser to the former League.

The published accounts of the actual plan are so conflicting that we have arranged to have details of it cabled, and will refer to it more fully next week.

In order to obtain a just appreciation of this situation it is essential to dismiss any weight which may be the result of the use of the word "Social Credit Government" and to pay attention only to results.

Looked at from this point of view it is beyond question that the individual in Alberta has so far been penalised rather than benefited by the change of Government from the much-abused U.F.A., senile as no doubt that Government was.

Taxes have been increased, restrictive legislation for which the Government has no mandate has been imposed, and the protection to the hopelessly overtaxed and mortgaged Albertan farmer and landowner has been decreased.

These results, beyond doubt, have been obtained by rush tactics on the part of financial interests, and not from want of any goodwill of inexperienced legislators.

It is quite beyond question that the first act of a Government devoted to the realisation of Social Credit ideals would be to reduce taxation, and to make sure that no individual was penalised by any confiscatory

measure, however hardly it might be desirable to press upon institutions, and upon those who carry out institutional functions.

It is also obvious that to leave this increased taxation unmitigated while superimposing upon it a so-called Social Credit plan provides exactly the situation which a banker would most heartily desire.

The immense danger which is involved in the situation is that the power of finance so far from having been weakened by such action as has been taken by the so-called Social Credit Government of Alberta, has been strengthened, and at the same time, if the information available is correct, it is proposed to challenge it with a plan which could only be successful if it weakened finance, and must otherwise be ineffective, abortive and discreditable.

As stated in Major Douglas's correspondence with Mr. Aberhart, if action is taken in connection with Social Credit matters which appear to be less wise than that which experience would dictate, it is our business to see that the discredit is localised.

We are writing this, admittedly, in advance of complete information on the matter.

But the fact that such information has not been provided before the matter reaches a critical stage seems to afford good ground for apprehension.

Retire, with Regrets

FORTY-TWO old miners, all over seventy, walked across the yard at the Deep Navigation Colliery, Treharris, and handed in their lamps. They said "So long now" to the group of clean-faced men who filed past them on their way to the afternoon shift.

The little knot of men who had just come up had received their last wage packets—packets which some of them had been taking home regularly for more than half a century.

Younger men, some of whom have been waiting years for a job, are to take their places.

Fred Day, of Nelson, has worked there for fifty-three of his seventy-three years, and is as spritely as ever he was.

"Must give the young 'uns a chance, I suppose," he said, "although I could go on working for another ten years."

It is dangerous, criminal, to tell people in these days of plenty, that there is nobility

in working for subsistence. These men, nearing the close of their days, regret giving up their work, because their leisure hours will be blank and impoverished.

The new generation must learn the Social Credit philosophy; must demand the use of leisure for culture, the nation's plenty for their subsistence, the machine to do the work that they need not do.

Too Much Pocket Money

THE *News-Chronicle* thinks there is something to be said for the contention of the Lancashire schoolmaster that schoolboys' pocket money has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished. It says the worst result is not so much the waste of money spent nor the encouragement of spendthrift habits as the introduction at this early stage of life of the idea of wealth as a standard of individual value.

Having said so much, why not add that the best way to educate a boy in these ideals is to break the monopoly of credit, distribute the nation's wealth and bring to an end a state of affairs in which a man can only win more wealth by forcing others to do with less?

First Things First

WE congratulate the *Star* on its acute leading article on the broadcast call to religion by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Here is an extract:

"But while spectacular sins are the cult of a few unrepresentative sets, social injustice is widespread. It will be a pity if a morality crusade against a flock of butterflies is allowed to distract attention from such crying national evils as slums, unemployment, the underfeeding of children, the black misery of the Distressed Areas.

"In the past attacks on the 'sins of society' have sometimes been used to divert the moral indignation of men and women. We feel sure that the modern Church will not make this mistake. Churchmen of all faiths have furnished much of the dynamic force behind the drive for peace and social reform. They see that religion at its noblest touches every side of life.

"The infinite value of every human being is the central idea of Christianity, and the object of every social reformer and every lover of peace is to give his fellows a chance to give the best that is in them."

The Criminal Jam Maker

THE *Toronto Star* for November 19 reports the first prosecution under the Dominion marketing legislation. The defen-

dant, one Walter Hunt, jam manufacturer, was accused of selling jam at a price below that fixed by the jam marketing board. The accused pleaded guilty and was placed on suspended sentence.

If only all the food producers in Canada would follow the criminal example of Mr. Hunt, there would be less starvation in the country today!

Australia is Worth £7,000,000,000

Speaking in the Federal House at Canberra recently, Dr. Maloney, Member for Melbourne, drew attention to the tremendous wealth of Australia. Quoting various figures in support of his statement, he suggested that the total wealth of the country was some £7 thousand million, or about £1,000 for every person in the country.

"Old as I am," said Dr. Maloney, "I hope that I shall live to see dividends paid on that wealth, so that every person in this country may live in reasonable comfort without there being any necessity to pay old-age pensions."

We hope he will, but it is no use just hoping. If Dr. Maloney's constituents want National Dividends they must tell him so, and assure him of their support if he votes against every measure introduced in the House that is not directed to getting them what they want.

SCARCITY

If a band of travellers crosses the Sahara Desert with barely enough water, it must be rationed out to them justly.

PLENTY

The same band of travellers crossing a fresh water lake can each have as much to drink as he wants. The water does not have to be rationed out justly.

Today, when there is or could easily be plenty, people are being made to behave as if there were scarcity.

SEE OUR LEADING ARTICLE ON PAGE 4

TEACHERS are very busy just now. They hold educational conferences in January.

Perhaps someone can explain why teachers are sometimes ashamed of their profession? There are women who hate to admit that they earn their living in a school. They seem to be afraid of losing caste. Doctors or actresses do not feel thus.

Be this as it may, teaching is the woman's profession. Two out of every three teachers are women, and the proportion seems to be increasing. It is one of our most important jobs.

What is being said at the conferences? The men and women who will be England in twenty years hence are now in the hands of teachers—and this concerns us all.

The reports up to date are not encouraging. The speakers know, they cannot help knowing, that many things are wrong with the system under which they have to work, but they are bewildered, unable to see a way through the maze of difficulties.

Here are a few points from speeches:

There are still 39,000 untrained teachers, mostly working in rural districts and on very low pay.

There are still 4,000 classes each containing more than fifty children.

There are only seventy-eight recognised nursery schools in the country.

Even after September, 1939, only a small proportion of children will remain at school until the age of fifteen.

How easily all these abuses could be righted! For there is no physical obstacle in the way. We have plenty of material for

Mrs. Palmer:

EDUCATION THROTTLED BY OBSOLETE MONEY SYSTEM

building schools, plenty of people willing to train as teachers.

What prevents the raising of the school-leaving age by two or three years but an obsolete money system?

Dr. John Mackie, Rector of Leith Academy, says the health and fitness of nearly all of us could be made better, and there are far too many of the people whose physical condition is far from satisfactory.

As the first cause he would put lack of food and comfort; secondly, many children have no places to play in.

A third cause of ill-health is, he says, "the almost universal unhappiness, anxiety, and almost despair afflicting the modern world."

These are terrible words. They should be written in letters of fire.

To such a world are we leaving our children.

But fearful as are the results of poverty, and heavy as are the odds that have to be fought in lack of equipment and large classes, there is something that strikes an even more ominous note for the future.

Teachers are dissatisfied with the result of their work up to date, but they seem to have no clear idea whither they are going.

This is what Miss Agnes B. Muir has to say in her presidential address to the Educational Institute of Scotland:

"I am dissatisfied with education

because it seems somehow to be failing to enable great masses of the people to keep their souls alive under modern conditions, and not in any one social grade only . . .

"All our education is turning out masses of people who are satisfied with the fare provided (i.e., cinemas) who find pleasure in vulgarity, and know not the meaning of joy."

It might be argued that the commercialisation of art and leisure has something to do with our failure "to keep our souls alive."

But it is obvious that Miss Muir is deeply concerned about the results of present-day education.

