Aberhart Challenges Dominion Right To Disallow Bank Acts

FEDERAL M.P.'S SHOULD DEMAND DISCLOSURE OF MINISTER'S RULING

The courageous and determined fight which is being put up at this time by the Social Credit Government of Alberta, in its efforts to overthrow the financial tyranny which has fastened on it by the central Government, should command the respect of all but those who are openly and unjustifiably prejudiced.

As reported in SOCIAL CREDIT last week, the reply of Mr. Mackenzie King, "Liberal" Prime Minister of Canada, to the ringing challenge of Mr. Aberhart that Alberta should order its affairs was to disallow the Alberta Bank Acts.

The Albertans lost no time in replying, and their second telegram which we reproduce (p. 4) shows that they do not intend to sit down under such high-handed action.

The telegram contains the right of the Dominion to disallow the legislation, and quotes a remarkable statement on this question by the very Minister of Justice, M. Lapointe, who prepared the ruling which was made the apparent excuse for the Canadian Cabinet's action.

In point of fact this ruling has not been made. The Cabinet's previous remarks on provincial soverignty, there is good reason to suppose that the Cabinet decision was made in spite, not because of, the position of the Federal Members of Parliament would do a public service by demanding its full disclosure.

So far as we doubt that only the strongest pressure could have prevailed on Mr. Mackenzie King, not only to betray his election pledge (quoted by Mr. Solon Low in the speech we reproduce on page 5) but to interfere in provincial affairs at this time, and on so flimsy or questionable a pretext.

The comments by The Times Ottawa correspondent on August 3 are sufficient to indicate both the source of the pressure and the weakness of the Cabinet's action. He said: "Ministers here (Ottawa) . . . will be subjected to strong pressure from the chartered banks to exercise the Federal power of disallowance of provincial legislation. This pressure, however, has rarely been used, and it is not now exercised. The Government would be liable to be charged with unfair discrimination."

It is.

THE NEXT STEP

While the opposition of Social Credit is greedily assuming that the battle has been fought and won by the banks ("This is safe to assume," said the Daily Mail, "is the beginning of the end of Social Credit in Alberta"), Mr. Aberhart is proceeding with his plan of consultation with Major Douglas's two commissions. O.F. Wanless, his lawyer, has moved to the next step.

He has called another emergency meeting of the Legislature for the simple purpose of repassing the three Acts which have been disallowed.

AN IMPORTANT 'ARTICLE' ON THE ALBERTA SITUATION BY MAJOR DOUGLAS APPEARS ON PAGE 5

STOP PRESS

On Wednesday, August 25, The Times published a special article by their Edmonton correspondent on the situation in Alberta, together with an editorial on the same subject. These articles received attention in our last issue. In the meantime, the opinions of The Times's editorial in reading the mind of M. Lapointe, Minister of Justice in the Dominion Government, is noteworthy.

"He had in mind," it says, "provincial legislation which the Federal Government may have thought unwise or even dangerous, but which did not, like the measure now in question, invade a field explicitly reserved by the Canadian Constitution for the Dominion Parliament."

This is a curious piece of mind-reading, since the Federal power of disallowance -the reality of which M. Lapointe was verbally (not mentally) questioning-was not exercised in respect of the so-called Alberta Prosperity Certificates, which did invade a field explicitly reserved for the Dominion Parliament.

That argument, we must inform the Government, the right of the Dominion to disallow any provincial legislation whatsoever, because it has no such power today.

This is the opinion of your own Minister of Justice, who stated in Parliament March 29th, 1937, "I do not think in a Federation such as this the power of disallowance could be exercised by the Central Government."

He then went on to say, "It is evident the provincial legislatures would feel that they were invaded by the central Government within the sphere of their jurisdiction."

We again assert with all possible emphasis that the legislation in question is within the federal jurisdiction, in which the clearly expressed wishes of the Albertans are sovereign.

Further, we challenge the right of the banks to monopsonize the sole credit of Alberta as they or the Bank of Canada do, since it is the Dominion Government's right to invade a purely provincial field in delegating authority to any institution to control and receive our paper currency, to their own credit within their provinces, thus deliberately violating property and civil rights.

This constitutes social lawlessness, which you should not be allowed to get away with.

By disallowance of our Social Credit Bill you usurped the right of the Court to decide their validity in order to destroy this legislation, which by law this government of its right of appeal, yet you make it applicable. Alberta gives you no mere specious right of their representatives to the Central Government's obvious one.

Future disallowance of the institution's self-evidently inciting you to disallow our Social Credit Acts will breach your Government with full responsibility for creating a most serious constitutional crisis.

Canadian people realize that no statute, even if flagrantly compulsory to you, can be made to take such action.

