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SOCIAL CREDIT

For Political and Economic Democracy

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT LIMITED

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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1937

Weekly Twopence

IS BUS CRISIS A DOUBLE-CROSS ?

860 MILLION INCOME TAX SOAK FORGOTTEN IN N.D.C. CRITICISM

THERE has been a splendid response to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's red herring tax, called the N.D.C. and likely to be rechristened the N.B.G. by the general public.

If it is a correct estimate that the revenue from this tax will be only £2,000,000 this year and £20,000,000 in a full year, then it is a flea-bite compared with the increase of 3d. in the income tax which has been practically forgotten in the general rejoicings.

The new duty has drawn all the criticism to itself and a little matter of soaking the community for £860,000,000 has gone by default.

Government partisans represent the new tax as a proof of the unselfish courage of Bony Prince Chamberlain, who could, with only £2,000,000 to find, have left the unpleasant tasks to his successor.

In fact the smallness of the revenue from the tax should suggest to the more alert among his critics that there is more behind it than meets the eye.

That it is a dirty piece of work can be guaranteed by the source from which it springs—the financial institutions—as revealed by the Chancellor in his Budget speech.

Recommended by Norman

Speculation regarding the initiators of the new tax has been busy, and during the week-end it was stated that Mr. Montagu Norman and Sir Josiah Stamp had recommended the scheme.

To these, it is fairly obvious, may be added Sir Warren Fisher, Permanent Secretary, and Sir Richard Hopkins, Second Secretary to the Treasury, who have special qualifications as experts on this particular tax. Both came from the Board of Inland Revenue, where during the war they had the handling of the Excess Profits Duty.

Anything recommended by the Norman and Stamp racket may be safely regarded as rat poison for the general public.

We may expect that in spite of the very temporary nature of the proposed tax, it introduces new principles valuable to the money monopoly in its implacable war upon the individual.

And, as one comment in the House of Commons put it, there was bound to come a time when there would be a Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, who would call it the Social Reform Tax or by some other name and keep it on.

This year, we learn, the tax proposals have been more carefully wrapt in secrecy than ever before—one of Mr. Montagu Norman's little foibles.

Its perpetrators must be pleased with the way their little surprise packet has been received.

Many detailed criticisms of the duties have been made, some of them quite to the point.

Criticism

That the profiteer would first charge high prices to the public and then seek methods of expenditure which could be charged against gross profits so as to escape the tax.

That the tax was a penalty for investing in the home industry instead of in foreign markets.

That the tax would fall on the ordinary shareholder, leaving the moneylender free as usual.

That the tax would act as a deterrent to initiative, and would involve a lot of accountancy and litigation—very profitable for the professions concerned, who would escape the tax.

That the tax will fall unfairly as between the firms that made profits during the slump, and those who made losses, and those who spent any profits on maintaining their business.

That it would fall unfairly as between the firms who would find it worth while to spend time and money on evading the tax and those who would not.

Many other objections have been made, and one critic has even been astonished that with the formidable experts whom Mr. Chamberlain had at

his disposal the implications of the new tax should not have been perceived by them.

Bankers' Paradise

We may be sure the implications have all been perceived—they are pure jam for Norman and Stamp.

It is a bankers', accountants', bondholders', foreign investors' paradise, and puts all their natural enemies on the spot.

The consumer first, of course, and then the wage-earner (employers must live even after taxes have been paid), the manufacturer of goods, the ordinary shareholder.

Moreover, as Sir Josiah Stamp hopes, what is regarded as intolerable today will be merely laughable in a few years' time.

LIFE'S HANDICAP

We are absolutely bound to go on . . . and if from time to time we have to put up higher and higher the bar that we must jump, we must be prepared to face that. . . .

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.

Take-No-Money Strike Is Not Expected

THE 24,000 drivers and conductors of the London Passenger Transport Board's buses have tabled a demand for a seven-and-a-half-hour shift to replace the present working day of eight hours.

That is a perfectly reasonable demand. So was the seven-hour-day that was originally demanded. It is reasonable because the men most concerned are agreed on it and have made it, knowing the physical facts. No one knows better what the conditions of their job are, no one can be a better authority on what these men want than the men themselves.

Lord Ashfield, L.P.T.B. chairman, in a statement to the press, said:

"Quite apart from the fact that the Board are not satisfied that the demand for a shorter working day is justified, the Board have not the financial resources to bear the extra burden."

He said the men's claim would cost £650,000 a year, and added that the Board is ready to take part in a public inquiry, as it does not claim to be judge of its own cause.

Meanwhile, the demand of the men has been refused.

The service of transport is not one whit impaired if they change drivers every four hours, let alone every seven.

These drivers and conductors are not responsible for the finances of the London Passenger Transport Board, and Lord Ashfield has not explained why "the Board have not the financial resources to bear the extra burden."

The mechanical buses themselves are quite capable of carrying the extra burden the men are demanding, namely, a shorter working day.

The only reasonable objection that could be raised to this demand for a shorter working day would be a shortage of man-

power in the country—and there is no such shortage, on the contrary.

If the dispute ends in a stoppage, the inconvenience to the public will not be due to the demand of a shorter working day, which is obviously physically possible.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The best-laid schemes can go wrong, but it is doubtful if there will be a stoppage, for it is significant that the other bus strikes which have spread to ten counties are unofficial, i.e., are not controlled by the unions.

The eulogistic tone adopted by *The Times* and the *Morning Post*, in referring to the London busmen, suggests that a smooth one is about to be put over the men who are leaving it to the union leaders.

It is certainly obvious that the L.P.T.B., by its uncompromising attitude, has concessions in reserve, possibly already agreed with the union leaders.

A compromise by the good little boys on both sides amid loud applause seems more than likely. Otherwise the London busmen would be faced, under union leadership, with a very unpopular course in the midst of the Coronation festivities. So that it looks as if a sharp lesson is to be taught to the naughty busmen in the ten counties who are not obeying the union leaders.

NICE TACTICS

It is very unlikely that the London men, being union led, will emulate the highly popular and devastating strike tactics employed by tram and bus workers in Nice, as reported in SOCIAL CREDIT on April 16.

In Nice they ran the public conveyances just as usual except that they took no money from the public. That would suit practically everybody down to the ground, and be a very pretty Coronation gesture.

The "unofficial" strikers outside the London area might take it into their heads to emulate their opposite numbers in Nice, particularly since they have no fear of being double-crossed by their union leaders.

If they do not they look like being forced into very unpopular activities, with the exasperating prospect of seeing their union-led brothers in London scoring what will be acclaimed far and wide as a popular success.

If the men themselves, neither in London or the provinces, get what they really want, they will know it, but no one else will, as their real grievances will be drowned in the tumult of the Press.

The bus drivers and conductors make a big mistake if they ever allow anybody else to make decisions for them on such vital issues as *what they want* or how they shall act to achieve their own satisfaction.

Rising Prices Plus Rising Taxes Make The Outlook Grim

AS the cost of living rises with the outpouring of new money for rearmament, the wage-earners of this country will fight ferociously for higher wages.

The official cost of living index is now 51 per cent. above pre-war level; a year ago it was 44 per cent.

To the low income groups, the 13,500,000 with less than 6s. a week to spend on food, the increase means more than the officially calculated 7 per cent.

Food prices have risen 9 per cent. Nearly every article of food has gone up in price during the past five weeks.

The middle income groups are hit by a 20 per cent. rise in household repairs and decorations; furniture, cabinet ware, carpets, bedding, linen, and cooking and cleaning utensils, and everything connected with the garden—plants, bulbs, and implements—are dearer.

The people of Britain are faced with a grim future. It has never been so grim.

Starting with total taxation at a higher level than ever before at such a time, they enter upon a period of rising prices.

What will crack first under the strain?

11 Suicides A Week In London, 1936

There were 583 suicides in London in 1936, roughly 11 a week; 171 were over 60 years of age, 162 were between 50 and 60, 93 between 40 and 50, 82 between 30 and 40, three under 17, eight between 17 and 21. —*Standard*, April 24, 1937.

Another Big Step Forward

A Social Centre in London for Social Crediters will be ready in time to welcome Coronation visitors. See the message from the Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, on page 8.