Can it be that the profession as a whole has never yet got back to first principles, and decided what it is working for?

These questions have got to be answered, and very soon. Before long the power of choice will be taken away.

What is the aim of your education? Are you attempting to fit children into an economic system which you yourselves know to be wrong?

Or are you striving towards an all-round development which shall prepare them for freedom and responsibility?

Bound up with the answer is the explanation of that sense of failure and lack of

pride in their profession felt by so many teachers today.

I want to deal with this subject again next week.

Will teachers let me know what they think about it? I have already had one very helpful letter. Write soon, please!

A correspondent, Constance Taring, of Maldon, Essex, sends me the following news cutting:

Woman Sent to Jail at Seventy-Two

A seventy-two-year-old woman who did not disclose to the Public Assistance authority that she was earning half a crown a week went to prison for seven days in default of paying a fine of 50s. imposed on her yesterday at West London Police Court.

She comments thus:

Surely there is some horrible spell on us all that we can see such things done and make no sound. To anyone who can remember the battles fought for the suffrage, it is tragic and ludicrous. Today to earn 2s. 6d. a week. Shame. Why only 50s. fine, I wonder? Prison by all means; it is the only way to treat these cumberers of the earth, the aged poor.

The National Dividend Club is arranging a special meeting for women to be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 22, at the Milton Café, Essex Street, Strand. Miss de Castro will give an address.

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

She has wide experience in the Social Movement, and is an interesting and inspiring speaker. The Club extends a cordial invitation to every reader of the *Woman's Corner*.

Refreshments will be available.

THE 'MYSTERY' OF THE PARTY WAR CHESTS

"WHENCE DOES THE MONEY COME—
WHITHER DOES IT GO?"



HILAIRE BELLOC
and CECIL
CHESTERTON

25 years ago wrote
a damning indictment
of the party
system. SOCIAL
CREDIT is now
privileged to publish
it in serial form.
Every word seems
up to date as when
it was written.
SIXTH INSTALMENT
appears today.

IT is characteristic that the most important fact about English politics is the fact that nobody mentions.

The party organisations of which we have spoken are supported by means of two huge war-chests. Money is urgently needed at every point in the modern political game; and money is found.

Whence does that money come? Whither does it go? These are questions which cannot be answered with any certainty; it is our whole case that they cannot be so answered.

The Party Funds are secretly subscribed; they are secretly disbursed. No light is thrown upon their collection save that which the annual Honours List furnishes.

No light is thrown on their expenditure save that which the division list may supply. But, briefly, it may be said that they are subscribed by rich men who want some advantage, financial or social, from the Government, and that they are spent in paying the expenses of Members of Parliament—in other words, in corrupting the legislature.

The total amount so raised and spent must necessarily be a matter of conjecture. But there is no doubt that it must be enormous. Anyone who has had the good fortune to fight an election with the party organisation at his back knows that he has only to ask to have.

It is part of the game for the party organisers to proclaim themselves to be in a state of perennial penury—to declare that the raising of the funds was a matter of immense difficulty, and to issue elaborate bogus appeals to "working men" and others to give their mites to the cause.

As a matter of fact, there will never be any lack of funds for any party so long as each has its fair share of power and patronage and the supply of peerages and baronetcies is unchecked.

The funds are expended exactly as the Secret Service Funds of Walpole were expended—in buying votes. The affair is more delicately arranged than it was in Walpole's time.

Instead of paying Members of Parliament, after they are elected, to vote in accordance with the wishes of the Government, the governing gang take care that no one shall be elected a Member of Parliament who is not prepared so to vote.

This is certainly more decent, probably cheaper, and has the enormous advantage of eliminating the chance of an incorruptible member.

In principle it is the same thing. The effect of paying a man's election expenses out of a secret fund at the disposal of the party organisers is that the member becomes responsible not to his constituents, but to the caucus which pays him.

If he opposed some fad of the party organisers or their paymasters, however popular his attitude may be with the electors, the governing gang will find a way to get rid of him, either by the withdrawal of funds, by pressure on the local organisation, or, if all other methods fail, by running an official party candidate against him.

But what must especially be insisted on is this, that the very existence of this powerful engine for the corruption of Parliamentary representation is carefully kept secret from the mass of the people.

Not one man in thirty knows that there are such things as Party Funds; not one man in a hundred has the faintest idea of how they are raised and spent; not one man in a thousand realises that they are almost the most important factor in English party politics.

A deliberate reserve is observed on all sides concerning the whole object. The politicians do not want it ventilated. They love darkness rather than light—for a reason

mentioned in Scripture, but veiled impenetrably from the modern intellect.

THE ordinary method of replenishing the Party Funds is by the sale of peerages, baronetcies, knighthoods, and other honours in return for subscriptions. This traffic is notorious.

Everyone acquainted in the smallest degree with the inside of politics knows that there is a market for cabbages in Covent Garden; he could put his finger upon the very names of the men who have bought their "honours."

Yet the ordinary man is either ignorant of the truth or only darkly suspects it. And most of those who know about it are afraid to bring the facts to light by quoting names and instances, because the administration of our law of libel weighs the scales of justice heavily in favour of the rich, and because a particular case could only be proved if one were able to do—what one would not perhaps be allowed to do—to subpoena the party managers and demand that the party accounts should be brought into court.

Perhaps the best way, on the whole, to bring home to the average man the real nature of the scandal is for him to glance through the Honours List for any year and ask himself why any of the people mentioned therein were honoured.

THE sale of honours, including the sale of legislative power, is the ordinary method by which the Party Funds are replenished, but it is by no means the most socially mischievous method. Side by side with the traffic in honours there is a much more insidious traffic in policies.

Many rich men subscribe secretly to the Party Funds in order to get a "pull" or a measure of control over the machine which governs the country—some times to promote some private fad of their own, but more often simply to promote their commercial interests.

It is notorious that the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes did this on a large scale. Letters have been published which passed between him and the late Mr. Schnadhorst, then head of the Liberal Caucus.

Mr. Rhodes, than whom none knew men and methods better, offers sums running into tens of thousands to the Liberal Party Funds, but makes it a condition that Egypt shall remain under British government, and that a Liberal Ministry shall look with favourable eyes on his scheme for a Cape to Cairo railway.

It does not appear that he ever received in writing any definite promise, but Mr. Schnadhorst appears to have satisfied him.

Anyway, it is not denied (a) that the money was paid, and (b) that the Liberal Government did not evacuate Egypt, though Mr. Gladstone, who was supposed to lead the Liberal Party, had publicly declared himself in favour of evacuation.

We have nothing to say here about the desirability or undesirability of evacuating Egypt. That the evacuation of Egypt would have been disastrous we are not concerned to dispute.

But the solution of this question ought to be settled by statesmen on grounds of statesmanship, and not dictated by a single rich subscriber to the Party Funds.

For if a policy of which we may approve can be obtained by purchase, its negative is open to a higher bidder. As it was, Gladstone, though nominally leader, was at the mercy of Schnadhorst, and Schnadhorst was at the mercy of anyone who would give him money.

THINGS have undoubtedly got worse since these events, but the impenetrable darkness in which all such transactions are veiled makes it increasingly difficult to give specific instances.

In 1903 Dr. Rutherford Harris, the well-known South African financier, was contesting Dulwich at a bye-election in the Conservative interest. Being used to the franker

methods of young and vigorous communities he announced publicly that he had sent £10,000 to the Conservative Party Funds.

The candour of this announcement somewhat perturbed for a moment the placidity of British politics. But the commentary was yet to come. It came when a month or so afterwards a Conservative Government, acting against the best traditions of its party, acting against the most explicit expression of the popular will, acting against the advice of the best Imperialists, sanctioned the importation of Chinese coolies into the South African mines.

It is not to be supposed that they would have done this merely for Dr. Harris's £10,000. But there were certainly other South African mine-owners who were at once equally generous and more discreet.

