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SOCIAL CREDIT

For Political and Economic Democracy

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1937

Weekly Twopence

Mutterings Against Alberta

A GUN, AND TWELVE HUNDRED

"GIVE us a gun," cried a wrathful Social Crediter at Lakeview when Premier Aberhart announced the Ottawa veto on Alberta's Bank Legislation. It was a crucial moment that followed, and the resultant pregnant silence speaks volumes for the sanity of Albertans. And when Premier Aberhart warned his listeners, "No! Not that way!" he voiced the feelings of all true democrats in Alberta.

Though thwarted in their first major effort to wrest control of credit from the financial usurpers, they remain calm, these democrats; because they realise that in their struggle for self-determination the will of the people must prevail.

With some parties, however, the will of the people is rarely considered. From one of them comes a demand for not one gun, but twelve hundred.

It happened in Edmonton, and the story is told as authentic by one who was a listener. The speaker who voiced the demand is well known, and his statements appear periodically in the Opposition press. "Give me one general," he is reported as saying, "and twelve hundred men with rifles, and in two weeks I'll have the province on its feet. I'll drive Social Credit clean out."

And that, of course, is the difference between a wrathful democrat and one who is something else entirely.

—H.D.C. in "Today and Tomorrow."

Dark Threats Which Appear In The Controlled Press

THE press in this country, or, to be more precise, in London, is most indignant that the Government of Alberta, elected with an overwhelming majority, should actually attempt to carry out its mandate.

That is not the way things are done, as Mr. Baldwin obligingly explained not long since, and so the most drastic measures are now being advocated. "Put 'em up against a wall and shoot 'em" is the watchword.

The *Morning Post* in a long article on September 11 by its Calgary (not its Edmonton) correspondent, foresees "the most serious clash between Dominion and Provincial authority that Canada has yet seen."

The Alberta Government, it remarks, has no police force of its own and no soldiers; and adds that although the Canadian Mounted Police act under the orders of the Provincial Attorney-General, nevertheless it is a Dominion body subject to final orders from Ottawa.

"If, therefore," it concludes, "the Dominion Government decides to give its protection to the banks and for this purpose sends orders to the Mounted Police, these orders would have to be obeyed. The Alberta Attorney-General would then have to decide whether the enforcement of the bank laws is to remain a dead letter, or whether he is to try to overcome the resistance of the Mounted Police with some sort of improvised force of his own."

"In coming to this decision he will have to realise that the Dominion Government has at its disposal such regular military forces as exist in Canada, and also the militia—for what that body is worth."

The *Economist*, September 4, would like compromise from Mr. Aberhart, but itself would give no quarter: "Mr. Aberhart has rejected all counsels of compromise in his struggle against orthodox banking and currency conceptions... The removal of a duly elected Provincial Government is an unheard-of step; but if Mr. Aberhart's plans are allowed to come even temporarily into effective operation it may be difficult and expensive to unscramble the crazy omelette."

The *Spectator*, September 3, is more cautious: "It might be wisest to allow Mr. Aberhart to pursue his course unchecked... It is extremely doubtful if in fact any of Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit money [sic] would ever be accepted and circulated, but in a new election he might be returned again."

The *Financial Times* reports with great gusto that a "great" rally has been held at Calgary in Alberta demanding the "immediate resignation" of Mr. William Aberhart. The gathering, reported to consist of 8,000 persons, was addressed by leaders of the three opposition parties of the province.

Six of the seven opposition members in the House were elected from Edmonton and Calgary constituencies, so that the meeting, drawn from all the neighbouring towns, is not very impressive.

It is pertinent to add that a Social Credit picnic was held in Calgary last year, attendance 11,000, to celebrate the anniversary of the election of the Social Credit Government.

When a similar picnic was held in August this year over 20,000 attended and sent the following telegram to Mr. Mackenzie King: "Over 20,000 citizens of Calgary assembled demand that the Right Hon. Mackenzie King submit to the will of the Albertan people."

"That he also rescind his action disallowing three bank bills passed by Alberta Government. That he also fulfil his pre-election promises regarding Bank of Canada Act, and his 'hands off Alberta' policy."

One Thousand Million Railway Tickets Now Being Printed

RAILWAY fares will cost more after October 1, that is to say that we shall have to part with more ordinary money tickets to obtain special railway travel tickets.