★ C O M M E N T A R Y ★

Major Douglas

AS Major Douglas will be out of town throughout the Coronation period, he asks the indulgence of correspondents for any delay in replying to their letters.

Cachet For The Dean

THAT egregious journal the *Daily Mail* seems, if possible, to have added a final tribute to the reputation of the Dean of Canterbury for honesty and fair-mindedness by calling him a liar.

With typical courtesy they stigmatise his remarks on the state of religion under the Spanish Government as "not only casuistry, it is proved to be totally untrue."

The best evidence they have to offer to prove that "the Spanish Reds are brutal atheists" is the driving of mule carts and lorries through the cathedral in Valencia.

Such concentration on the religion of convention by a not exceptionally holy newspaper, in the face of testimony, by an eyewitness who is a high dignitary of the Church, to the existence of a real religion of the spirit in Spain, is ludicrous.

The *Daily Mail* is welcome to thank its God in its own way that it is not as other papers are.

Up The Garden Path

WHILE the House of Commons is spending its time on the intricacies of the new £2,000,000 tax the financiers and their jackals chuckle.

They complain in one breath of how unjust to the tax itself and to its author are premature protestations in advance of full knowledge of what the incidence of the tax will be.

And in the next they say that criticisms must of course be met if the tax is not to be whittled down by the only argument which ever causes the British taxpayer to become restive—namely, that the incidence of a tax is unjust.

Thus the idea that all taxation is a swindle when there is plenty for everybody without depriving anybody goes by default.

Better Than Strikes

STRIKES are a symptom of a universal malady. It grows obvious that poverty, long hours, overcrowding, discomfort, danger to life and limb by congestion, fear, are anomalies in a world amply capable of providing wealth, leisure, ease, comfort, safety, spaciousness, and confidence. Those who suffer from their lack, therefore, are just beginning to say, "Oh, to hell with it. *Something* must be done. Life is just intolerable like this." And so it is. Breaking point is near.

The remedy could be applied—will be applied—as soon as the exhausted people simply demand it unitedly. The effective way is by using the form at the foot of the back page.

By One of the Rushed

IT is no joke after a day's work to have to change trains when the following trains are already packed to suffocation, and it sometimes means waiting for two or three following trains before one is able to squeeze in a train at all.

NOW OUT

Major Douglas's Liverpool Speech

"The Tragedy of Human Effort"

Together with answers to questions
6d.

George Hickling's new pamphlet

"SOCIAL DEBT OR SOCIAL CREDIT"

Specially written for new readers
4d.

From SOCIAL CREDIT
163A Strand, London, W.C.2
(Postage ½d. each)

I have often wondered at the patience shown by the average London rush-hour public at the callous disregard of their comfort by the Transport Board, and I am very glad to see somebody has had the sense and courage to make a practical protest.

From a letter in the *"News Chronicle."*

Bull's Eye

A CORRESPONDENT in South Africa reports the following remark by a young Dutchman (a Social Crediter although he had never heard of it!), who recently visited Johannesburg:

"What we want in South Africa is a grant by the Government to each person sufficient for all his necessities, leaving everyone who wants luxuries to work for them."

South Africans will get these grants when they unite in demanding them, and force the Government, as the ex-soldiers in America forced President Roosevelt to issue the soldiers' bonus.

Anyone Can Make a Thing—

"ADVERTISING," says Sir Charles Higham, "is not only a help, it is the helpmate of industry."

"Anyone with capital, labour and raw materials can make goods, but the great problem that always confronts industry is how to sell them profitably and quickly."

"Advertising is the cheapest way to do this. It creates more steady work at high wages than any other force known to industry."

Some extraordinary details of this vast process of sales-pushing, we hope to publish in an early issue of SOCIAL CREDIT.

The Church as Landlord

AN independent report by Miss Marion Fitzgerald on the much discussed slum properties of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners has done something to exonerate the

Church from the widespread belief that it is a bad landlord.

Miss Fitzgerald says the Commissioners are very good landlords. Nevertheless, she gives details of some deplorable slum property and admits that there is a good deal of grumbling over well-meant attempts to pull down bad but cheap houses and build new ones with much higher rentals.

Under the present economic system there is no way in which the Church can be a perfect landlord. It is therefore up to the Church to give the people a lead in getting the system altered.

Parliament Sleeps

MR. MAXTON in the early hours of the morning during a recent all-night debate, moved the adjournment of the House of Commons on the ground that four out of five of the Government representatives of the Treasury Bench appeared to be asleep.

"There should be some regard," he said, "for the decencies of appearances."

These all-night sittings are a futile and farcical method of enabling the Opposition to register a protest by moving one trivial amendment after another. They are part of a system of Parliamentary procedure which has nothing whatever to do with making the will of the people effective and getting for us the things which we want.

Legislating for Poverty

IN one country after another legislation has been or is being introduced, based on the acceptance of the continuance of poverty as we know it today. This legislation goes by such names as unemployment and health insurance, social security, etc.

South Africa is the latest recruit to the ranks of the poverty minded. Social insurance is to be introduced there, unless the people get together and demand that the prosperity of which they hear so much, and of which many see so little, be made general by the issue of National Dividends, to enable them to buy all that is produced.

Social Crediters in the Union are active in opposing the proposed legislation. We wish them all success.

★ B O O K S ★

Liberator

NAPOLEON: THE PORTRAIT OF A KING, by R. McNair Wilson. (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 12s. 6d.).

NAPOLEON was a King, in line with all the true kings of the earth: the men who have tried to set their people free and keep them free, argues Mr. McNair Wilson in his latest book.

The Revolution opens with France deeply in debt to the London bankers, and, through Necker, becoming more deeply involved every day. There is widespread unemployment and poverty, and bankrupt farmers cannot till the rich fields which could feed the hungry. Mirabeau is the first to see that money is at the root of these evils.

He struggles against the Swiss banker, Necker, and tries to get Louis XVI to adopt a system of Government-created paper-money (the assignats) based on land-values: not a bad monetary measure for a country like 18th Century France, whose production was almost entirely from the land, though not, of course, of much use in a modern State.

Louis, to whom money was credit based on gold and nothing else, was too timorous. Mirabeau sickened and died of disappointment, and the rush downhill ended in the Reign of Terror.

Yet, even here, there were glimmerings of hope. Robespierre, too, fought the London bankers and used every weapon to protect his issue of assignats from the efforts of traitors to depreciate their value.

Finally came Napoleon. He set himself to study finance under a Genoese banker, and promptly declared war on the London debt system.

He set up his own bank and so manipulated money that his campaigns left no National Debt behind them, though victorious England had an enormous one for her pains.

The author shows that all Napoleon's wars were forced upon him by Lombard Street. The bankers, furious at France's release from their net, were determined to force her back into it once more; and they could only do this by constantly bribing European rulers to form endless coalitions against the French.
M.H.

Realists

HIS WAS THE KINGDOM. By Frank Owen and R. J. Thompson (Arthur Barker, 2s. 6d.).

FIRST published March, 1937," says the fly-leaf of my copy, and there follows a second edition and a third and fourth impression—all in March. What, I wonder, has April done to spread this blunt historical record by two realistic newspaper men?

The Abdication was, from start to finish, a Press affair. "The newspapers of the country," the authors say, "played a remarkable double rôle. Their part began with an open conspiracy among editors to protect the King from scandal... It ended with a secret plot to force the King to give up Mrs. Simpson or his throne."

"Parliaments everywhere were gagged and dumb. The vicious propaganda of the *Times*, the *Telegraph* and the big provincial newspapers, such as the *Yorkshire Post*, in the anti-King ring, poisoned men's minds everywhere with an effluvia of particularly noxious gas; and in Wales, where only a fortnight before lost and despairing populations had broken police-cordons to greet and touch their friend the King, something almost like hatred of him was engendered."

The Labour Party, of course, was "squared" as regards its leaders, and fooled as to the rank and file. "The bogey of a King's Party was now brought into full and gratifying operation. It scared the Labour Party, who have lived with the ghost of Fascist dictatorship so long that they cannot discern the very substantial form of Mr. Baldwin's dictatorship... they have hardly realised yet that simple Mr. Baldwin has dished them once again."