It is further to be noted, as we have already observed, that the Liberal Party, though it won the election of 1906 almost entirely on the issue of Chinese Labour, refused to allow a division on this issue to take place, and entered into friendly negotiations with the mine-owners, negotiations which assured that the Chinese should not be returned until they had done their work in reducing the wages of the Kaffirs.

ANOTHER case in which the influence of rich subscribers to the Party Funds upon the policy of the party can be very distinctly traced is in connection with the perennial Drink Problem.

In no instance, perhaps, is it so clear that the talk about the "will of the people" deciding things is an elaborate piece of humbug. There are several possible policies in relation to the drink trade—municipalisation, for instance, and free trade—which the people are never allowed to hear of, much less to vote for.

The alternative of breaking the drink monopoly either by public ownership or by free private competition has never been put before the nation at all.

Why? Simply because the two political parties need money to conduct the sham-fight upon which their own prestige and salaries depend. The policy must therefore be one that will attract some particular section of the rich class.

The Conservative Party relies largely upon the subscriptions of wealthy brewers and distillers, who are generally the owners of tied houses.

The Liberal Party flings its net wider. Some of its subscribers are men who live by manufacturing non-alcoholic drinks. Their interest in the suppression of alcoholic drinks is obvious.

Others are interested in the grocery trade (whose organisation is closely connected with the party machinery), and live by selling alcoholic drinks retail.

The less public-houses there are, the more uncomfortable they are, the less hours they are open, the more restrictions are imposed on them, the more drink will these men sell.

Finally, the Liberal Caucus appeals to those rich men who have a fad for regulating the beverages of their neighbours, who do their best by means of their economic power to prohibit the sale of drink among their tenants or their employees, and who would gladly use political power to prohibit it everywhere else.

SO it comes about that, while a sane policy which would discourage drunkenness (especially the degraded kind of drunkenness characteristic of the slums, the true name of which is drugging), while allowing normal men to get good liquor under decent conditions, would undoubtedly command the support of the people, it is just the one thing that the people are never allowed to consider.

Their decision is only between the brewer and the cocoa-manufacturer. Not unnaturally, they usually prefer the brewer.

It must not be supposed that the Liberal politicians themselves are in the least degree

more teetotal than their Conservative opponents. Most of them have quite an adequate taste in alcohol.

But that the game may be carried on, money is needed. And the two organisations agree to appeal to different sections of the plutocracy.

Thus the paymasters of the politicians are in this sense more sincere than the politicians are. They do want something in the way of legislation or administration, while the politicians want nothing but their salaries. The effectiveness of the two is proportional to their sincerity.

THERE pervades the House of Commons a certain moral atmosphere conventionally called "the tone of the House."

All corporate bodies, a school, regiment, a household, present this phenomenon, and the House of Commons is no exception to the rule.

"The tone of the House" would of course be somewhat modified by a renewal of its personnel; it would be greatly modified by even a slight modification of its rules; it would not be the same were a different type of man chosen for its officers.

In the absence of any of these changes it continues, changing only slightly as men change, and the times.

It is the subject of deserved and widespread ridicule; men entering politics are warned by their experienced friends against suffering its influence.

It is not a good moral atmosphere; it is a stupid and rather degraded one, much lower than that of the House of Lords, for instance, and not to be compared with that of a good college or a good regiment.

But it does not render impossible decisive action; what renders that impossible, or rather very difficult, is the code of rules under which the House now debates; it is only very occasionally that some subject of definite national import can be brought up in the House of Commons, and a man must be either very lucky in the ballot or have some exceptional opportunity to compel the House of Commons to consider anything which the double machine does not want considered.

There is, however, only one way in which the "tone of the House" prevents action, and therefore supports the hypocritical nonsense of the professionals, and that is, that it tends to capture any man whose motive is not wholeheartedly a motive of achievement.

It is certainly an atmosphere in which it is much easier not to bother, and a man who partly wants reform, but partly also good fellowship, and a sense of ease in his surroundings, will find after a very few months that the proportion of his desire for reform to his other desires has sunk to zero.

But "the tone of the House" is purely negative, even here, and quite a few men sufficiently determined to destroy the Front Bench arrangements from within could do so; a dozen would be amply sufficient.*

No, "the tone of the House" has never proved sufficiently strong to prevent, on the rare occasions when such a thing was possible, a damaging attack upon the machine; that is prevented in a manner much more direct, namely, by the grip, through secret Party Funds, the control of elections, and the choice of candidates in the constituencies, held upon Parliament by the machine.

*It has often been suggested by those unacquainted with Westminster that the breakdown of the Labour Party and its absorption and digestion by the professional politicians was due to this influence of "the Tone of the House." The suggestion is plausible, but inaccurate. "The Tone of the House" certainly made the good speakers in the party much worse speakers than they might have become—for "the Tone of the House" is death to rhetoric; but the definite capitulation of the Labour men to the two Front Benches and the disappearance of the Labour Party as an active force was due to something far less subtle than any "Tone." It was due to a definite compact with the Executive by which places, advantage in moving motions, etc.—ultimately, perhaps, Cabinet rank—should be the price of compromise: the bargain was accepted.

SOCIAL CREDIT

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Shillings and Pence

NOT one village in ten in Great Britain owns its own playing field.

As a memorial to King George V, playing fields are proposed for children in slums and crowded streets to get the chance of a little joy in life.

But—there are conditions.

Although there is no necessity for any such sacrifice, it is suggested that we must all sacrifice something first. Otherwise—no playing fields, and slum children can go chase themselves round the blocks that are a noisome disgrace to this country.

The papers this week and next are to be full of ballyhoo to induce people to make sacrifices.

We are all being asked by the Lord Mayor of London to sacrifice the odd shillings and pence in our bank or Post Office savings accounts—if we are lucky enough to have one. Overdrafts are not excepted.

That means just so much less to spend on the things we want.

HOW, in the name of common sense, can going short of the things that exist in abundance help to turn land into playing fields?

There is no shortage of land.

There is no shortage of labour, skill, or material to convert it into playing fields.

It is senseless for people to go short so that playing fields may be provided.

IF people respond to this deceptive appeal, they will merely hurt traders, besides depriving themselves. They will not buy that new pair of shoes, that gramophone record, that ticket for the pantomime, or what not with the odd shillings and pence so foolishly sacrificed. Thus the people who derive their incomes from selling these things will be made to suffer.

Everyone will suffer. And why? There is no good reason at all.

Do not be deceived by any juggling with figures, abstractions.

When you are told that money must be collected to pay for the playing fields, do not be taken in. Money is merely a ticket for something. It is not a real something that you can eat or wear. In the desert it would be useless.

What is the use of money except to make it easy to arrange for real things to be done—things that are wanted and are possible?

Taking away your tickets merely stops you using them for your own benefit and kills trade for your shopkeeper.

NO need for you to say where money tickets are to come from for playing fields. Leave it to those whose business it is to organise the ticket system. If they can't do such a simple thing, they are not fit for the job.

Don't let anyone take your money away from you under false pretences!

You can demand playing fields on the same terms as you can demand your share of such other things as are now being destroyed or restricted. Examine the form on the back page. It shows how to demand results so that you will know when you get them, and get them without sacrifices from anyone.

Taxes, rising prices and nation-wide charity drives are all stunts to induce or compel sacrifices. All are unnecessary and should be resisted.

THE best memorial to King George V would be playing fields provided, at no cost to the people, out of the overflowing plenty of the land.

Ask, and it shall be given you!

The appeal is made to the individual's sympathy for poor children. What better individual response could there be than to join in a mass demand to end unnecessary poverty for ever.

The game is with you.

P.E.P. "The crop of Boards—in actuality, Soviets—which has arisen in the past few years, forms a new Octopus of Tyranny"

PLAN MANIA

THE year 1930 marked what was probably the greatest glut of commodities the world had ever known. The Douglas diagnosis of the economic disease again proved true. The bottom fell out of the market. The figures of the registered unemployed surged in 1931 to nearly 3,000,000.

In such a setting the new disease of Planitis began to spread rapidly—from a central source in London.