So the railway companies are now engaged upon the task of printing millions of fresh tickets.

In their first stage, railway tickets arrive at the factory in the form of pieces of millboard about three feet square. Mechanical knives cut them and then cross-cut them. Then they are printed at the rate per machine of 11,000 an hour.

About 1,000,000,000 tickets are issued in the course of a year, without counting season tickets. All have to be accounted for.

They are all numbered and counted, and issued to stations in batches as required. This applies to all tickets — single tickets, return tickets, workmen's tickets, through tickets, excursion tickets, dog tickets and all the others. Each kind has a different marking.

Those who supply the tickets to the stations know exactly how many go out, and complete records are kept.

Upon surrender at the journey's end the tickets go back to an office, where girls sort them out, examine the number, and stack them in neat little piles of cancelled tickets.

If any are missing an explanation is required from the station that should have issued them.

After they have been sorted and checked they are boiled down to pulp to become tickets once more.

It is all quite simple, and would work beautifully except for one thing. Millions of people who would like to have some of these tickets will not be able to lay their hands on them.

It is hard lines on them, for some of them may want most desperately to travel. It is a matter of life and death sometimes.

Millions would just like "to go places and see things," and why should they not?—the travelling facilities are there.

It is hard lines, too, on the railway companies, who not only have the tickets ready but also the trains, and the railways, and the signals, and the stations, and the willing workers.

Yet there will be many empty seats on the swiftly-moving trains, in spite of much advertising.

For the people have not enough money tickets to buy the railway tickets.

Silly it may be, but what are you going to do about it?

ALBERTA

Special Features This Week

On Page Three

Alberta's Reply to "Disallowance"

On Page Five

Mr. L. D. Byrne

Temporary

Commissioner to the Government of Alberta writes exclusively for SOCIAL CREDIT

On Page Eight

An Unhappy Precedent

Mr. Mackenzie King's Dilemma

NEW YORK CHILDREN SHOW THE WAY

DURING the recent hot spell the *New York Times* reported that about 150 children between the ages of 9 and 15, in the Bronx, clad in bathing suits, appeared at a Branch Office of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, chanting "WE WANT SHOWERS."

Employees tried in vain to shunt them to the Fire Department, explaining jurisdiction in the matter lay there. The youngsters were adamant. With correct tactics they left the technique of how to satisfy their demands to the proper authorities. They demanded results—water supply from city hydrants.

Their next move was a sit-down strike in the drive way of the Department.

Simple, unspoiled child-psychology knew what it wanted and that it was there, so demanded it.

The apparatus was installed one morning and by afternoon scores of children in the neighbourhood were making use of it.

—From *Money*.

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It was probably at Ernest Sutton's

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MEXICO NOW HAS A CENTRAL BANK

A DRASTIC change in the Mexican financial situation is brought about by a decree in the *Official Gazette*, says a Reuter message, under which the Banco de Mexico becomes the sole bank of emission and is charged with the regulation of the exchange.

The step caused a sensation in financial circles, as, in the absence of explanatory preamble, it appeared virtually to invest the director of the bank with dictatorial powers.

The money power quietly goes on with its establishment of all-powerful Central banks in every country in the world.

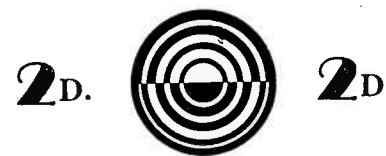
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★ COMMENTARY ★

T.U. Leaders Agree With Hitler

HERR HITLER, speaking to an audience of 30,000 at Nuremberg said "Germany has solved her most difficult social problem and solved it completely. There are no real unemployed in the country."

Whilst these words were being spoken, the Trades Union Congress at Norwich was passing, with great solemnity, a resolution supporting the Government's armament programme chiefly on the grounds that it found work and wages for its members!

The Stalins, the Hitlers, the international bankers, are all agreed on denying displaced workers the wages of the machine! All are implacably opposed to the free distribution of the consumer-dividends made possible by the machine.

Can it be that trade union leaders are in favour of denying our own people access to the goods we can produce for peaceful purposes unless they are "employed" in making guns and bombs?

Alas, the resolution passed at the Congress makes it appear so.

They persist in demanding "employment" rather than dividends, and, like Hitler, regard "unemployment" as a problem to be solved instead of an increment made possible by the machine and to be distributed to all.