Ellen Wilkinson subsequently wrote that the crisis was a House of Commons affair all through. "To understand what people can do with words," comment the writers on this, "you have to read that again and then see what actually happened"; and they detail the entirely effective gagging of a House compelled to concentrate on a motion relating to

Mr. J. R. Murdoch

Social Crediters in Scotland are greatly distressed at the sudden and tragic death of their young friend, Mr. J. R. Murdoch. He was fond of taking long walks by himself, was caught in a snowstorm, and seems to have fallen through deep snow into a very deep pool—his body being found upright in the pool some time after he had disappeared.

His father was minister in Sandwick, Orkney. He graduated with Honours in Edinburgh University, and was reckoned to have been the ablest student of his time in St. Andrew's University Divinity Hall. He was for two years assistant minister to Rev. V. C. Alexander, of St. Mark's Church of Scotland in Dundee, who speaks of Mr. Murdoch's amazing deeds of kindness and self-sacrifice.

He took an intelligent and active interest in Social Credit, actively canvassing in the Electoral Campaign, and writing to local Members of Parliament and the candidates. Also, as opportunity offered, he wrote to the newspapers. A very promising life has been suddenly cut short and the loss to his friends (among whom were many Social Crediters) is very great.

We remember him vividly for his courageous action on a short holiday in coming into our London office, buying a supply of SOCIAL CREDIT, going out into the street, selling the lot, and coming back for a fresh supply, which he also sold.

That sort of action makes a deep impression, and speaks volumes for the man who does it.

On Sunday morning, April 18, Mr. Alexander, concluding a pulpit reference to him, said:

"We will remember him with thankfulness to God as one who never gave a thought to his own comfort or pleasure, but served to the uttermost."

deaf and dumb juveniles or the dislocation of the trade in Coronation Mugs.

In fact, more mugs were made during these ten days than at any time since the war.
M.H.

Pawn

HITLER THE PAWN. By Rudolf Olden, formerly Political Editor of the *"Berliner Tageblatt."*

THE bewildering conditions in Germany today are one of the vital elements affecting the destinies of Europe and the world. Here we have a study, written apparently not without bias, of what the author paints as the menacing and grotesque central figure.

Hitler's history and political development are traced step by step, and it is stated that this man, insignificant in all except oratory and scheming, is really the self-appointed representative of the vested ruling class, the Army, with its two offshoots, heavy industry and large landowning.

In the author's opinion, Hitler has regarded it as his mission to destroy the weak. His motto is always to be on the side of the big battalions. Before ever he reached power, democracy had died in Germany, betrayed by its own servants and all that remained was the fight to decide who should be dictator.

By clever juxtaposition of Hitler's own statements at different times, of his precept and practice, the author contrives to show him up as an unscrupulous adventurer.

Naturally the mystery of Nazi finances is referred to: "Millions could only come from one source: from heavy industry on the Rhine. No other source could have intervened with such generosity in Germany's destiny."

The author seems not to have heard of the *bottomless well of money, the banks*. Later on he refers to Dr. Schacht, the President of the Reichsbank, as the most insincere of Hitler's followers.

No indication is given of the author's reason for falling foul of the present régime, but it is clear that he is inimical to Fascism.
D.T.D.

Passing of Herbert Mainly for Women

Divorce Bill Will Be One Up For Individual Freedom

“WHAT dreadful stories I have heard today,” said Mr. Justice Swift at the recent Birmingham Assizes.

“Over and over again, in one case after another, I have had the unhappy children of divided parents coming here to prove that either one or other was guilty of adultery.”

“The present system, as I said 17 years ago when I was first elevated to my present position, is cruel and wicked, cruel to everybody. Nobody seems to think, nobody seems to care about the individuals.”

“I wish some of those learned ecclesiastics who have so much concern for the well-being of Society would come and sit here. It would not be long before the divorce laws of this country were altered.”

A young girl, still in her teens, had been called to bear witness to her mother's adultery in a discretionary divorce suit.

A law can be judged good or bad by the type of person who breaks it. When a law is so harsh that it is commonly disregarded, when ordinary decent people who wish to lead respectable lives are forced into the dreadful indignities spoken of by Mr. Justice Swift, or, worse still, into faking false evidence of misconduct, that law stands condemned.

While the courts are sitting, cases are dealt with at the rate of four minutes apiece—four minutes to sum up and assess the misery of years, may be.

And in every case, whether it exists or not, evidence of adultery has got to be produced before a divorce is granted.

Could anything be more calculated to put a premium on immorality?

THIS country is supposed to be a democracy. There is a generally accepted idea that the will of the people shall prevail, and that Parliament exists to bring that will into being.

If this be so, how is it that movements directed towards the liberation of the individual from burdens too grievous to be borne have so similar a history—years of struggle and disappointment?

As a private Member, Mr. A. P. Herbert would never have been granted the facilities for presenting his Marriage Bill to Parliament had it not been for the thirty years' patient work of Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman, honorary secretary of the Divorce Law Reform Union.

This union instituted the Royal Commission on Divorce in 1909 and only now is partial success in sight, after a lifetime of work.

Even today's reading may be postponed if the Government does not see fit to allow time for it.

THOSE who have read Hilaire Belloc's book, “The Party System,” reprinted in part in this newspaper three months ago, will

understand how small a chance of success a private Member's Bill is likely to have if it is in any way obnoxious to the front benches and their friends.

Crowds of women in the Lobbies of the House of Commons, hundreds of letters sent to the Members, have at last made it plain that there is a large section of the people that intend to have this Bill, sooner or later.

And the Government is beginning to yield to pressure.

But what years it has taken to get the machinery in motion!

Most of the time that our Members of Parliament spend earning their £400 a year is entirely wasted. Most of the Bills they are asked to consider are attempts to make a limited amount of money do an unlimited amount of work, or schemes to benefit one section of the people at the expense of the others.

Everything that they attempt is hampered by the workings of an antiquated money system run entirely for the benefit of a few.

No wonder there is no time for anything else—no time for the depressed areas, no time for the miseries of men and women tied for life to lunatics or drunkards.

Last week Parliament wasted a whole night's good sleep in arguing over the Budget—this in an age of plenty, when taxation is entirely unnecessary—and once again Mr. Herbert's Bill was shelved.

BY the way, how is it that three women Members of Parliament have seen fit to go off to Spain in the midst of a busy session like this?

To study Spanish conditions at first hand, forsooth!

While they were lurching in a café in Madrid a bomb destroyed their car. Is it for such adventures that we pay them £400 a year?

Ordinary women like the readers of this newspaper think that they could profitably

—1909—1937—

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON DIVORCE IN 1909

Divorce should be granted on the following grounds:—

1. Adultery.
2. Desertion for three years.
3. Cruelty.
4. Incurable insanity after five years.
5. Habitual drunkenness.
6. Imprisonment under Commuted Death Sentence.

MR. A. P. HERBERT'S MARRIAGE BILL, 1937

1. No petition should be presented within five years of marriage.
2. Adultery.
3. Desertion for three years.
4. Cruelty.
5. Incurable insanity after five years.

have spent the whole of their time studying conditions in England. After all there are only nine Members to represent the women of the nation.

However, this does not seem to be the way Members of Parliament set to work.

It is very doubtful whether many of them realise why they are in Parliament at all. They seem to think of it as a superior sort of club.

And of the true purpose of legislation they seem as ignorant as a babe unborn.

IN a real democracy there can be only one reason for law-making—to promote the freedom of the individual as far as is compatible with the freedom of his fellows, because that is what people want.

In so far as legislation is directed to supporting an institution as such, it is being perverted.

Those Members who opposed the Bill on the ground that it would make children think of marriage not as a sacred thing but as a convenience were entirely out of touch with the child mind.

Children are too realistic to think of marriage as an institution to which the individual should be subordinated. They take their ideas from the lives of their parents, and only when they know that it leads to happiness will they think highly of the married state.

This is the only possible standpoint for anyone who believes in democracy.

HERE is not the place in which to discuss the religious aspect of divorce. The Church's view of marriage may or may not be the right one. But there is only one way in which it can be made so—for the Church to engender feelings which will of themselves lead to unions of lifelong devotion.

There is no other way.