A self-appointed committee with a chairman from the Bank of England (Sir Basil Blackett) had been sending out secret circulars for some time. This body of planners called itself "Political and Economic Planning."

In the atmosphere of bewilderment pervading the economic body during such an unprecedented crisis, "planning" carried with it a designed smoke-screen of sweet reasonableness.

Without actually saying so, the ideas radiated from P.E.P. implied that the observable chaos everywhere was due to a general haphazard do-as-you-like sort of policy in the fields of production; in other words, the remedy for the existing order was to fore-plan, and to plan armed with power.

After the death of Blackett as the result of an accident in Germany, the chair of P.E.P. was taken by Mr. Israel Moses Sieff, Vice-President of the British Zionist society, and a director of Marks and Spencers stores. Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, M.P., was at this time Organising Secretary.

Others associated with the P.E.P. in various ways have been the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, Baron May, Daniel Neal, Lord Melchett, Lord Eustace Percy, Sir Robert Horne, Sir Henry Strakosh, Sir Arthur Salter, Sir George Schuster, and Mr. Malcolm MacDonald.

G. D. H. Cole and F. Hodges have also been mentioned as in touch with P.E.P.



The fundamental principle of the "plans" amounts to the great heresy of elevating corporations or institutions above individuals (except those appointed as dictators of the institutions, of course). Secondly, the plans are all planned to make any resistance of the victims ineffective as well as illegal.

Thirdly, the objective of the plans can be discovered to be utterly destructive of every form of individual freedom, substituting the trusts, the institutions and corporations as the new abstract seats of power for which man and even his representatives in Parliament exist.

In one of the earliest private circulars it was stated that complete freedom for consumers is not desirable. Regarding distribution, the grid system was held up as a model; and similar methods were advocated for agriculture via the device of Marketing Boards.

"The waste involved in the 500,000 or more retail shops . . . cannot be allowed to continue to block the flow of goods from producer to consumer."

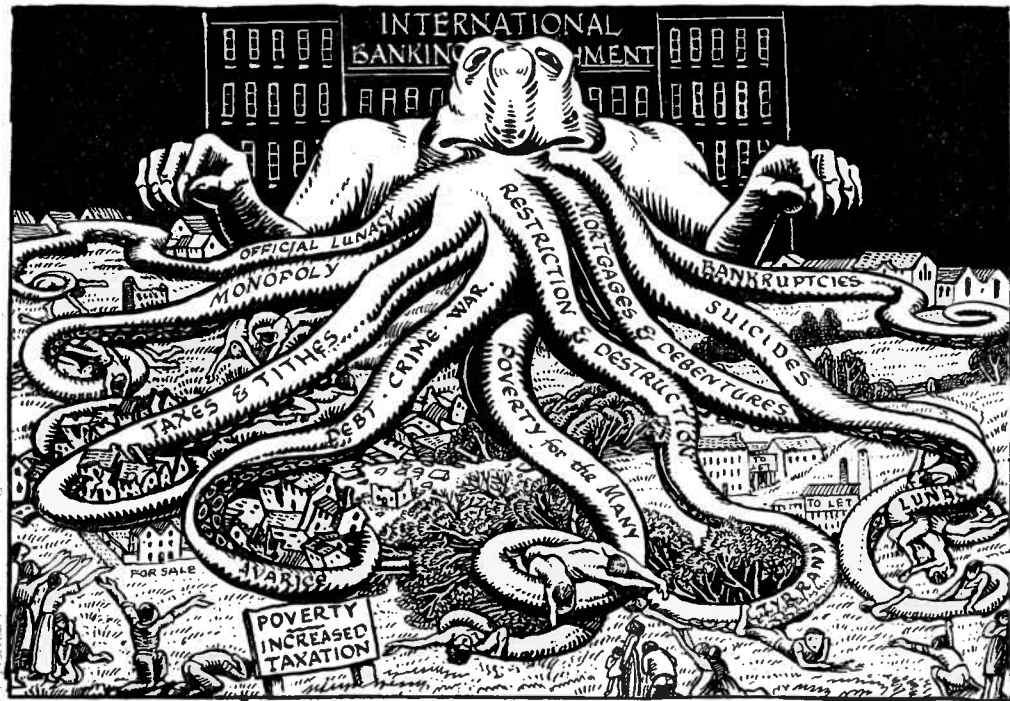
Note the subtle capitalisation of the consumer against the producer here—to the ultimate undoing of both.



The planners advocated "Statutory Corporations, Public Utility Bodies and Land Trusts" on the grounds that "planned economy must clearly involve drastic inroads upon the rights of individual ownership of land." Also "there are real difficulties in leaving him [the individual] free to invest his savings in any way he chooses."

The plans included a National Council for Agriculture, a National Council for Industry, a National Council for Coal Mining, a National Council for Transport, and so on, all to be "statutory bodies with considerable powers of self-government, including powers of compulsions within the provinces with which they are concerned."

Here is the virus with which the bodies



politic and economic were to be inoculated—with glittering prizes for any careerist willing to hire out and wield a sharp intellectual, subtle sword!

Meanwhile the epidemic of Planitis was spreading. P.E.P. issued its private journal "Planning" from 1933 onwards, in which appeared official statistics only accessible in highly confidential civil service archives.

A group of "Young Conservatives" appeared in the House of Commons as energetic supporters of Planning. This group expressed itself in "Planning for Employment" published by Macmillan, the introduction to which was signed by Lord Eustace Percy, Sir Geoffrey Ellis, eleven other Conservative Members of Parliament, and by Mr. Kenneth Lindsay (a Nat. Lab. Member of Parliament).

By George Hickling

Lord Eustace Percy wrote a book himself called "Government in Transition."

Next year, 1934, The Industrial Re-organisation League came into existence, its purpose being to convert industrialists to the Plan.

This League promoted Lord Melchett's Industrial Re-organisation Bill, which was for the time being defeated, and has fought independent individuals and firms in the cotton spinning and coal mining industry. The chairman of this League was Mr. Harold Macmillan, the vice-chairman Lord Melchett, and other officers included Sir Robert Horne and Mr. I. M. Sieff.

The League co-operated with The League of Industry supported by Frank Hodges, who was at this time a director of the National Fuel and Power Committee, a member of the Electricity Supply Board, chairman of four companies, as well as a director of the Securities Management Trust, controlled by the Bank of England. Lord Nuffield was induced to associate himself with this League.



Meantime, another group of Planners broke out, describing itself as the Liberty and Democratic Leadership, organised by Mr. Barratt Brown, principal of Ruskin College, Oxford. Its manifesto (containing the virus) was signed by 149 individuals.

In July, 1934, this group came out with a second manifesto advocating "the creation of public corporations to conduct public services, and the setting up of economic and industrial boards of control, responsive to public authority."

Next year in June, 1935, this group, located in a seat of learning, brought out a book called "The Next Five Years." Three of the drafting committee of this book were members of P.E.P. The book was signed by 152 persons, including leading planners, and trade union representatives, together with a few socialists.

Members of Parliament who signed this book included ten Conservatives, five Liberals, one National Labour, one Independent, together with the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Birmingham and Southwark, and ten other leaders of the Church!

Next year, 1936, these promoters formed the "Next Five Years Group" with the Archbishop of York as President! Viscount Cecil became associated. The offices of this group are at the same address as that of the Industrial Reorganisation League. The official journal "The New Outlook" is edited by a Mr. Henry Brinton, who also edits the "League of Nations Quarterly."

In the year 1935, whilst the virus was being successfully inoculated into the church, the trade unions, and the Labour Party, the League of Nations Union held a three-day conference on social and economic planning in February. Amongst the speakers were Lord Eustace Percy, Mr. Harold Macmillan, Lord Passfield, Mr. Maisky (the Soviet Ambassador) and Viscountess Astor.

Five months later, July, 1935, at a council convened by the Federation of British Industries at the Central Hall, Westminster, of the Sixth International Congress of Scientific Management, presiding among others were Lord Eustace Percy and Mr. Harold Macmillan.