Blindness in the Times

A CORRESPONDENT in *The Times*, writing at length about the economic resources of Japan, points out that "she could muster at least 2,000,000 men without crippling her economic organisation."

This is the kind of fact that "work" maniacs, or to be more precise, people suffering from "employment-problemitis," persist in perverting into a curse, and a potent move towards war.

For if it means anything at all, the fact that 2,000,000 men can be withdrawn from production without crippling economic organisation means that paid leisure equivalent to the full time of 2,000,000 men is immediately available for distribution.

It does not need a mathematical genius to figure out that this means that 4,000,000 men in Japan can be paid full time real wages whilst employed only half time, without upsetting anything except a cock-eyed financial system.

The measure of man-hours that can be mobilised by any nation for belligerent purposes is the measure of part of the paid leisure that is restricted and destroyed in peace time by the money monopoly and those who control or worship it.

The Whitewash Won't Stick

IN an article referring to the recent report of the Royal Commission in Australia to Inquire into Banking, the *Morning Post* endeavours to splash a lot of whitewash. First it tries to explain the inquiry by saying:

"On the principle that there is nothing so good that it might not be bettered, there is to be found, perhaps, an explanation of why, at a time when banking systems in a country

have been proved to be sound and efficient, Commissions of Inquiry into systems have been instituted."

Later in the article it was pointed out carefully that "the banks came out of the crisis with flying colours."

This kind of statement is a bit late in the day to raise any cheers from the Australian people—those who have survived, that is.

Meanwhile, elsewhere it is announced that in the seven years, from 1930 to 1936, Australia lost nearly 30,000 people of British stock. In the financial year just closed 1,248 Britons have left that continent. How many have been carried to the cemeteries during this period as a consequence of the "flying colours" policy of the banks is not disclosed, but the facts justify immediately the passing of an Act to License the Banks—if Australia is to be made safe to live in.

Jarrow Waits

A CAUSTIC leading article in the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* sums up the achievements of Sir John Jarvis in aid of the stricken people of Jarrow. We quote the following passages from it:

"The battle has been won," said Sir John Jarvis at Jarrow on Saturday. What battle? The battle to set Jarrow on its feet again.

There was a calm assurance about Sir John's remarks which made those present look involuntarily around the landscape to see where the dreams were being materialised.

Among the things Jarrow now has, or is about to have, are, to use Sir John's own words, a new steelworks of the most modern type around which is grouped a number of finishing industries; the new Jarrow tube works; four new metal industries, and plenty of orders. That sounds excellent until one begins to ask questions . . .

Sir John, as we know, has employed men in laying out the sports ground on which he was speaking on Saturday, another group on breaking up the Olympic . . .

Every now and again we were brought down to earth by such remarks as, "I cannot tell you when the steelworks will function." As if a railway guard said to a passenger kicking his heels at a station, "I cannot tell you when the train will start."

Goodwill is Not Enough

WE cannot blame the northerners for their impatience. The well-meaning efforts of Sir John Jarvis have had great publicity, and we ourselves have ventured to criticise them at a time when lip service to his good intentions would have been better received.

The lesson is a bitter one, but sorely needed. It is that in spite of most energetic and well-publicised efforts, no real benefit has been conferred on Jarrow by all this search for work.

The people of Jarrow with money in their pockets would be a fine market for enterprising producers. Without it both they and the producers must suffer. And producers outside of Jarrow cannot be expected to look favourably on attempts at competition with them from Jarrow.

A National Dividend would put the whole matter right, without fuss.

Red Herring

THERE has been great excitement in Belgium about the relations of M. van Zeeland with the National Bank. In fact, all approaches to the Chamber, while the matter was being discussed, had to be guarded by strong police contingents, and tramway traffic was diverted.

The whole affair was so much of a red herring that one wonders what dirty work has been put over under cover of the excitement.

We remember the terrific fuss that was made when Philip Snowden fought so tenaciously for a whole £2,000,000 for Britain—though the British taxpayer never noticed the difference! During the uproar the Bank of International Settlements came into being.

A Blimpse of the Obvious

ONE of the stock bits of official sales patter about the appalling state of nutrition in this country is the statement that malnutrition is often due to overfeeding.