Implementing the will of the people is the only justification for having a Government, and the existence and well-being of our people is the first and most sacred duty of our Government whether you like us or not, and we are bound to defend it.
The Struggle for Power

WHEN, in January, 1926, the U.S. Soldiers’ Bonus Bill became law, it was no mere question of money to be given to veterans. It was a struggle for power. And it is neither connected with nor dependent on the result of the political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

The Struggle for Power is a struggle for freedom. It is a struggle for social justice.

The Struggle for Power is a struggle for freedom. It is a struggle for social justice. And it is neither connected with nor dependent on the result of the political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

Soldiers’ Bonus. It marked the beginning, and in point of historic fact, an auspicious beginning. Among the obscure nominees of impersonal politics, it has filled a gaol with 7,000 prisoners.

A Journal of Economic Democracy

...powers arrived at the branches concerned...

...but the Members of my Association would direct your attention to the fact that the government in Canada is answerable to Parliament for the conduct of the government in Canada, until its members are elected by a popular vote...

...which he derives the sole meaning, and...
During those few years before the last European War, when people argued boldly about Socialism or women's suffrage, highly controversial subjects in those days, public indifference was aroused by the extension of sweetened labour which was known to exist in certain industries. The Sweetened Labourers and Clothing Traders were quite the worst offenders. Matchboxes were made by hand at that time. Only a few pennies a gross were paid for them. Owing to the work of the Suffrage Societies, women of those days had a high standard of living, and the women from such fearful toil and poverty. Of course, there was a great deal of work to be done, and high wages were paid for it.  

The fiction that is being put over now is that "we are a prosperous nation on the high road to recovery" (whatever that may mean). There is therefore very little evidence in the press of conditions of sweetened labour, but it can be found by those who care to look for it. Only last week I read of a woman who had been offered seven and sixpence a dozene to make women's dresses, which afterwards sold at five shillings each in a well-known chain store.  

Someone gave me this letter, cut from the Evening Chronicle. It is signed by Miss P. H. E., of whom twenty were ministers of religion, including one bishop. One had the liberty to look at child labour as a thing of the wicked past. The days of work and the days of rest, toil and leisure, of boys and girls of six and seven working in factories, of child chimney-sweepers are over. It is, therefore, with the more concern that we learn of the persistence of child labour in certain "home industries."  

Social Crediters, manufacturers of leather bags, some kinds of toys, paper and clock novelties, decorations, flags, streamers, etc., take home some pieces of goods to be packed, leaving the houses. The work is done at home. It seems to me that there appears to be little or no real opposition. Payment is on work done. The cheapness of the finished articles demands an unbelievable output to make any appreciable sum of money. We have heard of cases of flags, cut and made by hand, of a gross, of spools that are dipped in colour, each one unbelievably submerged and dried three times, at 3s. a gross.  

To make a weekly income on which to live, the census of these "out-workers" is often too much in their own interests to be made public. In an illness they need to be able to turn to their home-work which should not be neglected. They often have to do this or lose their job. If long hours at work, how can these children take full advantage of their leisure? How can we be sure that if the country was covered with posters it would have some effect?  

Social Crediters, are spontaneous, or have been drawn to this state of affairs and that local and national authorities, that have the welfare of the children and the creation of an industrial democracy in mind, seems to be an important omission or omission of our Factory and Education legislation.  

What use is it to call for Factory or Education legislation? The industries mentioned in the letter, the making of needles and cheap jewellery, have to compete with similar articles imported into this country from places like Japan. To raise wages would, under present conditions, ruin the whole concern.  

The money. Why should we import these cheap foreign goods? Because the bankers are trying to get back the pre-war conditions of foreign investment and free trade. For the interest on foreign loans can only be paid as long as we import goods made by the country to which we lend.  

Will someone explain to these earnest and honest people that there is a need for the financing of this country to be at the mercy of a handful of men who are ready to sacrifice nations and children to their own system of foreign investment?  

What use is it then to demand that the money system shall be our servant, and not our master? It is for us to issue our orders, through Parliament, that this sort of thing has to cease. It is for women to see that men are carried along with an independent income which will enable them to refuse sweetened labour.  

The bankers will soon find out this when we have given them our orders. There will be no more need of Factory Acts then.  

The news of the battle of "The People of The Banks" must be taken to the people of the country if we are to make any headway. We must take it to the highways and byways.  

I would like to meet any Social Crediters of Manchester and district with a view to organizing a weekly cycle poster propaganda section. I have been so arranged as to convey to readers the essentials of Social Credit and could also let the press know about the advantages of being mobile.  

I feel sure that if the country was covered with posters it would make a much more impressional increase both in members and readers of Social Credit. If any member will get in touch with me at my address the project can be got working very quickly.