In the first half of 1936 the Cotton Spinning Industry Act was passed (the "Scrap the Spindles Bill"), and on June 6 the following item appeared in the *Daily Herald*:

Three men, who have been given by Act of Parliament £2,000,000 to spend, will meet on Monday, in Manchester, to discuss their task of destroying or sealing 10,000,000 spindles . . . None of the scrapped machinery will ever be used again in the production of cotton.



In social services P.E.P. stands for compulsion—and more bureaucracy. In education, it admits no parental rights or responsibilities.

P.E.P. has planned for the navy, army, air force and police, and in June, 1935, the Secretary was appointed Civil Lord of the Admiralty. The same month Lord Eustace Percy was promoted Minister without Portfolio.

Since then one of the signatories of "The Next Five Years" has become Solicitor-General, and Mr. W. S. Morrison, another adherent of P.E.P., became Financial Secretary to the Treasury, later succeeded Elliot as Minister of Agriculture, and is already being mentioned as a possible successor to Neville Chamberlain on the retirement of Baldwin!

The crop of boards (which are in actuality Soviets) which has arisen in the past few years, based on principles described by the Lord Chief Justice as the very reverse of constitutional law, forming, as it does, a new octopus of tyranny, would be unbelievable if it hadn't happened.

ROADS

Page of Problems

HOUSING

BETTER ROADS ONLY WAY TO END ROAD TOLL

Bad Roads Cause Four of Every Five Fatal Crashes

By G. T. BENNETT, Oxford County Surveyor

FOUR out of every five of the fatal road accidents which occur in Oxfordshire would not happen were the roads designed and constructed on the ideal lines recommended by the Ministry of Transport. More than two out of every four would be prevented were "ordinary" road defects removed. These are the startling conclusions which have been arrived at as a result of an investigation of the fatal accidents which have taken place in the county in the past four years.

It is now nearly three years ago that the County Highways Committee, moved by the accident records which the Ministry of Transport had begun to publish in the Press to examine the accident statistics of Oxfordshire, discovered that the ratio of fatalities to population in the county was a high one.

This was found to be merely because the traffic was inordinately dense for such a sparsely-populated county, and the committee were satisfied that, in fact, the road death-rate measured in relation to the total volume of traffic was rather less than the average for the country.

But they were not thereby comforted. They desired to know whether there was any means by which the Council, as a highway authority, might contribute to a reduction of the accident rate in their area.

A preliminary investigation was made of two years' fatal accidents to see how far defective road conditions might have been a contributory cause.

Surprisingly, and contrary to the general expectation, it was revealed that in nearly 60 per cent. of cases a chief contributory cause had been a road defect such as a blind or unsuper-elevated bend, a direct or blind cross-road, a blind junction, the lack of a footpath, an unduly narrow carriage-way, or similar undesirable feature.

More remarkable still, no fatal accident had occurred during the two-year period at any point where defects such as those named had been removed by previous road improvement.

It should be noted that the road defects which were discovered as being contributory to fatal accidents were essentially defects of "lay-out"; surface defects such as slippery or unduly rough roads—again contrary to general expectation—were found to be a negligible factor in accident causation.

Cost Prohibitive!

Now although such defects of road lay-out would each individually have been susceptible to cure by a comparatively "minor" improvement, the total cost of improving all the junctions, cross-roads, and bends on the county roads, and of providing footpaths and carriage-ways of adequate width everywhere, would have been prohibitive, having regard to the proportion of cost which the Council would have been required by Government to bear from rates. The Committee therefore at once searched for a means within their financial power of putting their newly-found knowledge or theory to the test.

On the facts before them it appeared that for a given expenditure of money the improvement of the junctions and cross-roads, and the super-elevation of severe bends on the rural sections of the five chief roads of the county—on which actually more than half of the total number of accidents were taking place—would be productive of the greatest reduction in the fatal accident rate.

The work was put in hand without delay, with the generous co-operation of the Ministry, who sanctioned a special high percentage grant towards a part of the scheme.

The number of road fatalities in Oxfordshire in 1935 was 52. With the close of December, the fatalities for 1936 total 29. After giving full allowance for the possible influence of chance in bringing about this welcome and substantial improvement in the position, the Council have still just reason for satisfaction.

The core of the problem, however, remains untouched. The real difficulty is that with Government rates of grant at their present

figure there is no prospect of the Council being able to proceed further with similar improvements such as would be calculated to ensure a continuing decline in the death rate.

The disease remains, even if its virulence has been checked. The cure is known, but the means of payment for treatment cannot be found—or at least it is not discoverable in the coffers of a sparsely populated rural district.

Ministry Figures

But in the light of what has been disclosed and accomplished, judge of the astonishment with which, at the beginning of 1936, the Oxfordshire authorities read, in a report by the Ministry of Transport on the fatal accidents throughout the country in 1935, that, from a collation of the answers of the police to a Ministry questionnaire, the number of accidents which had been adjudged as primarily due to "road conditions" was 44 out of a total of over 6,000 investigated, and that in only 214 cases (about 3 per cent.) were road conditions considered to have played any part whatsoever.

The difference between the figure of 3 per cent. obtained by the Ministry and 60 per cent. found in Oxfordshire was so remarkable that a further and more comprehensive investigation was undertaken in the county with the assistance of an officer specially appointed for the purpose.

This time four years' accidents (up to July 31, 1936) were taken, and in considering the circumstances of each accident the following questions were put and answered:

- (1) Does it appear that a contributory cause of this accident lay in the existence of an "ordinary" defect of lay-out, design or surface?
- (2) If no "ordinary" road defect were contributory, would the accident have nevertheless been prevented had the Ministry's own recommendations for the redesign of major roads on modern lines, with dual carriage-ways, cycle tracks and footpaths and by-passes to avoid populated areas, already been implemented?

In the result it was found that 59 per cent. of the accidents would have been prevented by the removal of ordinary road defects, and 78 per cent. by a realisation of the "ideal" scheme for dual carriage-ways, and so on.

What Are Defects?

The gulf between these figures and the 3 per cent. obtained by the Ministry is too great to be bridged, but there is a good reason for the difference. It is quite clear to one who has studied the method by which the Ministry's figures are obtained that they have, in effect, only asked the police to consider slippery roads and "blind corners" as road defects.

(Continued at foot of next column)

Millions Want Houses They Cannot Afford

BUILDERS COULD PROVIDE THEM

By Elizabeth Edwards

ACCORDING to the Report on the Overcrowding Survey in England and Wales, 341,551 families are overcrowded on the statutory definition, 283,844 would become so if a child were to pass its first or tenth birthday, and 623,429 more are on the border line.

The standard is a complicated one and by no means too stringent—even within its limits it is possible for acute overcrowding to occur—also some returns do not include houses in or to be included in slum clearance areas. So that urgency is apparent even in this understatement of the situation.

No arbitrary solution will be satisfactory, however, unless it takes into account all the factors driving people to live under such conditions, such as low rent in relation to income, nearness to work and so on.

The more obvious end of housing policies, which is to provide the population with enough accommodation of the sort it wants, has become distorted by the recent tendency to use building as an alternative to the manufacture of armaments to obtain economic security.

NOT FOR WORKERS

The two tendencies are at the present time completely opposed: the first is merely a technical question of building enough houses of the sort required, but the second necessarily leads to the production of the type of house most profitable to the builder.

The National Government has adopted the second point of view by repealing the subsidies on working class houses, and by encouraging speculative building through abolition of rent control of middle class houses in 1938.

It was estimated that only 10-15 per cent. of the houses built in the boom of 1934 were suitable for the lower-paid workers. Indeed, the National Housing Committee reported that the provision of such houses was not a commercial proposition.

When pressure from the public made it clear that these measures did not help the lower paid workers, the Housing Act of 1935 was passed.

This Act proposes to abate "overcrowding" by legislation, with no reference to the economic forces that have led to its existence. Overcrowding is defined, the subsidy reintroduced, the basis of compensation for land and property owners is altered, and after January 1, 1937, overcrowding is an offence if "suitable alternative accommodation" has been provided and refused.