It is not only in cartoons of Colonel Blimp and his friends that this is said. Society doctors trot it out in letters to the *Morning Post* and *The Times*.

The latest exhibit is Mr. C. E. Hecht, hon. secretary of the Food Education Society, in a lecture at Birmingham to the Hospital, Nursing and Public Health Conference.

It is perfectly true, of course. And it is

about as helpful as it would be to point out that a certain number of fatal road accidents are deliberate suicide.

Neither the abolition of poverty nor the provision of safe roads are in the least degree assisted by such red herrings.

The Suicide Verdict

MR. Claude Mullins, speaking at the Modern Churchmen's Conference, is reported to have said: "The well-intentioned but cruel verdict of a coroner's jury that a suicide died while temporarily insane is the most glaring example of outworn religious belief in our law to-day."

He has started a mild controversy on minor points, but he has put his finger on a major issue.

The actual verdict is usually, "Suicide while of unsound mind," and its chief demerit is that it is nearly always untrue. That being so, neither religious belief nor a dogmatic assumption regarding the "feelings" of relatives can excuse it.

Suicide is due to despair, and the preponderating cause of despair to-day is money trouble—bankruptcy, poverty, fear of poverty, often accompanied by a feeling of having "let down" one's dependents

There are two other important though less numerous causes of despair: disappointment in love, and incurable disease.

There remain a very few cases of alcoholic or drug poisoning, or inherited insanity, in which the conventional verdict is more or less justified.

What the conventional verdict does is to conceal the truth from the public, and the truth is that the suicide rate rises and falls with the bankruptcy rate as the chart at the foot of this column shows.

Tail Chasing

THE Ministry of Labour is about to embark on a cost-of-living census. Thirty thousand British housewives are to be asked in the near future how they spend their husband's wages.

The Ministry of Labour wants to know how much is spent on food, clothes, entertainment and holidays. It wants particularly to know about the quantity and quality of foodstuffs purchased.

The utter uselessness of this sort of inquiry at this sort of time must be obvious to anyone except an economist or a permanent official.

When people have not enough money to spend, the inquiry will merely show the effects of not having enough money to spend.

For example, meat prices are up 15 to 20 per cent. since last year. This means either less meat for the poor or less of something else.

There is a pretty situation in which to compile a cost-of-living index. But, here again, might not such an index give further power to the credit-controlling monopoly, in putting on the screw just where it liked?

Totalitarians Can't Go Bankrupt

THE following extract is taken from the City Page of the *News Chronicle*:

"The phrase 'national bankruptcy' which springs so easily to some lips, has no useful connotation when applied to the finances of a totalitarian state like Japan. The Japanese Government, like any other absolute Government, can print all the money it requires. It is not going to be converted to Pacifism simply because it has

THE FIG TREE

A quarterly review edited by Major C. H. DOUGLAS

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

contains contributions by

- The Editor False Witness
- Miles Hyatt European Tug-of-War
- The Dean of Canterbury Unto This Last
- R. L. Northridge The Shape of Things Past
- W. L. Bardsley Mr. Hawtrey's Giraffe—II.
- A. W. Coleman
- The One Condition for Peace
- R. Rogers Smith Canada Calling
- Major Douglas on Dictatorship by Taxation
- A. Hamilton McIntyre, G. R. Robertson,
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no money in its Treasury to pay its soldiers and its civil servants."

So a totalitarian state can print all the money it requires! The criticism usually levelled against those who have the hardihood to suggest that any government can print all the money it requires, is that money must have "a backing" or it is useless. It used to be a gold backing, but faith in gold having been somewhat shaken recently, it is now asserted vaguely that there "must be a backing."

We permit farmers to be fined for growing too many potatoes, fishermen to be prevented from catching too many fish; we allow 10,000,000 cotton spindles to be scrapped, and we connive at the reduction of the world's wheat acreage. Would not these very goods provide a backing for the extra money which would enable them to be bought and consumed?

The statement that a totalitarian state can "print all the money" it needs, is an implication that a democratic state cannot do so, which is ludicrous. Are we asked to believe that a dictatorship is necessary in order to force people to accept an increase of well-being, or that a democratic people would revolt and bring down a government that proposed to make them richer?

Of course, the Japanese Government is "printing" the extra money in order to wage war on the Chinese and force them to "buy Japanese," not for the benefit of its people. But it could do so, and so could our own government. It will do so when the people insist upon it.