Not so far back in history people were fined a shilling if they stayed away from Sunday service. Today such compulsory attendance would be considered a mockery to the Almighty.

Can we trace no analogy between the Sunday fine for staying away from Church and the unjust and cruel divorce laws which some of the clergy wish us to retain?

It is to be hoped that Mr. Herbert's Bill is passed today. It will mean the liberation of thousands of unhappy people. If all goes well it will be the first of many acts directed towards freedom and security for the individual.

Those working for the Electoral Campaign scarcely realise its possibilities as yet. When completed we shall have a perfect instrument for bringing pressure to bear on our Members—not only for getting our National Dividend but for any other reform that seems good to us.

Plenty of demands are waiting that can be made only by an awakened democracy.

Who will lend a hand in the first and most difficult stages?

By Mrs. B. M. Palmer

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

Announcements & Meetings

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

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

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

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Next open meeting in the Sandon Music Room, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, at 8 p.m., on Thursday, May 6. Address by Dr. Tudor Jones on “The Fraud of Taxation.” Enquiries to Miss D. M. Roberts, Hon. Secretary, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, Liverpool.

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

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

Miscellaneous Notices

Rate 1s. a line. Support our advertisers.

At Clacton-on-Sea, Solway Court, for visitors; near sea, own grounds, special terms Social Crediters.

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TO LET

Furnished Cottage, accommodate four to six; Bathroom, H. & C. Water. Full particulars and photo by post. Ten per cent. bookings to Secretariat Funds. McCallum, West Parley, nr. Bournemouth.

Press Cuttings Bureau. Scrutineers are wanted for agricultural journals and local newspapers. Write to Mr. T. L. Mawson, Petit Port, St. Brelade's, Jersey, C.I.

Translators wanted! Will any Social Crediters able to scan a weekly paper in Dutch and in Czechoslovak, please volunteer for this service to M.W., Social Credit Secretariat, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Torquay. All interested in Social Credit are cordially invited to communicate with Mr. D. C. A. Heathershaw, 3, St. Michael's, St. Michael's Road.

P.R.S. Send for particulars of the Public Revenue Scheme to help us—and help yourself. It is very simple and has been designed to raise funds for group activities, independent workers' costs and headquarters' revenue. SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, W.C.2.

Bound Volumes “Social Credit.” One Vol. No. 4. 12s. 6d. Two Vols. 3 and 4 together, 21s. each. Publications, Secretariat.

The Fig Tree. Binding covers for Volume 1 of THE FIG TREE will shortly be available at 3s. 6d. each post free. A few complete bound volumes will also shortly be available at 15s. each, also carriage free. As the numbers available are limited, early application is necessary.

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Wanted. THE FIG TREE for March being sold out, a number of late orders cannot be fulfilled. Anyone having copies to dispose of is invited to communicate with the SOCIAL CREDIT Secretariat, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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LOCAL OBJECTIVES

THE editor will be glad to receive reports from anywhere where people are asserting their sovereignty over the institutions which should serve them.

It does not matter whether they are initiated by Social Crediters, are spontaneous, or have been judiciously fanned.

It does not matter if they are badly managed or ill-directed. It is sovereignty that matters.

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NUVA SNAPS

LONDON RENDEZVOUS

Every Social Crediter should read the message from the Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, published on page 8.

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

ENGLISHWOMAN'S HOME IS HER CASTLE

“ARE women going to decide whether the State is to help during the time of greatest stress on the family budget, how much it is going to help, and how is that help to be given?” asked Mrs. Corbett Ashby at the annual meeting of the Birmingham Federation of Townswomen's Guilds.

Leading questions of this kind should be answered by another leading question. “Where is the money to come from?”

Out of taxation, of course.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby had previously stated that the great obstacle to the right food for the child was poverty, and that the problem of malnutrition would never be settled in the interests of the child until women were determined that it should be. All very true, of course, but let us see where her suggestion of State help will lead us.

First we tax everyone a little higher, and perhaps put an extra tax on bachelors and spinsters.

With the proceeds we build up an elaborate state machinery run by salaried officials (more taxation) who will poke their noses into every house during the early years of married life and after due consideration pay out a pittance towards the housekeeping.

One fact is certain. No help would be given until every detail of family expenditure was laid bare.

It is time that a woman stood up and protested against the indignities that the poor are called upon to suffer.

If women have any spirit of independence left, they will reply:

“No, we will not accept charity paid for out of taxation. What we demand is our rightful share of the national inheritance—the dividend which is being withheld from us.”

“And we claim the right to spend it exactly as we like.”

“The Englishwoman's home is her castle, and she is the best judge of how it should be run.”

SOCIAL CREDIT

A Journal of Economic Democracy

The Official Organ of the Social Credit Secretariat, Limited.

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Vol. 6. No. 12. Friday, April 30, 1937

Is Thy Servant a Dog?

HERE, there and everywhere individuals are combining to get what they want.

It is the happiest and most heartening sign of the times to be observed in a troubled world.

After years of passive acceptance of the various rackets that are foisted upon them by bureaucrats, jacks-in-office and other "obedient servants," the public is getting restive.

Scarcely a day passes but some little group is reported as having defied the dead hand of officialdom and got its own way.

And these incidents that are reported are only the more newsy. Man bites dog is news. Man brings dog to heel is not.

And if thy servant behaves like a dog it is time to treat him like a dog.

SOUTHEND railway travellers are organising a campaign to make five demands of the L.M.S. Railway.

Southend is 35 miles from London and the journey takes from 60 to 95 minutes, yet very many places further away get trains taking much less time.

"When railways have a monopoly," said one of the organisers of the protest, "they are loath to move to do anything for long-suffering passengers."

In short, the railway, which exists to serve them, seems to them to be behaving like a dog.

They demand therefore:
A quicker train service;
Family rebates on Season Tickets;
Improved station accommodation;
A doubled railway track;
and finally they demand most appropriately:
Better connections at Barking.

FOR many years babies in prams have been banned from Brockwell Park after 2 p.m. Mothers have reluctantly "moved on" at this extraordinary curfew hour.

Now, at long last they have struck. Aply led by Mrs. Gertrude Blattman, of Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, fifty mothers entered Brockwell Park one day and wheeled their prams up and down between the forbidden hours after 2 p.m.

"With housework to do and husbands to feed none of us can get out with our babies until after two," said Mrs. Blattman. "After two, when we can get out, keepers turn us away."
Woman bites dog.

THE pressure of public demand in Swindon has just been successful in reversing a County Council decision to increase heavily the Swindon police force.

Townsppeople object to paying rates for superfluous policemen merely as a training ground.

Originally Swindon was to have 20 extra constables to six extra for the county areas. This was passed and enforceable by law.

Vigorous protests were made and now Swindon is to have 11 men and the county areas 24.

Townfolk bite pack of hounds.

ALL these instances, and many more which have been reported in SOCIAL CREDIT, and a great many more which have never been reported at all, are demonstrations of personal sovereignty.

They get right down to the most fundamental issue of human association.

The only justification for any association of human beings, for any institution set up by human beings, is that it shall be of advantage to them.

When any institution becomes a vested interest which seeks to maintain itself by any means in defiance of the people it exists to serve, it is branded with the mark of the beast.

If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off.

ALBERTA OBITUARY

for tax experiment which should never have been tried by a Social Credit Government

THESE extracts from an editorial in *The Daily Province* (British Columbia), April 10, on the demise of the 104 per cent. tax, introduced in Alberta under the attractive name of "Prosperity Certificates," form a fitting obituary notice for an experiment which should never have been made by a Social Credit Government. (The italics are ours.)

The last of the famous "prosperity certificates" (\$12,000 worth) have been withdrawn. The provincial treasurer has made formal announcement that the Social Credit Government abandons its experiment with scrip.

*

There is a tremendous irony in this sequel. This was about the only concrete attempt of the Social Credit Government to give effect to any of the magnificent promises by which it got itself elected.

And the fact is now surely apparent to everybody except

the people who are determined not to see, that *this experiment could only have been described as Social Credit by a particularly inveterate and not-too-scrupulous enemy of Social Credit.*

In one hundred weeks, for every dollar face value of this scrip, the government was to have received one dollar's worth of relief labour—which might or might not have had any real value—and one hundred cents in real money (the weekly stamp tax) to be paid by the people who used the scrip.