"Suitable alternative accommodation" is defined as accommodation which, besides being large enough, has been certified by

the local authority to be suitable to the needs of the occupier as regards means, proximity to work, etc.

It is quite evident that tenants may not agree with the local authorities as to the suitable alternative accommodation, possibly involving extra rent or fares or both.

This is already so in some towns; the rent is higher than the tenant can afford, or the new house is too far away from work. There is no appeal against the decision of the local authorities.

In these cases either the family breaks up and lives in small groups, or the extra rent encroaches on a food allowance that is already small. Medical examinations in some of the Northern towns have shown that, undoubtedly for this cause, the health of the tenants of the new housing estates compared unfavourably with that of the slum-dwellers.

COMPENSATION

Before the 1935 Housing Bill was passed, propaganda was instituted by various Property Owners Associations to obtain more favourable compensation and considerable pressure to this effect was brought to bear.

The basis of compensation was made very much better for property owners, and it also operated in retrospect from December, 1934.

The immediate effect was a rise in land prices, even in cases where negotiations were already proceeding, so that all the subsidy provided was frequently swallowed up. The rent increased for the tenant, and the "suitability" decreased still further.

It is plain that the tenants cannot afford to pay more in rent or fares, and also that the provision of such accommodation at the low rent is not a paying proposition even for the local authorities.

The solution clearly lies in increasing the purchasing power of the consumer so that he can afford a rent at which builders can reasonably provide accommodation.

Most Accidents on Chief Traffic Arteries

Naturally, on that basis, they will prove the roads themselves to be nearly blameless. But if the Ministry recommend the realignment of all chief roads on modern lines, with adequate vertical and horizontal sight lines, the construction of by-passes to towns and villages and the segregation of opposing flows and types of traffic as essential features from the safety point of view, how are they able to claim that the absence of these essentials must not be taken into account when the causes of road accidents are under investigation?

Is it not obvious in any case that since most accidents occur on the chief traffic arteries, the segregation of opposing flows and types of traffic will virtually eliminate head-on collisions, and accidents from "cutting in," as well as collisions between motor vehicles and pedal cycles and a large proportion of those between motor vehicles and pedestrians, and, furthermore, that the number of accidents arising from these causes alone must, in all common sense, exceed 3 per cent. of the total?

The provision of these ideal roads—or, if you will, the new motorways which some would prefer—although calculated to save by far the greater part of the deaths on the roads, would be costly indeed. They would be costly to an extent out of all proportion to the resources of local authorities. Yet even today the Ministry are offering "extra" rates of grant for "dual carriageway" schemes

quite disproportionate to the extra expense to which the local authority would be put if they embarked on such an improvement.

The number of deaths on the road in 52 weeks of 1936 is 6,489, with over 30 times that number injured. This terrible loss is to a great extent avoidable by road improvement. Is not the situation worthy of thought?

Shall we fall back once again upon the threadbare argument that nearly all accidents are the fault of road users themselves?

But will the Government, by education and propaganda, ever perfect human nature? Is it not a more feasible proposition to perfect the roads?

On the average a motorist drives three and a half million miles before becoming involved in a fatal accident, or we may put it that only one driver in ten meets with a fatal accident in the whole of his driving life, and then he himself may not have been to blame. Does this argue crass carelessness or, on the whole, remarkable carefulness? Of course, drunkards and road hogs exist, but they are the smallest minority, and not five per cent. of the Oxfordshire accidents appear to be due to drunkenness or excessive speed.

The question tentatively asked above is worth repeating in plainer language:

Shall we instruct the engineers to perfect the roads or shall we attempt to perfect the nature of road users so that they become not only well meaning but at all times unerring in judgment? Here lies the choice, and there is no other. — Reprinted, by kind permission of the author, from the "Daily Telegraph."

PAGE FOR A QUIET MOMENT

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK FOR A LIVING

SO long as work is made a necessity—so long as work is obligatory—so long as work is the only means for securing the means to live—just so long work will be a bogey, a burden, a sorrow and distress.

Toil is the Adamic curse, the wages of sin. Man, as the evolved ape, discovered this means of transforming natural activity into a rod of iron for his own back; of making the "sweat of the brow" the sign manual of unwilling and undesirable labour.

What folly!
But how natural for an ape that has made only one step out of apehood.

But need we, as men, succumb to the mesmerism of archaic idiocies?

Time and thought, the accumulated knowledges, "the unearned increments of associations" in a thousand years, have placed Man in a position where today nine-tenths of the work that needs doing can be done without sweat.

It can be done by turning switches, by setting clocks, by counting up figures in books; there is, in fact, not enough of the sweat-producing sort to go round among the populations of the so-called civilised nations of the world.

There is an unemployment problem, so it is said, in these civilised parts of the world.

It is well called world, not the lovely earth, mark you, but where whirling movement has become hysterical, lunatic and licentious, and men are ever busy earning for themselves "the wages of sin" which are deaths.

There is still plenty to be done for the young and active-minded.

There is no need for the youth of these islands to grow the green mould of penniless idleness—neither is there the least need for a large percentage of human beings to work 8, 12, or 14 hours out of the 24, while others are starved to death for lack of the "wages" which "sin" has now tied up in cellars and doles out only as sacrifices to the "sweat of the brow" idolaters.

Invention and science—producing, and capable of producing ever more and yet more of necessities, nay, luxuries, of life—stand at the door and knock.

There is only one kind of man that keeps that door shut, barred and bolted; that man

is the financier, the money monopolist who worships the image of gold that was first set up in the time of the lunacy of Babylon.

The wages of that civilisation was death.

Are we of the 20th century going to accept the same idolatry as our religion, and to let gold, and the symbols that are made to represent gold be for us the wages of sin—death?

Who are the High Priests of this religion of finance, of gold and its image?

Are they not those who worship the power of gold in subtle silence, whose idol is ensconced in subterranean bank vaults, whose rites result in the death of many, not for blood, but for lack of a share in the spoils of finance?

Surely they are the direct descendants of those who assisted at the setting up of the golden image that immediately preceded the lunacy of Nebuchadnezzar and the fall of Babylon, "that great city," the "glory of the kingdoms," of the Chaldees.

Now, as then, their servitors wear golden and silver shackles that pass for wealth, and bedazzle and bewitch the unwise; their password is "secrecy," and their delight the sweat of the brow of others.

They can be known by their proud modesty, their mock humility and their relentless in breaking all the laws of the spirit of love in life.

Their predecessors never failed to kill the preachers of good news for the poor, the inaugurators of Sabbath Day rests for all, of release for captives.

History repeats itself. It has done so in cycles ever since time began to be measured in hours and paid for in coins or symbols of gold.

Wake up, Democrats!—"England, awake"! You are being taught—forced, to worship false gods, to bow in worship before the image of gold, to worship work and the sweat of the brow.

What folly!

The first image had feet of clay. These idolatries are always the work of men's "hands and brains" They are not immutable, natural, inevitable. They can be broken, changed, done away with.

But you must do it. The High Priests won't. Why should they despoil their own temple?

M. de Castro

These Things Shall Be!

WHEN our workhouses, casual wards, and prisons are empty!

When there are no children underfed!

When we have no suicides through financial worry!

When we have no Means Tests!

When we have no slums!

When we are free to buy and sell!

When consumption is the recognised objective of production!

When we are quit of the bankers' tax collectors!

When we have awakened from the spellbinders' trance!

When we have broken the fetters of financial debt!

When we have claimed our inheritance!

When we all get our National Dividend!

Then we shall see England merrie once again.

Then we shall become once again an adventurous people, leading all the world in the navigating of the newly-discovered ocean of human freedom.

Then our mechanics and engineers will have their ingenuity unleashed. A new and a better civilisation will arise

wherein the arts of peace and plenty will flourish to the music of happy hearts singing the hitherto unknown songs of free men.

THESE THINGS CAN AND SHALL BE.

It cannot be that, when the terrible crisis to which all things seem to be trending, is upon us, we shall find no reliable and truly directed leadership.