Coming Events

SOME of New York's millionaires now arrive for business daily by seaplane, landing at the Skyport on East River at the foot of Wall Street.

Another taste of the future. What millionaires do today nearly everyone could do tomorrow. The time will come when people will live hundreds of miles from their work, in pleasant green country, flying in for a few hours' work, or a few days' work, and back again.

That time could have been now.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

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THE following courses of study begin in September (for DETAILS see "Calendar and Prospectus," 3d. from all groups or from the Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2):—

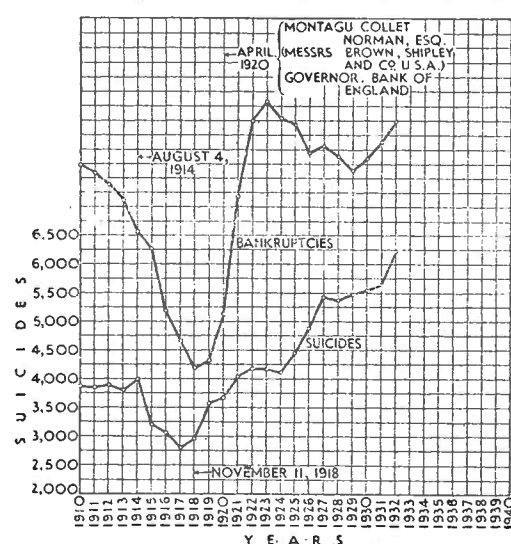
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(The A Course is preparatory to examination for less advanced Certificate of the Lectures and Studies Section, which must be obtained whether the student has taken one of the Courses or not, before entry for the more advanced B Certificate.)

- (3). Course B. (By correspondence only.) Fee £1 plus postal charges.

Applications to join Lecture Course A should be made to the nearest Supervisor of Information. For Correspondence Course, apply to Miss Brill, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

THE SUICIDE CHART



"It is poverty and economic insecurity which submits human nature to the greatest strain, a statement which is easily provable by comparing suicide statistics with bankruptcy statistics and business depression.

"Suicides are less in number during wars, not because people like wars, but because there is more money about. Suicides are also less in number during trade booms, for the same reason." — Major C. H. Douglas, "The Causes of War."

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

It was never the intent and purpose of those who drew up whatever constitution we may have that men and women, who as heirs and heiresses of science, are potentially the richest people on earth, should live lives of insecurity, privation and hardship year after year. This leads me to agree with you that "it is not necessary at this time to enter upon any discussion." That time has passed—it is time to act, and we intend to do so.

ABERHART

To the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, P.C., C.M.G.

THE more closely I go into your telegram of August 17, 1937, the more evident it seems that, to your advisers, the letter of the law only is essential whilst the people's welfare is of relatively little importance.

Our minds here are continuously assailed by the fact that tens of thousands of OUR PEOPLE live in dire need and hundreds of thousands of them are tax-ridden and debt-haunted. OUR PEOPLE insist that this shall be altered quickly: we feel sure that their will can be made to prevail without any alteration of our constitution.

It was never the intent and purpose of those who drew up whatever constitution we may have that men and women, who, as heirs and heiresses of science, are potentially the richest people on earth, should live lives of insecurity, privation and hardship year after year. This leads me to agree with you that "it is not necessary at this time to enter upon any discussion." That time has passed—it is time to act, and we intend to do so.

It is not, therefore, for the purpose of discussion that I write but rather to place on record that which motivates us here.

WE contend that our legislation was such that if under it, anyone attempted to lay so much as a finger on a person to arrest him, he was immediately free to appeal to our courts. We did, in truth, legislate to enable Albertans to withdraw the protection of their courts from anyone who violated or assisted others to violate the property and civil rights of citizens of this province. After all, why should not Albertans be able to refuse to associate with such self-declared enemies of freedom in association? Why should Albertans maintain courts to succour and administer to such? What real injustice was being done that you should feel called upon to interfere? We, here, marvel that your advisers seem so unable to realise that nothing to which any Government has recourse can ultimately compel THE PEOPLE of a province to associate with those of whose society they would rather be rid.

Your attempt to say to THE PEOPLE "these bankers and their staffs are federally shielded and whatever they do to deprive you of your undoubted sovereignty in all matters pertaining to your property and civil rights you shall suffer at their hands" has led to a firm and lasting determination upon THE PEOPLE'S part to resist you.