*

What then would it have been but a scheme of paying for unemployment relief by taxation? And by taxation which would have fallen only upon certain members of the community—for nobody was going to take 99 cents in lieu of a dollar unless he was obliged.

And the prime irony of the whole thing is that Social Credit, according to its prophets and disciples, is a method not for increasing taxation, but of avoiding it . . .

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE LAW GOVERNING PUBLIC MEETINGS?

THE law does not recognise any right of public meeting or procession, whether for a political or a social object. The right of public meeting is nothing more than the result of the view taken by Courts of Law as to *individual* liberty of person and speech.

* * *

AN assembly convened for a lawful object, assembled in a place which the meeting has a right to occupy, and acting in a peaceable manner which inspires no sensible person with fear, is a lawful assembly, whether it be held in the Albert Hall, in the grounds of Hatfield or Blenheim, or in the London parks. With such a meeting no man has a right to interfere, and for attending it no man incurs legal penalties.

* * *

IN practice, the police often allow portions of wide streets or thoroughfares, with certain restrictions and conditions, to be used by public meetings. But squares, streets, or roads, which every man may lawfully use, are not necessarily available for the holding of a meeting.

Highways must be used for passing and going along and the proper use necessarily interferes with a claim of right to use the highway as a meeting place, just as it excludes the claim of actors to turn it into an open-air theatre.

* * *

UNDER the Public Order Act, 1936:

"MEETING" means a meeting held for the purpose of the discussion of matters of public interest or for the purpose of the expression of views on such matters.

"PRIVATE PREMISES" means premises to which the public have access (whether on payment or otherwise) only by permission of the owner, occupier, or lessee of the premises.

"PUBLIC MEETING" includes any meeting in a public place and any meeting which the public or any section thereof are permitted to attend, whether on payment or otherwise.

"PUBLIC PLACE" means any highway, public park or garden, any sea beach, and any public bridge, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not; and includes any open space to which, for the time being, the public have or are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise.

"PUBLIC PROCESSION" means a procession in a public place.

* * *

IF a public building is hired, or even lent, to an association or other section of the public for the purposes of a meeting, it becomes in law for the time being a non-public place. Meetings held in assembly rooms, hotels, schoolrooms, etc., are also held on what are in law private premises.

Where a meeting is held on private premises, as defined above, the persons present are only there on the invitation of the promoters of the meeting, and by their leave and license. They have no more right of access to the premises, and no more right to remain on them when requested to leave by the promoters, than if they had been invited to enter a private house by the occupier of that house.

If they refuse to leave when called on to do so by the chairman or representatives of the promoters, they become trespassers, and

Refresh Your Knowledge Here*

they may, after a reasonable interval, be removed (without *undue* violence) by the promoters of the meeting or by their authorised agents, and this would seem to be the case even where the person so requested to leave has paid for admission to the meeting, and where his admission money is not returned.

* * *

ALL persons who attend meetings, whether public or private, whether admission is free or otherwise, are bound to observe the rules laid down by the conveners of the meeting and submit to their reasonable control.

A person who is entitled to attend a meeting is entitled to remain, provided he conforms to the regulations governing the meeting; a stranger may only remain on sufferance, and must withdraw when requested, whether guilty of disorderly conduct or not. In both cases, he may be removed with reasonable force after being requested to withdraw, and any resistance to removal is unjustifiable.

* * *

REFUSAL to leave a meeting held in a private place, e.g., halls, assembly rooms, theatres, and schoolrooms, when called on by the chairman or representatives of the conveners, makes a person a trespasser.

* * *

WHERE meetings are not held in private places, e.g., highways, commons, and places where the public have ordinary access, the police have larger powers of dealing with disorder and obstruction than in meetings held in private places. Such places being dedicated to public use for passing and going along them, must not be used in such way as to interfere with the ordinary person's right to use them in the way permitted him by law.

The test generally is, Does such meeting prevent the right of free passage, i.e., does it cause an obstruction?

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE

LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS, by Albert Crew. Pitman, 5s.

EVERY elector should know his rights and privileges relating to demonstrations, assembly, and the freedom of speech.

This information is now available, together with a survey of the obligations and restrictions imposed by the Public Order Act, 1936, in this readable little book.

If you want to know how recent legislation defines a "meeting," a "public meeting" or a "public place," and the obligations attached thereto for the maintaining of order, you'll find all the answers in detail here.

A valuable, handy, informative little volume, which we strongly recommend.

If a meeting causes an obstruction, it may be dispersed by the police, or if it is a meeting of persons who either intend to commit, or who lead others to entertain a reasonable fear that the meeting will commit, a breach of the peace, it constitutes an unlawful assembly and the police may likewise interfere.

* Notes from "Law Relating to Public Meetings and Procections," by Albert Crew. Pitman, 5s.

WHY CANADA IS TO HAVE 'STORM TROOPERS' RESERVE

Thousands Will Raise Protest At Means Test Pensions Strip

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS 'MILLIONS CAN BE SAVED'

THE Canadian Government expects trouble, apparently, for on March 31 a first reading was given to a Bill authorising the creation of a new reserve force for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The measure was hotly attacked by the Co-operative Commonwealth members, who described the new force as "Storm Troopers."

Pressed to inform the House of the "emergency" to meet which this new body was to be formed, the Minister of Justice was very reticent, for, said, he, "No person could describe a future emergency, since an emergency was something that could not be foreseen."

This reserve is being formed, one must presume, therefore, to meet an unforeseen emergency. Strange that the Treasury, which, of course, bosses government in Canada as in Great Britain, should be prepared to support a Bill which will increase expenditure by £16,000 (\$80,000) a year, for an unknown purpose (N.B.—For Treasury read Bank of Canada in Canada and Bank of England here).

The Reason

Ten days after the introduction of this Bill, the Finance Minister, Mr. Dunning, made a speech at Ottawa which affords a clue as to the purpose for which this reserve may be needed.

As reported in these columns on February 26, the latest move in the plot to rob the Canadian provincial governments of their powers, is the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the financial and administrative relations between the provinces and the central government. Following the report of the commission, Mr. Dunning announces there is to be a dominion-provincial conference to amend the constitution (the British North American Act), to permit, amongst other things, the transfer to the central government of full power over unemployment and health insurance and old age pensions. The central government, said he, "will insist that some of the taxing power now exercised by the province be ceded to the federal government."

Mr. Dunning, the report states, "is confident that in old age pensions alone many millions can be saved each year by stripping from the rolls thousands who are *not deserving*, or who have *children well able to support them*." In brief, economies are to be effected at the expense of the unemployed, the sick and the aged, and it would appear from the words in italics, that both a "moral" and a "means" test are to be introduced.

Canadians Will Raise Hell

No wonder the police force is to be increased. Any such foul degradation of people as is practised in these islands under the name of the "means test" will certainly raise hell in Canada. The Canadian people are not as docile as the half-starved slum-dwellers here.

But Mr. Dunning goes too fast. He has yet to secure support for his royal commission from all the provinces. It is to be hoped that in some of them the people will insist that their parliamentary representatives refuse to have anything to do with the commission, and, furthermore, will not allow one tittle of provincial power to be ceded to the federal government, however tempting the bribes.

Unfortunately, Mr. Aberhart, the Premier of Alberta, has welcomed the appointment of the commission. If the people of Alberta really want to abolish poverty, they must waste no time in convincing him of his error.

Fascism in Quebec

The so-called National Union Government in the Province of Quebec, which swept into power last August, following the disclosure of corruption in the previous Liberal administration, has found a new way of suppressing opposition. A Bill has been introduced, described by opponents as the "Padlock Act."

This Bill, if passed, will give the police power to shut and padlock any building, including private dwelling houses apparently, used for the purpose of spreading "Communist propaganda." The Bill carefully

omits to define "Communist propaganda" and leaves it to the police to do so!

One wonders whether the very rapid spread of Social Credit in the province inspired the Bill or, more particularly, the decision not to define "Communist propaganda." Social Credit is not Communism, indeed it is bitterly denounced by Communists, but a Communist label would do it much harm, particularly in Quebec, where the population is largely Roman Catholic.