Every day, as the result of our efforts, a few more people are aroused to a sense of true direction, a demand for a result chosen unmistakably, wisely and well.

We are determined not only that POVERTY SHALL BE ENDED, but also that it shall be done under conditions that leave us free men!

The issue is joined! There can be no compromise with the enemy, however he may be disguised!

WHO'S WITH US?

If you are with us, don't wait until disaster is here, you must act to ensure the decision.

Exert your will in action, become a mobiliser of the common will which exists for a sufficiency of individual freedom!

Enrol as a Campaigner today, and get into action while there is yet time!

Frotti A Fable

THE BRITTONS AND MONTY JENKINS

ONCE there was a rather ignorant but nice family named Britton, and they were very, very rich, how rich no one knew, and least of all themselves, for they had been extremely poor until they came into an inheritance.

The joke was that they still lived in a poor way and thought of themselves as being very hard up; and this was entirely due to their butler, Montague Jenkins. Unfortunately for the Brittons, Jenkins went with the inheritance.

Now, Jenkins was a person of very cunning though low mentality; and as soon as the Brittons came to live at Plenty Castle he took over the reins of government and began to run the whole household, including the Brittons themselves.

You may think this odd, but as I said, at the beginning, they were not very well-informed people though quite nice and unsuspecting, and they thought it only right that they should be under the thumb of their butler.

So every week he would dole out almost enough margarine, condensed milk and scrap-end-of-neck to keep the family from absolute starvation.

To get even this they had to report to him every day and declare themselves "available for work."

If one of them went for a walk, he had to clock in and clock out; and Jenkins used to dock his food-ration if he stayed out too long.

Moreover, when young Percy Britton had worn all his clothes out, a potman was sent to rake over Mr. Britton's suits to see if he could spare one for his son, which annoyed him very much; and a scullery-maid searched Percy's room for something of his own that he could sell in order to pay the first instalment on a second-hand pair of trousers, and took away everything but the bed.

In this way Jenkins accomplished two things. First, he made the Brittons feel that it was wicked to enjoy their own property unless they were doing unnecessary work.

Then he put the father and sons against one another, and made the mother hate the daughter.

For Mr. and Mrs. Britton thought how much better off they would be without children to take their clothes away, and the younger ones felt that all would be well if only they had father's and mother's wardrobe.

Now, it so happened that the Britton's family solicitor, Mr. Freedom, came down to see them about their property just before Christmas; and when he saw what was going on, he could not help himself and burst out laughing.

"What are you laughing at?" asked Mr. Britton, indignantly; "it's no laughing matter, I can tell you. When you have a couple of rotten undutiful cads for sons, who take your clothes and everything you have, you'll laugh the other side of your face."

"It's father who keeps us out of work, the selfish fool, and grudges us the very clothes we wear!"

"Just one moment," Mr. Freedom interposed. "I won't ask you what you think the trouble is. You would take all day to tell

SCANDALOUS OMISSION

I was about to pop inside a village huckster's shop to buy some cigarettes when a notice above the doorway caught my eye. It ran something like this:

George A. Blank.

Licensed to sell tobacco.

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Licensed to retail milk.

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Licensed to keep a dog.

And graciously permitted to breathe English air. — "Midland Daily Telegraph."

me, and all talk at once; and even then we should be no wiser."

"But I'll tell you something. You are a rich family. I have documents here to prove that you have millions in your own right, to use as, when and upon what you please.

"No one can stop you. It is yours. Do you understand me? Yours absolutely."

The Brittons were dumb-founded. They stared at Mr. Freedom, unable to believe their ears.

"Furthermore," he went on, "butlers, footmen, maids and housekeepers are your servants, not your masters. All you have to do is to give them orders.

"If they won't obey, sack them and engage others who will. And for heaven's sake, show some guts and let's have no more nonsense about Jenkins."

I never heard whether the Brittons took his advice or not.

Announcements & Meetings

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

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

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

Gravesend. Readers in this district willing to form a Social Credit Group please write to Miss L. M. Green, Fort House, Gravesend.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Mr. G. Hickling, of the Social Credit Secretariat, will address a meeting of campaigners and members of Social Credit and United Democrats Group of Merseyside and District in the Sandon Music Rooms, Bluecoat Chambers, Liverpool, at 8 p.m. prompt, on Thursday, January 21. Subject: "The Sovereignty of the People." All inquiries welcomed. Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, Liverpool. **Lectures and Studies Section.** A course of lectures leading to the examination for the Diploma of Associateship of the Section begins at 8 p.m. today, January 15, at the University of Liverpool. Lectures are also being arranged in **Wallasey and Birkenhead.** Calendar and prospectus, 3d. (post free 4d.) on application to E. J. Pankhurst, 38, Moor Lane, Liverpool, 23.

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome.

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

Miscellaneous Notices

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

The Dean of Canterbury will address the Peace Council of King's College, London, on Tuesday next, January 19, at 5 p.m., in the Great Hall of the College, which is in the Strand next to Somerset House. Visitors will be admitted free, without ticket, so long as there is room. The Rev. Prebendary Hanson, Dean of King's College, will be in the chair.

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LETTERS

An American View

WE heard His Royal Highness Prince Edward's historic radio talk to his former subjects throughout the world.

However the controlled press may report the sentiments of the people, we expect that it will have a hard time shaking our conviction that his brief speech must have further endeared Edward the Man to the hearts of the vast majority of his listeners everywhere.

It was something to hear the former King speak his own mind and words to the world admittedly for the first time in his life.

"He acquitted himself handsomely," sums up the opinion of the man in the street here.

We were saddened to hear the Prince intimate his intention to leave his native land and express his expectation that he would not return for some time. Few will begrudge him a probably much needed rest from public life. Still fewer will fail to hope and pray that he will soon, in his private capacity as a loyal subject of the King, return to devote himself to the service of the common weal.

As Prince of Wales and as King he has gone out and seen the conditions of life suffered by the poor souls in the "specially distressed areas" and other slums. He knows the people's need and he knows they need his help. He knows that the production problem is solved and exists no longer. He knows that poverty is now artificial and that its infliction on the people is a crime.

As King he saw with grief these things but was, as you have repeatedly shown, helpless under the constitution to take the initiative to reform them. He could only wait in the hope that his people, as voters in a democracy, would do their constitutional duty and take the initiative by unitedly demanding, from their elected representatives in Parliament, the RESULTS they want.

Now, as a citizen of Britain, he is as free as any other to express his will as to POLICY. He is free to take part, and an immensely important and honourable leading part, in ACTION mobilising the expression of the will of the voters of Britain for the RESULTS they want.

Could His Royal Highness Prince Edward render a greater service to his brother His Majesty the King and to the British people and to the people of all nations, to all humanity, than by taking such leading action in the National Campaign for National Dividends and the Abolition of Poverty?

Now that he is free to act we trust that Nelson's famous injunction "England expects . . ." will echo down the years effectively.

"AMERICAN COUSINS"

The Norman Conquest

IN 1066, William the Norman crossed the Channel, landing at Pevensey, on September 28, and, having subjugated the Government, proclaimed himself ruler of the country, and took steps to enforce his will on the people.

In 1936, Montagu the Norman crossed the Rubicon, landing at the Lord Mayor's Banquet on October 6, and, having also subjugated the Government, proclaimed himself ruler of the country, and ready to take all necessary steps to enforce his will on the people.

The coincidence is striking—history once again repeats itself, even in minor details.

JUDEX

The Charity Box

I AM sure most of us are daily receiving heart-wringing appeals from all sorts of societies—Dr. Barnardo's Homes, Shaftesbury Homes, National Institute for the Blind, and so on—to which it is impossible not to respond in some measure.

I know it has been suggested that a letter be sent in reply, bringing to their notice the "National Campaign to abolish needless poverty" and stating that, in subscribing to the Social Credit Secretariat to further this end, they are doing their utmost to make such appeals unnecessary.