Then there is seemingly an almost wilful blindness upon the part of your advisers in that they will not differentiate between the control of banks and the control of bank policy, i.e., the *results* which accrue from what is done in a bank. So far as we can trace none but people trading for their own profit, and quite regardless of the effect upon everyone else, have ever previously exhibited any interest in the *results* attendant upon operations in banks. I respectfully suggest that the Federal Government has never done so, and our legislation in this respect encompassed no more.

All which our Acts secured in this way was that men in touch with facts concerning industry, agriculture and commerce, upon which they are admittedly the greatest living authorities, were appointed to see that what was done in banks resulted in those facts being reflected in figures. Our Acts also show that the lack of money in the pockets of THE PEOPLE should no longer suggest the self-evident lie that they were very poor when anyone with the intelligence of a schoolboy must see that here he is surrounded by a varied potential wealth in abundance.

Our Acts rendered it utterly impossible for local boards to interfere with the conduct of the present business of banking. What real danger could there be of our legislation causing so much "disturbance and confusion" as to lead you to assume an obsolete authority for disallowance and to attempt to frustrate the observance of the will of THE PEOPLE here?

★ ★ ★

Under present conditions OUR PEOPLE, who are willing to work, freeze; although there is fuel of all sorts available. They lack shelter, although all the skill, energy and materials necessary for housing them adequately, are here. They go hungry, despite the fact that Alberta has land workers as skilled, farmers as experienced and soil as fertile as any place in the whole world.

We claim that it is the responsibility of finance to provide such qualities of inducement and justice in the association of THE PEOPLE as will lead to their being able to provide themselves with all they can make of what they want, in freedom, and to distribute it with fairness.

We have had the reply from Canadian bankers "that's not our job, we are only bankers," to which there is no possible reply other than "if you won't accept responsibility for discharging this very necessary duty you must give way to those who will: not as to *how* your banks shall be run but as to the *results* accruing from that which is done in them."

All this, of course, applies only so far as this province is concerned. Neither citizens of other provinces nor the Federal Government can be in any way adversely affected by Albertans realising the results of their own credit-in-association within their own borders.

The fact is your advisers are chiefly bankers and lawyers who, unfortunately too often, think that THE PEOPLE are made for the systems and not the systems for THE PEOPLE. So often in the history of the world have such men "successfully" opposed those seeking to interpret laws as a convenience to humanity, until humanity, exasperated beyond endurance, has asserted its will and dealt with those who opposed it in ways which were, afterwards, regretted by all.

No power known to man can force on 750,000 people, operating within their own clearly defined borders, laws which they have made up their minds they will not endure—and that is the position I have to deal with here.

You were advised to write me that any citizen had only to represent that "changes should be made in the banking and currency laws" when "the only body which has the due authority" would immediately give the matter prompt attention and efficient direction.

To be frank, this is not the case, because, for over fifteen years, in ever-increasing numbers, people of this province have been foremost in telling the entire world that, if chaos was to be avoided, the right ordering of the credit of a PEOPLE must be exercised by that PEOPLE literally and individually. For at least four years an actual majority here have been saying so and, at the last federal election, some were induced to believe that it had at last had some effect on you, Sir. YET, when those duly elected to represent their will in this province pass legislation to

ON August 17 the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Mackenzie King, telegraphed to Mr. William Aberhart, Premier of Alberta, informing him that at a Cabinet meeting it had been decided to "disallow" the three Banking Acts which the Albertan Government had passed on August 5 and 6. These Acts were designed to bring the business of banking under the control of the people of Alberta to secure the results demanded by them.

Mr. Aberhart immediately replied in a telegram dated August 19, which was reproduced in SOCIAL CREDIT last week. In it he challenged the right of the Dominion Government to disallow any provincial legislation whatsoever, and promised to reply more fully. We are now privileged to publish on this page the promised reply by Mr. Aberhart.

implement it, YOU accept advice to ask them to delay action whilst its validity is tested by a court whose measures are not the needs, wants and desires of 750,000 people living in their own clearly-defined boundaries!

★ ★ ★

It would seem to me that if your advisers had considered thoroughly the nature of credit they would not counsel you that controlling banking, money, and currency is just the same as controlling the policy which those things are used to implement (i.e., the *results* they are used to produce).