In New Brunswick Also

One of the outstanding characteristics of all totalitarian states is the encouragement given to people to spy on their neighbours. (By the way, how many people know that the British income tax authorities pay rewards to spies?)

The province of New Brunswick proposes to carry this process a step further. A Bill was introduced in the legislature recently, and is likely to pass, authorising the municipal authorities of St. John to compel employers to deduct city taxes from their employees' pay envelopes.

Evidently the people of St. John have failed to make their employees—the members of the municipal council—obey them. They should sack the lot for this impertinence. If they fail to do so, they may find similar methods adopted for the payment of provincial and federal taxes. M.W.

Govt. Finds Record Crop 'Most Difficult Problem'

THE South African Government finds the anticipated record maize crop of 27,000,000 bags this season the most difficult problem it has yet had to face in connection with the maize industry, while thousands of people in the country are suffering from malnutrition (see report of Sir Edward Thornton, Secretary for Public Health, SOCIAL CREDIT, April 2).

Government way out of this difficult problem of the maize surplus is to find ways to arrange for its export.

Other countries grow maize which has "to be exported." To compete with them, the South African Government pays a subsidy of 6d. a bag on maize for export.

Of this year's crop, it is estimated that 13 million bags "will have to be exported"; subsidy bill 325,000.

It would never do to subsidise home consumption of maize, that would be immoral.

Rather let people die than pervert their morals. What of the foreigners who benefit by the subsidy? Well, they are only foreigners, and perhaps subsidies won't hurt them!

Sickness, Terrible Among Busmen

Mr. Frank Snelling, chairman of the Central Bus Committee, declares that in bus work sickness has reached a terrible figure, five per cent. higher than in dangerous occupations.

Gastritis is the worst complaint of busmen, owing to irregular meals, and eating of slabs of cake made by the acre, with imported liquid eggs, and drinking stewed tea.

1s.6d. a Day Child Toilers In Coronation Racket

EVILS of converting the pageantry of Coronation into one gigantic financial ramp are just coming to light.

Rosettes, flags, bunting, Coronation novelties, are being made by slum women and children of Manchester and London at sweated rates.

They have to work ten hours a day to make 3s. a day between them.

★

These toilers call at the factories for the raw material, usually stacks of paper cut to the necessary shape, and after making the novelties—which will be used to decorate streets, houses, public buildings and vehicles—they take them back again, paying their own tram or bus fares both ways.

By the time they have paid their fares and bought the necessary wire, glue and string, their earnings are depleted by 9d. or 1s. a day.

They work in home "sweatshops," hidden away from Board of Trade inspectors in slum buildings.

★

In Birmingham, countless worn-out mothers and pale-faced children toil under gas-light at lightning speed to make a few coppers.

Girls can be seen sewing Union Jacks on tape at which, working at full speed, they can just manage to earn 3d. an hour.

In little attics perched at the top of slum dwellings in London, says the *Daily Herald*, whole families are employed in this sweated labour.

MAORIS HAVE MORE SENSE THAN WHITES

SIR APIRANA NGATA, New Zealand Member of Parliament for the Eastern Maori electorate, in a speech of welcome to the Governor-General last month, said it would take generations for the Maoris to overcome their prejudice against paying rates and taxes.

"We have not yet got into the habit of paying the pakeha (white man's) taxation," commented Sir Apirana, amid laughter. "We have certainly become accustomed to using the pakeha's highways, but they are for everyone. It will be generations yet before we overcome our prejudices against that most objectionable feature of pakeha government — the payment of rates and taxes."

To the Maoris evidently, the evidence before their eyes of the possibility of plenty for all is more important than figures in books.

They cannot see why it is necessary to take from people by taxation claims on goods, when there is enough goods for everyone.

We trust this Maori prejudice against making facts fit figures will grow and spread to the as yet unenlightened white New Zealanders, the pakehas.

Doctors Forced To 'Protect' Their 'Trade'

DOCTORS have been forced to join a Trade Protection organisation to get payment of their accounts and to have prospective patients' standing investigated, where long-term expensive treatment is necessary.

Even illness, sometimes a matter of life or death, is involved in the money market. Doctors as well as their patients would be much better off with National Dividends. No need then to worry about payment for necessary medical attention.

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THE BITER BIT

"WHEN I was in Oklahoma one day I happened to be in the bank when a blanketed Osage Indian came in and asked the banker for a loan of one hundred dollars.

"The banker asked the Indian if he had any ponies and the redskin's reply was that he had 50 ponies. The banker finally agreed to extend a loan of \$100 in return for a mortgage on the ponies.

★

"I was in the same bank about two years later and the same Indian again made an appearance. Oil had been struck on his land and he had a check for \$3,000 as an initial payment for an operator.

"After cashing the check, the banker told the Indian a proposal whereby he would be supplied with needed cash from time to time if he deposited the whole amount in the bank.

"The Indian's reply!

"Uh, how many ponies you got?"
From "Social Justice," Detroit.

THE FIG TREE

Those wishing to subscribe to the new volume of "THE FIG TREE" beginning in June, are asked to send their subscriptions, or orders for single copies, as soon as possible, so as to avoid the risk of disappointment consequent upon their being sold out as the current issue is.



THE FIG TREE

A quarterly review edited by

Major C. H. DOUGLAS

March issue, with Major Douglas's article on the Alberta situation, sold out.

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MISCELLANY PAGE

IF I WERE DICTATOR....

LENIN once remarked that liberty was a precious thing—so precious that it had to be rationed. Was he not fundamentally right?

Any form of liberty has to be rationed, or regulated, under a sensible social system, in order that it may be adjusted to other forms.

The form of liberty which consists in purchasing and running a motor-car must, like any other form, be adjusted to other (and perhaps higher) forms, such as the liberty of the community to arm itself in defence of the causes in which it believes, or the liberty of those who cannot, or will not, own motor-cars to go about unimpeded on their lawful occasions.

On this general ground I should like to see a rule made that only those who can plead, and establish, some adequate case for purchasing and running a motor-car should be allowed to enjoy that liberty.

I should not count amusement an adequate cause.

I should count professional need or geographical position. And I should permit it to the justices to license the purchase and running of a motor-car in the same sort of way as the justices license an alehouse.

We do not give everybody the licence to have an alehouse. I do not see why we should give everybody the licence to have a motor-car. Is there any essential difference between a motor-car and an alehouse?

Of the two I prefer the alehouse. There is more good fun in honest beer than in half the cars I see whirling about.

A good steady walk, watching what you see, instead of being whirled past it in a succession of forgotten glimpses—a good steady walk, and a good pint of ale, is a good recipe for satisfactory amusement.

The above extract from a letter to The Times from Professor Ernest Barker is a perfect example of the dangerous mentality we are combating.

Note the unctuous quotation of Lenin. Note the assumption that some superior authority has the wisdom to ration the liberty of others.

Note the elevation of means and the subordination of ends—the proposal not to let people have motor-cars that they may enjoy themselves, but that they may use them for commercial purposes.

The writer likes a good steady walk, and, by Gad, sir, so shall everyone else.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

for a Social Crediter's Notebook

The cost-of-living index on March 1 was 51 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, it was announced last night. This means that no change has taken place since the end of October. Wage rates are rising.—"Daily Express," March 17.

At the time of the May Report the normal programme of planting of the Forestry Commission... was cut down severely. We found ourselves with 50,000,000 surplus plants in our nurseries—I mean little plants a few inches high. Our programme was cut down as the result of the May Report, and we had these alternatives. If we had thrown these surplus seedlings on the market for what they would fetch, every professional nurseryman would have gone into bankruptcy... After consideration, we decided that the only proper and economical course was to destroy the balance. We actually destroyed about 50,000,000 young plants. If the May Report had not been made these young plants would have been invaluable a few years later. They would have been too old to transplant out in the forests now.—"Red Tape," March.

Banks Busy Getting In The Cash

The banks have been busy getting in from the Bank of England the necessary cash to satisfy the public's needs.

Official figures issued last night give the total bank-notes in circulation this week as £463,815,261, an increase of £3,500,000 during the past fortnight.