Social Credit CREDIT RENDEZVOUS 169A STRAND LONDON, W.C. OPEN from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. and until 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Mr. W. Lockhart
29 Nicolas Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21

Alberta Bonds

In view of the alleged default of the Alberta Government, it now would be a favourable moment for purchasing Alberta Bonds. If this is possible, on the London Stock Exchange.

What steps should an investor take to ensure, as far as possible, that such bonds are of genuine origin? It is to the advantage of all the officers and directors to encourage the purchase of Social Crediters, seeking bondholders to register their holdings and give statutory declarations of beneficial ownership?

Uptonburn
T. H. Storrs

W. E. are informed that dealings in Alberta Government Stocks are at present suspended on the London Stock Exchange. The holders of Alberta Bonds were asked to notify the Alberta Government of their names and addresses before August 16th.

SEPTEMBER 1937

REMARKABLY SHORTLY

The June issue (11 pages) of this quarterly is now ready. Price 1s 3d. quarterly or to subscribers post free 1s. 6d. per annum.

Post Office Subscriptions are welcome from all parts of the world. Write for returns. How to get your copy of SOCIAL CREDIT, 169A STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 21.

THE FIG TREE is the only periodical, among all the thousands published, which deals with the very real crisis in the world today. It is a journal packed with valuable hints and ideas and capable of worthy of grasping the truth unfurled. It reveals real interest in the subject. There are no dry facts and figures here. Subscribe to THE FIG TREE and you will treasure every issue, it is so useful and so interesting. It contains the facts which underlie the NEW THOUGHT MOVEMENT. The FIG TREE has been published for over 20 years and has never been before a journal which exchanged so much real wealth for so small a financial consideration.

The FIG TREE is a quarterly edited by Major C. H. Douglas.
This page is published at the request of many new readers. It will be reprinted from time to time.
ARMAGEDDON

F ew friends, and fewer enemies, will miss the significance of the struggle for which the first Alberta Cabinet has been pledged for so long. And yet the Alberta government, in so far as it may be considered a go- 
government, was in all essentials as weak as the Cabinet which has just been dissolved. It has been, after all, a sound political judgment that the Alberta government will never be stable, unless it is supported by a united and consistent public opinion, and that the support of the public opinion can never be obtained unless the government is free from corruption, and is in every material respect, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The people of Alberta, knowing that they are engaged in a struggle of the utmost importance for the control of the resources of the province in the hands of the people, have demanded the same kind of government as the people of the United States. They have demanded a government in which the people shall have the power to make and enforce the laws. They have demanded a government in which the people shall have the power to control the work of the government, and to arrest its progress when it fails to fulfill its duty.

The government of Alberta, on the other hand, has been the government of the capitalists. It has been the government of the bankers, and has been dominated by the interests of the banks. It has been the government of the rich, and has neglected the interests of the poor. It has been the government of the few, and has failed to serve the many.

The people of Alberta, however, have not been content to accept a government that is weak and ineffective. They have been prepared to make sacrifices, and to do everything that is necessary to establish a government that is strong and effective. They have been willing to fight for the freedom of their province, and to defend their rights against the enemies of freedom.

The government of Alberta, on the other hand, has been content to accept a situation that is weak and ineffective. It has been content to allow the interests of the banks to dominate the government, and to permit the people to be exploited by the rich.

The people of Alberta, therefore, have been prepared to make sacrifices, and to do everything that is necessary to establish a government that is strong and effective. They have been willing to fight for the freedom of their province, and to defend their rights against the enemies of freedom.
TRY YOUR STRENGTH

IT is the end of August, and many people have returned from their holidays; at least London looks distinctly browner and fitter and ostentatiously energetic even to the extent of cowing its own traffic at cross-roads. Work-for-one's-living seems bleak and dull except for a few exceptions. Adventure seems, comparatively into an empty fortnight, to be hoarded and fingered anxiously during the coming year.

Adventure past? Not yet. There is a democratic revolution starting. Try Democracy as a hobby, it is rather fun. It has a taste rather like wild strawberries, you always want more; like a model boat, it works, and it has the advantage that you can see the w.h.e.go round; and as a garden produces a crop of potatoes, cabbages, and in its refinements, asparagus, so the practice of democracy produces things, services you want done.