The telegram your advisers drafted for you contends in the same paragraph (3) that the Public controls credit—the Parliament controls banking and currency and that it is the function of the Central Bank to control and regulate the volume of currency and credit, and that the chartered banks carry out banking! I feel sure you will agree the position is not clearly defined by this.

May I state our views in these matters?

- (a) We agree to the public control of credit—actually the control by each individual both of his own credit and of his credit in association.
- (b) We do not consider Parliaments can possibly be competent to control such a highly technical business as banking—we think it is best left to bankers.
- (c) We feel sure that it does not matter who controls the issue of currency (so a central bank will do), but it must be responsive to the control of policy by THE PEOPLE.
- (d) It is, I assure you, as absurd to imagine that anybody can control a PEOPLE'S credit as to believe that you can control their desires or dislikes.
- (e) The present business of banking could not be in much better hands than the chartered banks, provided the policy is left in the control of THE PEOPLE.

Your advisers confuse the issue in paragraph 4 of your telegram. The Dominion can have all the currency and banking laws it likes, provided it leaves Albertans with the right they have always possessed to deal with their own *credit* in their own Province, in their own way, INDIVIDUALLY.

The only body that has ever had "due authority" to deal with the CREDIT of a Province has been the Government of that Province, and the law is such that had you, or anybody, deputed that authority even as far back as 70 or even 700 years (to exaggerate for the purposes of illustration) and it had never once been challenged since, still, now, when it is challenged, it is still illegal. The result of your advisers' attitude in these matters is that Banks undoubtedly think that because they hold your charter they can come in here and do what they like. Albertans are determined to show them that such is not the case; that whilst, legally, they may be able to do so, there are other considerations than legal ones in the lives of all of us: considerations the observance of which is more vital than that of the letter of the law, because, if we do not observe them, living can be made very unpleasant if not impossible for us.

That is why we agree with you that "it is not necessary at this time to enter upon any *discussion* of banking and monetary policy." The time for that has long passed and now is the time for *action*, and we are impelled to take it.

If the Government at Ottawa was believed to be doing anything effective to improve matters financial, there might be some excuse for our pausing.

But appointments of Commissions, all of one party, and the majority of which are known to be allied to the present financial régime, and system, and implacably hostile to all suggestions for change in it, only serve to excite the derision of many, and a determination among progressives to have nothing to do with them.

With regard to your paragraph (5) there was no reason, or you would quote it, why our legislation could not have been implemented, as usual in such cases, whilst the Courts were deciding its validity. There neither would nor could have been any resultant "disturbance or confusion" unless we unwisely accepted your offer to defer effective action for the usual ineffectual discussion.

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The position in which your advisers have put us in relation to THE PEOPLE of this Province is that we now have to tell them:

1. That it would be relatively simple to give them access to all the oil, coal and other fuel they need, but YOU won't allow it.
2. To enable them to make all the warm clothing they desire, but YOU think it must be deferred whilst Acts of Parliament are argued.
3. That they could secure for themselves all the good and appetising food any reasonable person could ask, but the bankers' conveniently indeterminate monopoly must be accorded precedence because YOU disinterred a corpse of a law to purport to disallow the legislation which would have secured all the above amenities to OUR PEOPLE whilst depriving or harming none.
4. That banks, through charters engineered for them by political satellites are able, like the slave-owners who preceded them, to batten and fatten on the enforced servitude of men and women who are compelled to put up with anything that bankers think is good for them because YOU shield those bankers.

As to this Government consulting with you, had you made the offer you now do, at the time you were returned to power by numerous electors for that express purpose, and under a tacit promise to do so, we could have willingly agreed to have deferred action during negotiations, but now we can only agree to confer whilst we continue to go ahead. The time for action has come and it must ensue.

(Continued on page 5)

SOCIAL CREDIT

A Journal of Economic Democracy

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The Common Enemy

AN interesting article by Mr. A. R. Reade appeared in the Fascist, or National Socialist organ, *Action*, for Sept. 11, entitled "National Socialism and Social Credit."

The writer, who of course was expressing his own individual opinions, finds a number of ideas in common between the two schools of thought, and there is an editorial comment that the banker is the enemy of both, and tries to make them antagonistic.