Compared with a year ago, this week's total is an increase of more than £59,000,000.—"Daily Express," March 19.

Your £1 note today will buy only 19s. worth of food.

The price of food rose five per cent. in 1936, compared with 1935—and it is still rising.

The wholesale price of sugar went up five times last week, and the retail price has risen by 1/4d. per lb. The cheapest grades of

packet teas have risen from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per lb.

Wholesale bacon prices went up by 3s. and 4s. a cwt. at the end of the week.

Retail prices of the better classes of bacon will not be affected; but the "cut price" stores will be bound to charge more.

Flour costs from 3d. to 4d. a stone more than it did three months ago.

The price of the 4-lb. loaf, at present 9d., may rise to 9 1/2d. for the first time since 1927.

—"Sunday Express," March 14.

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MARIANNE GOES HOME ON THE 6.47

"So the fat man got out a form, and the young chap and I got it signed... And the authorities arranged the matter like lambs"

HERE, Amy, this way. The 6.47 for Eastbrook Park goes from platform 7 now, not from platform 3. Coo, we did have some fun over that, you should've been there.

It used to go from 3 in front of the 6.30 for Cranfield, and sometimes they put a notice where they joined and sometimes they didn't, and if they did it was so small that if you were in a hurry you didn't see it.

★

ONE Thursday I was late and swearing mad because the pouring rain had brought the curls out of my hair (40 pins go in those curls every night, and Jack thinks they're ever so smart) and anyway I landed in the wrong train and the first thing I knew we were running on the wrong side of the fork at Princes Road.

Well, you can't do anything, at least not without £5. But I was sure that notice hadn't been out between the trains. They really ought to have made it bigger or separate the trains or something.

So I just got madder and madder until Cranfield, which was the first stop. I let the regulars clear off a bit and then had it out with the ticket collector. There were two fellows who'd done the wrong thing, too.

"Wot, you another, Miss?" said the ticket collector, being funny.

"I think it's disgusting, I really do," I said, "and three of us, too."

"We always gets 'em," he said, bored like. "Every day we gets 'em. They all arrive at Cranfield when they wants Eastbrook Park. Can't make it out."

He produced a piece of chewing gum and started to unwrap it.

"They put the trains behind each other in one platform in town and then don't

mark the middle properly," explained one fellow in a roll-necked red jersey. A bit shabby he was.

The other man had a beautiful bowler hat and an umbrella and one of those brief-cases of pigskin that smell lovely when they're new. He said: "Disgraceful, disgraceful, most inefficient."

★

"**W**ELL," I said, trying to be bright and cheerful like, "This is ever so awkward, isn't it? When's the next train back?"

"Can't make it out," said the porter. "Slow train on this side in 40 minutes and change at Princes Road," and then he sealed himself up with the gum.

"Disgraceful, disgraceful, most inefficient," said the big man again. "No organisation. Need a strong hand to run them and sack them if they slack."

The fellow in the red jersey remarked all lofty like: "The State should own the railways."

"What," said I, "Old Baldwin?"

"The State," he said pained and superior. "The People."

"Oh!" I said.

"You would suggest Nationalisation of the Railroads?" said the big man (he had a smooth voice like the vicar's). "You approve of the system in Germany?"

"Oh, Germany, no. But in Russia..." the young fellow began to get quite fervent.

★

"**H**ERE," I said, "Hang on. I'm in this, but I must have some chocolate. Just a sec." So I put a penny in the slot machine and pulled the tray and the thing got stuck.

"I've put my penny in," I said, and I must have my chocolate!" Well, first the young fellow coaxed and wriggled and shook the machine, and then the brief-case and the umbrella were discarded and the Strong Hand was applied; but neither of them got me my chocolate.

So then I got fed up, and went and dug out the porter from his room. He parked his gum and said: "Well, here's your penny back."

I said: "I can't eat your penny can I?" "Can't you?" he said. I said: "No."

"Oh!" he said, and then got a whacking great bunch of keys and unlocked the machine, and picked out the chocolate, which I ate.

★

"**H**ERE, comrade," said the young fellow, "I'd like one, too," and he fished out a penny. The fat man coughed, a little embarrassed and then asked for a portion, too. So there we were chewing chocolate in the station waiting-room.

"Porter," I said, "tell me one thing before you glide out of the picture. Don't you ever do anything about this?"

"Well, I 'ave informed the station-master," he said, "and I think 'e's written to headquarters. But it don't seem to stop. We 'ad four down yesterday," and then he fastened himself up again with the gum.

"What they need is a Man to direct this concern," said His Nibs majestically.

"Oo my," I said, "and who tells him what to do?—You fellows won't mind my slipping off my shoes, will you? These heels are so hard on a girl's feet." It was a relief to get them off.

"Co-operation," said the young chap. "In a co-operative concern the whole business

would pass through committees of workers. The porter's report would be forwarded with the authority of the committee."

"Coo," I said, "You don't mean it? That's ever so clever. I'm on the pingpong committee at Parkman's, and they don't half take a time to decide things."

I finished my chocolate and felt how easy my feet were and then I somehow got inspired, Amy. Really, I did.

"Go on," I said. "You poor saps, you both want the same thing, you both want the trains arranged so that you can get home when you're tired without coming to Cranfield."

"Only, like me and the chocolate, you two and the porter have different ways of getting it. And I declare we have a right to it, the same sort of right."

★

"**W**E might draw up a petition," said the fat man doubtfully.

"Not half," I said, tossing my head (it's quite effective even with the curls out), "but I've paid for my ticket, and it really was their fault."

"**I**T MUST BE OR PEOPLE WOULDN'T ALWAYS DO IT. I'M NOT GOING TO BEG. WE'LL SAY IT MUST BE DONE. IF IT'S NOT WE'LL GO BY BUS."

So the fat man got out a form, and the young chap and I got it signed; it was queer how everyone had either been stuck at Cranfield or was afraid of being stuck there one day. And the authorities arranged the matter like lambs.

"Here we are at Eastbrook Park, Amy. It's ever so short a journey, isn't it?"

Elizabeth Edwards

DON'T MISS
The Dean of Canterbury's important announcement of a Social Credit Rendezvous—see page 8.

For NEW READERS

Read about Social Credit and then see how much more interesting your daily paper becomes.

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Rate Campaigners Told How To Get What They Want

NORTHERN Ireland Rate and Taxpayers' Association is running a campaign against high rates and taxes. Mr. W. H. Leech, Association chairman, addressed a meeting of members last week.

Mr. Leech, who declared they were in revolt against certain things under which they were forced to live, went on to refer to the "crushing burden" of high rates and taxes imposed upon them and the dreaded prospect of further increased taxation.

All around them, he said, they saw appalling evidence of lack of security. Nobody was safe these days. No matter how hard they might work to prevent bankruptcy or being thrown on the dole, they saw each year that they were expected to pay more and more in taxation, and if they raised their voices at all they were stigmatised as "disloyal."

"But," went on the speaker, "we here in Ulster live in a democracy and we are the electors. This means that we, as electors, are responsible for the policy of our Cor-

poration and our Government. It means that it is our duty and our proper duty to inform our representatives in the City Council and the Government what we want done. That is, we must give them clear instructions about things we want. But we don't do this.

"It is not their job to say, 'Oh, but I think so and so!' They are the representatives of the people and not their masters. Members of Parliament and city councillors depend upon votes for their position and the balance of political power in any constituency may be swayed by quite a small body of people.

"Public representatives are aware of this, and most of them are quite ready to carry out the wishes of their constituents providing they have a clear indication of that wish and that it is a united one."

Tax-Resisting Pacifist Says: 'I Shall Not Pay'

[TO THE EDITOR, S.C.]

THANKS for the copy of last Friday's issue of SOCIAL CREDIT. I congratulate you upon the admirable and forceful manner in which you reported the proceedings at Clerkenwell concerning my refusal to pay a portion of income tax which is used for the murder, maiming or blinding for life (potential or otherwise) of human beings.

May I point out that I was summoned for 60 per cent. of the total amount claimed, as I had promptly paid the 40 per cent. on demand. This was not made clear to those attending the court (without doubt the authorities were far from proud of their case).