So go and make whoopee with your local institutions. If they are doing what you want, congratulate them fervently and demand more.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

LECTURES AND STUDIES SECTION

THE first examination for the A Certificate will be conducted during September by post; entrance fee, 10s. 6d. It is desirable that applicants for the A Certificate should have attended the prescribed Courses A and B. Candidates will be permitted to retain the Examination Paper (six questions) for 24 hours after opening the envelope containing it, and may avail themselves of every assistance in answering it. The answers to the Examination Papers will be marked by the tutorial staff. Candidates will be prohibited from discussing the paper or the unsolved questions with anyone. Any answers are dispatched to the examining University from The Recorder, Social Credit Secretariat, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

F ORCIBLE REMOVAL

The 956 inhabitants of North Hythe (County Durham), all neighbours in a single long street, have been in present argument against the establishment of a Ministry of Health-Augmented scheme where the other day that one "has to be done to live in North Hythe, the village without amenities." Though lacking church, police station, school, or park, but proud of its volunteer fire brigade and its ferry across the River Wear-North Hythe suits all the 956.

Many of them are threatened with removal to new houses at Castletown, a mile away, and they have organized petition of protest against the transfer.

"We might have been healthy and happy here all our lives!" said Mr. John French, landlord of the Oak Tree Inn for the past 20 years.

County Alderman E. Thompson, of Castletown, himself a native of North Hythe, criticises the banality as a soporific descending place.

"I should like to see it evacuated completely, and allowed to return gradually to its rural state," he said. "If I had to live in North Hythe myself I think I should need the two public-houses which the place boats."

Yes, Mr. Thompson. But why not move the amenities to the village instead of the villager to the amenities? Our fight should all be transferred to New York.

* * *

DEMOCRATIC CRUTCH: The right of residents to quiet in their own town.

PRACTICAL POINT. Such an objective is only likely to succeed when confined to a definite and small number of streets.

Local Objectives

The Director and Mr. George Hickling will address meetings in the following centres during September:

Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield: September 15, 16, 17.

Bradford, Stockport-on-Tyne, Newcastle-on-Tyne: September 16, 18, 19.

Glasgow: September 24, 25. Ireland (Cork), Belfast: September 24, 25.

Further details of time and place of the meetings will be announced later.

If they will not carry out reasonable demands when these are clearly expressed, they have a clear field for invention in the matter of sanctions, and may carry out all sorts of cunning schemes for their exasperation . . . there is only one rule governing these, that they must be directed in attacking the most vital point in the institutions in their Democratic function of representation; train your neighbours in their Democratic function of expressing what you want, preferably with the accompaniment of loud noises. In short, get up a local objective.

Faith may move mountains, but it is as well to go into training on lamp-posts in these decadent days. Each district has its own equivalents to lamp-posts but here are some examples of the type of project to look for:

NOISE

Here is the record of complaints told to Mr. the Inspector and the Ministry of Transport inquiry at Cambridge into an application by the Town Council (stood to be the face of the kind) to close certain streets in the vicinity of the colleges to heavy traffic through the night time.

Undergraduates cannot sleep at examinations time because of the noise.

University residents are constantly disturbed.

Hospital patients cannot rest.

DAMAGE has been caused by traffic vibration to Calne, Stanwick, Magdalen, Corpus Christi, and Trinity Colleges.

The last named a dozen colleges have collapsed or become unseizable.

During the Cambridge schism this strike was like "a heaven," said the Master of Magdalen.

The council sought to close the streets concerned between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Representatives of the college will meet by letter on behalf of the Heads of Peterhouse and other Colleges and of the students in Addenbrooke's hospital.

DEMOCRATIC CRUTCH: The right of residents to quiet in their own town.

To Subscribers

PLEASE note that in future only one notice for each campaign is issued in each constituency. The list of meetings (the slip) will be sent showing the date of the last time good for, and only additional information will be sent after that date.

We hope that our supporters will be good enough to send renewal instructions and remittance in good time to receive the next issue.

DANGEROUS CROSSING

The seventh accident in seven years at the level crossing at Harch Lane, Chingford, Essex, occurred on August 2. Residents near by are asking for its removal.

A doctor and his two children passed over the level crossing at 9.30 a.m. in a L.N.E.R. train for Liverpool Street, travelling at 50 m.p.h. in the crossing the crossing the gates. The train was going down a hill. The driver, by blowing his whistle and jolting on his brakes, warned the doctor of his approach, and averted a collision.

* * *

DEMOCRATIC CRUTCH: Our right to all peace-making services for road and rail.

NOXIOUS SMELLS

The Mogden Sewage Works, Edwinstowe, Middlesex, which cost six and a half million pounds, is providing such obnoxious odours as to give local inhabitants pains in the nose as well as in the nose and head. Small wonder they are becoming nervous and alarmed.

It is a matter of regret that one realization that an unpleasant smell is not harmful can too easily lead to a neglect of it.

Our clever engineers can surely do something about this, if it plainly instructs the people's will.

* * *

DEMOCRATIC CRUTCH: The right of the people of Ipswich to both efficient seweage and PURE AIR.