So far so good, but may I further suggest to anyone who is not already doing so, that a small box labelled "Charities and Gifts" be immediately put into commission, and therein a piece of paper and a pencil?

An account is kept of the amount which would have been sent in response to such appeals and periodically the sum total be forwarded to the Director of Revenue, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A, Strand, W.C.2, or expended locally on additional efforts in our campaign.

Ledbury, Herefordshire R. C. RICHARDSON

The Common Will

THERE are some good things in "Answer by Return," by Sir Henry Bunbury, reported in *The Listener*, December 2:

"Well, it (the Universal Postal Union) succeeds, I suppose, because its purpose is universally accepted . . . It has a practical job to do, and the job is in the hands of practical men.

"Experts, even though of different nationalities, are apt to place the efficiency of their common craft or service, whatever it may be, before anything else. Professional pride is a strong unifying influence. . . .

"But at least it has been shown that co-operation even between sovereign States is easy enough when there is agreement as to the end to be served and a common will to attain it."

Orkney

T.F.

"First Things First"

THE "very powerful perverting influence" mentioned by H. Day is the evil which rejected Good, for example, in Christianity.

The happier choice would have worked out in conditions where we of this generation would not have had to deal with current evil. It is only "physically impossible" to accomplish a good purpose until a sufficient number of people INSIST on its establishment.

Social Crediters are working to bring this into being. But if Christianity were practised, all the conditions which give scope for the purpose of Social Credit would disappear. Social Credit, as I see it, is a skilful, admirable human device contributing handsomely to the will of all Goodness.

I would rejoice with H. Day in our unity of purpose, and emphasise that.

JOHN W. RATTRAY

Savage

IN a recent article one of your contributors I advanced a theory that savage or primitive peoples were free from the rules and regulations by which we, as a civilised people, allow our freedom to be increasingly curtailed.

I suggest the opposite is the case, and that in this matter we are betraying our likeness to the primitive, and our departure from a truly civilised standard.

It is precisely the willingness, indeed determination, to sacrifice the freedom and happiness of any and every individual to the taboos of the tribe, and the dictates of the witch doctors, that differentiates, primarily, primitive from civilised man.

This recent crisis is tragic proof that we deserve to be classed among the primitives. We have, indeed, been witness to an event that is akin to ancient ritual murder.

Recently an attempt was made on the life of our King. It failed. But the sacrifice must be made. So the witch doctors chose the next best offering—the King's happiness—his crown—his virtual banishment.

A nation of primitives!
I hope we are proud of ourselves.

Bromley, Kent B. C. BEST

An Artist's Protest

THE magnificent Heraldic Exhibition recently collected and shown in the City of Birmingham Art Gallery, by its Director, Mr. Raines Smith, is now over. It would be interesting to know how far its conception was first formed, and afterwards promoted by those who have been most glorified and exalted by it.

The rulers who can no more rule. The nobles whose nobility is besmirched with commerce. The politicians, whose chief activities appear to lie in the complete destruction of English democracy.

Very beautiful it was; overwhelming in its mediæval splendour. But did this bygone and effete craftsmanship—superb as it was—come first as the object of its production? And did it justify the vast amount of labour, collection, and expense it incurred?

In a Chamberlain-ridden city such as Birmingham, one wonders—and wonders—what was behind it.

Its influence upon the immense numbers of visitors—and not one per cent. of them could have known anything—and cared less—for such an out-of-date art—must have been profound in its exploitation of the supporters of British Dictatorship.

BERNARD SLEIGH

Satisfied!

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HOW FATHER COUGHLIN EXPOSED BANKERS' RAMP AGAINST EDWARD

"They Determined to Be Rid of Him"

"KING'S love is Pawn in a Bankers' Plot." Under this streamer headline on the front page, Father Coughlin's paper *Social Justice*, published an article bitterly denouncing those who plotted to dethrone King Edward VIII.

During the crisis much was heard in this country of the reports appearing in the American press. It is safe to predict that this article in *Social Justice*, extracts of which are reproduced below, will receive no such publicity!

"The abdication of King Edward VIII of England signals a new 'Norman conquest' for the British. A strong-willed Windsor, who had let it be known that he was a friend of the suffering people, is displaced to make way for a 'safe' Duke.

"The flag of Montagu Norman's Bank of England is unfurled in victory, while the colours of a proud Empire are dipped in a humiliating salute.

"Flushed with this greatest victory in all history—their deposition of a British emperor—will the international bankers be able further to conceal their hand? Or, will they now be emboldened to come out into the open, in arrant defiance of public opinion? Or having sown the wind, will they now reap the whirlwind?"

"A 'plant' in which a King fell victim or alert seizure of fortuitous circumstance, it matters little. The banking oligarchy, scared out of their shoes by the young King's outspoken sympathy for the victims of industrial and financial exploitation, determined to be rid of him. Plot or accident, the romance was made for them."

"With the King's abdication and the opportunity to speak for the first time in his life as a private citizen, it was hoped

that 'Prince Edward,' as he is now known, might tell his story. But the very day of his abdication, a gag was placed on British-controlled radio broadcasting, specifically preventing the young King or any of his champions from 'going to the people' over the heads of the ministry."

Who Will Demand to Know?

It has been admitted in the House of Commons that it was suggested that King Edward should broadcast to his people during the week-end December 5-6, i.e., before his abdication, and that the Cabinet opposed such action.

This statement suggests that even when he was permitted to broadcast, he was prevented from saying what he wished.

Surely there is one Member of the House of Commons prepared to demand information on this point? If so, he will be surprised at the amount of support there will be in the country for his temerity even now, despite the efforts of our mud-slinging Bishops and other Stiggins.

More from Father Coughlin:

"Meanwhile, the young King has abdicated, 'preferring love to a throne,' as the newspapers have it. But they also recount his trip to Vienna for an exile's vacation—as the guest of a banking Rothschild!

"... Strange to say, the so-called labour chiefs have lined up behind Baldwin. Why are they against a King who has shown himself sympathetic and anxious to help their constituents?

"Possibly, they hope against hope that the Labour Party will have a majority in parliament someday and, therefore, they do not want the supremacy of parliament to be lessened when they have the necessary number of votes to enact their programme into law.

"Possibly, they fear giving too much power to the King despite his sympathetic tendencies."

The instalments of "*The Party System*," by Hilaire Belloc and Cecil Chesterton, pub-

lished in the last six issues of SOCIAL CREDIT, clearly explain the manner in which the so-called Opposition at Westminster comes to terms with the Government in power.

Says the radio priest:

"Every fair-minded person asks himself: 'Why was the so-called British crisis incurred now, five months before the King is even able to marry?' The real reason is that the international bankers, through their puppet, Prime Minister Baldwin, feared King Edward's potential power.

"The people, despite the bankers' opinion that 'they are all too dumb to know what it is all about,' recognise want in the midst of plenty. They know with production machinery geared to present actual needs, there would be no withering hand of poverty.

"The money racket, the periodic contraction and expansion of credit, the shortage of purchasing power, these things the people are awakening to."

"They are restless for a ruler to lead them from economic bondage. If Edward VIII had been able to direct his stubborn will towards this end, he could have counted

on the masses rallying to him despite all the shams of propaganda and all efforts to discredit him and, what is more, he would have been a King to be remembered."

The British people are indebted to Father Coughlin for publishing this article; so, too, are the people of America, for they also suffer under the same dictators who deposed our King.

It may transpire that the policy which the abdication of King Edward VIII is intended to facilitate, will intensify the seeming opposition between the interests of the people of U.S. and Great Britain.

If this occurs, Father Coughlin's readers, at least, should recognise such artificially engendered friction for what, in fact, it will be—merely an automatic result, like war itself, of financial policy, which is directed to keeping the peoples of all nations in chains.

This is the "Bankers' Plot" in which even the love of a King and Emperor was only a pawn.

M.W.

P.R.S.

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2. I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.
3. I demand, too, that monetary or other claims to such production as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want of them.
4. These distributions must not deprive owners of their property nor decrease its relative value, nor increase taxes or prices.
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 this my policy, 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.)

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