I first made this deduction in 1935, and though threatened with proceedings on quite a number of occasions, no action was taken

to that effect until I was summoned to appear at Clerkenwell in October last, a court order eventually being made, and the result you know.

I may say that I acted entirely as an individual, not as a member of any sect or body.

It may interest you to know that I have not paid the sum for the non-payment of which I was imprisoned, and, God helping me, I shall not pay.

I have now received a further summons to appear at the Wealdstone Police Court on Tuesday, May 4, 1937, at 10.30 a.m., to show cause why I have not paid the sum of £1 15s. 11d., part of income tax charged for the half-year ended October 5, 1936.

WALTER JAMES CLAYFIELD
Colindale, N.W.9

PEACE PLEDGE UNIONISTS HEAR THE COLONEL

A SMALL meeting of Socialists and the Peace Pledge Union was recently addressed, by special request, by Colonel Creagh Scott.

The audience was so impressed with what he had to say on the subject of democratic action to reach national or local objectives, that they resolved to arrange a public meeting for him to address in the Market Hall, Okehampton.

Readers in the West of England will be interested and encouraged by this news, and any who are able to assist in making the meeting a success are invited to communicate with Colonel J. Creagh Scott, D.S.O., Wood Cottage, Okehampton, Devon.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO END WAR

MR. P. NOEL-BAKER, Member of Parliament for Derby, addressing a "one-day school" arranged by the Manchester and District Co-operative Party, on Saturday, declared that in this world society in which we lived we needed international government, a new conception of national interests, and a new kind of international solidarity among the people if we were to have world peace.

★
There is only one way to end war—by removing its causes, chief of which is the economic war for markets, forced on the world by the money system.

From "You Have Been Warned," or "A Complete Guide to the Road," by Fougasse and McCullough!

Examination question No. 2: Why is a hand-pump included in the tool kit?
Answer: It gives employment.

Overheard on a Bus

"This changeable weather is so annoying, one never knows what to take out of pawn!"

Loan Sharks Hounded Him To Jail Death

THE tragedy of Frank Evans, the Australian ex-service man who was hounded to desperation by the loan sharks—the Australian Agricultural Bank—as reported here on January 22, has run its course. Evans is dead.

For six years he lived in a state of peonage to the bank, which allowed him only £16 for six months' sustenance. Finally, the bank took over his farm, but found that Evans had burned the farm buildings and machinery rather than let it have them.

★

Evans was prosecuted and remanded to an asylum. Friends set to work to secure his transfer to a convalescent home. Evans was found to be sane, but instead of being released, was transferred to prison for six months.

Evans went on hunger strike from the effects of which he died.

Well may the journal of the West Australian Wheatgrowers proclaim: "Frank Evans Dead: Murdered by Authority." But in damning authority for its callous officiousness, let Evans's friends not lose sight of the real criminals—those who maintain a system of poverty in an age of plenty.

SINISTER HASTE OVER COAL NATIONALISATION

AFURTHER loan in the more distant future is foreshadowed by Mr. Baldwin's announcement that the Government had accepted the award of the special tribunal on the valuation of mining royalties and that the necessary legislation would be introduced as soon as possible.

The indecent haste with which this business of nationalising Britain's coalmines is being pushed forward is sinister.

Very little voice is raised against it. The public does not understand what is happening—and never will—these things are very highly specialised, and even the specialists cannot be sure of much unless they are "in the know."

But certain facts ought to shout a warning. First of all, the tribunal, which sat in private, was appointed less than two months ago. Yet on a subject bristling with difficulties it has already made its award.

Secondly, the drafting of a Bill to take over mining royalties is already nearly complete.

Thirdly, as *The Times* puts it, "members of the Labour Party are agreeably surprised" at the tribunal's findings, which "will be an unwelcome surprise to the royalty owners."

It is a pathetic fact that members of the Labour Party are generally pleased with the nastier products of the financier's activities. The royalty owners gave the tribunal the

figure of £4,430,000 as the average net annual income derived from royalties during the seven years 1928 to 1934. They are awarded fifteen years' purchase, which makes the total sum payable £66,450,000.

Having employed another method of assessment the royalty owners had arrived at a much higher figure. They had computed the capital sum to be invested to produce the same annual revenue as the royalties.

The first figure put forward was £150,000,000, but this was afterwards reduced to £112,000,000. The tribunal's finding is approximately three-fifths of the latter.

Apart from our previous warning in SOCIAL CREDIT that the revenue of the British coal-mining industry would in due course be mortgaged to the United States as security for payment of instalments of the War Debt, under terms dictated by Morgans, the sinister restrictive policy behind this racket is made abundantly clear by this quotation from *The Times* leader on the subject:

"It is indeed highly probable that the authority administering the royalties will be the closest and most effective ally of the Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission, which years ago pointed out that the incentive to the elimination of superfluous units and planned development was weakened so long as 'so much still depends on the accident of mineral ownership and plans may always be stultified by the opening or reopening of mines without regard to corporate efficiency or national need.'"

SOCIAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CREDITERS Ready To Welcome Visitors From Overseas

THE present offices of the Social Credit Secretariat have served their purpose. Though modest and though inadequate these rooms at 163A, Strand, have become "the home base of Social Credit" to thousands of Social Crediters throughout the world.

The growing demands being made on the Secretariat, and the increasing work, have been accompanied by other important considerations which made it appear inevitable that a move would be necessary.

There has been an insistent demand for a social centre in London for the Movement where Social Crediters may meet, and where a welcome awaits all visitors. With club facilities and refreshments available, such a rendezvous would do much to help forward the work of the London groups and bring together Social Crediters passing through London.

Moreover, next month many overseas members of the Social Credit family will be in London. They will look forward to meeting their comrades at home, and from other parts of the world.

★ ★ ★

163A, Strand, has the advantage of being known, of being situated centrally, and of being easily found. These were all factors to be considered against moving. And there was the expense.

Fortunately, it has been possible to secure a suite of rooms in the same building and on the first floor. These will meet the requirements of a social centre, and the additional office accommodation which is necessary.

Therefore, we are able to dig in at the address to which so many footsteps will be directed when our overseas friends are here—and which is known so well to us all.

★ ★ ★

It is hoped to open the new social centre early in May. The date will be announced in SOCIAL CREDIT.

A welcome will await all who come there—and at last we shall have a rendezvous to meet over a cup of tea.

But in the meantime much remains to be done. The rooms must be furnished and prepared for the purposes they are to serve.

And there is the financial aspect. Furniture has to be bought, rent and overheads paid.

The additional cost will be £100 NOW, and an additional £150 a year at least.

This must be raised. The Movement has demanded a social centre; it has a social centre; and so we must pay for it.

Two years ago, in response to a challenge from Miss de Castro, additional revenue was provided in a splendid manner. Again the need for additional revenue calls for another such response.

HEWLETT JOHNSON
Director of Revenue

Social Crediters! Help to Establish Your New Social Centre!

A fund for this purpose is now open.

**WANTED—
IMMEDIATELY—£100.**

- 10 persons giving £10 each,
- or 20 persons giving £5 each,
- or 100 persons giving £1 each,
- will provide this.

Over the next year—£150 extra.

£10 a year from 15 persons
will cover this.

The Treasurer offers to start the fund with £10 next month, £10 in September next and £10 in June, 1938, towards the extra cost for which this fund is being raised.

Who will accept this lead and this challenge?

COME ON, SOCIAL CREDITERS!
Don't leave it to "the other fellow."
Act NOW, please. Let us know what YOU will do. It is urgent we should know as soon as possible.

NEW SOCIAL CENTRE

The Treasurer,
Social Credit Secretariat Limited,
163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.
I enclose £ : s. : d. for
the immediate cost of the new
social centre.

I will send you £ : s. d.
on*..... for the extra
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Name
Address
* Dates.

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(87)

WE WILL ABOLISH POVERTY

Below is the form Parliamentary electors are being asked to sign. Please read it carefully, sign (if you have not done so already) and send it to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Will you volunteer to help in the Campaign?

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

1. I know that there are goods in plenty and therefore that poverty is quite unnecessary.
2. I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.
3. I demand, too, that monetary or other effective claims to such products as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want of them.
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 if I can for a candidate who will undertake to support this my policy, and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law making before this.
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.)