We welcome this evidence of sympathetic interest in our cause on the part of the Fascist movement and would not like to assist the bankers in widening the breach which has appeared to exist. We will refer only, therefore, to what has seemed, we believe to both parties, as the fundamental difference in the two philosophies.

In the words of the article, "the National Socialist has started with a picture of society as he feels it ought to be."

In our view the end of man, whilst unknown, is something towards which most rapid progress will be made by the free expansion of individuality.

In the need for an efficient hierarchy of administration we are in substantial agreement with the Fascists. But we believe that the results of administration should be decided by the people, not by the administration.

Stamp on the Living

SIR JOSIAH STAMP, apart from his attacks on the idea of distributing plenty, natural, apparently, to a Bank of England Director, has uttered strong views on the desirability of extracting more and more taxes from the public.

"While a few years ago," he has said, "no one would have believed it possible that a scale of taxation such as that at present existing could be imposed upon the British public without revolution, I have every hope that with skilful education and propaganda this scale can be very considerably raised."

Or as Major Douglas had put it previously, what is intended is that if the individual has enough money to keep himself alive, or to pay taxes, he will be made to pay the taxes, most of which go to Financial Institutions.

Stamp on the Dead

IN the Economic Section of the British Association, Professor H. Levy, a German economist, presented a paper on "Death Benefit and Industrial Insurance, or the Cost of Dying."

Professor Levy said that, notwithstanding the many reforms and the general financial cleaning-up process of the last 30 years in industrial insurance, complaints had not ceased, and the social disadvantages and ill-effects of the system continued.

Industrial insurance is the misnomer for a vast business which consists in collecting small premiums from the very poor as an insurance to provide for their own funeral expenses.

According to a news item in the *Evening Standard* on September 14 there are over 90,000,000 policies now in force, and while over £50,000,000 has been collected by the system in premiums this year, less than £18,000,000 has been paid out in benefits.

After stating a number of well-known abuses in the system, Professor Levy concluded that they appear to be inherent and inseparable from it.

Sir Josiah Stamp, commenting on the paper, said that what was wanted was a change in public opinion in the working classes especially, which would establish a more reasonable proportion and scale of expenses for burials. The present expenditure on funerals was altogether extraordinary in relation to resources.

This question, of course, had a psychological background which it would take generations to break down through the slow pressure of social opinion. People wanted a jolly good time as well as to pay their respects to the dead.

So it appears that if people have not even enough money to pay taxes they must be content with a cheap funeral.

Stop Fooling— Our Patience Is Wearing Thin

SAYS PROFESSOR MURDOCH

THE Campaign to Abolish Poverty has been launched throughout Australia, using a form of demand almost identical with that which appears weekly on our back page. Recently the "West Australian," Perth's leading daily newspaper, published a leading article against the campaign. Main points made were these:

No political candidate would be embarrassed by being asked whether he was in favour of the abolition of poverty; all will be found in accord on this subject. But the stubborn fact remains that poverty is everywhere; in America, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, not only in Australia.

Legislators may justifiably resist the view that responsibility for poverty and its cure rests wholly with them. It is a vast and complex question, and if the campaigners have any solution they will be expected not to keep it up their sleeves.

We reprint below, from the "West Australian," the magnificent reply made by Professor Walter Murdoch, Professor of English Literature at the University of Perth.

I DEEPLY sympathise (as the Walrus said) with your remarks on the Abolition of Poverty campaign lately launched in our midst; but I still more deeply disagree with them.

You are doubtless perfectly right in asserting that every politician wishes for the abolition of poverty (though some, I fancy, desire it a little more ardently than others). Politicians of all parties will doubtless say to the campaigners, with great affability and possibly with sincerity:

"My dear, good, well-meaning people, why address these remarks to me? Of course I am with you heart and soul; I should simply love to see you all prosperous and comfortable and happy. I grieve for the poor all day long; by night my pillow is bedewed with tears of compassion for their misery; but—what can I do? Australia is not the only country that is poor; all the world is in the same boat. The subject of finance is so vast and tangled and complex that, with the best will in the world, I can do nothing for you—except, of course, sympathise. My sympathy you have; yes, in enormous quantities!"

Something like this politicians of all parties will be willing to say; and it is, I regret to notice, pretty much what you yourself have said.

YOU are kind enough to add that you do not "discount the good intentions of the movers in the campaign." (You and I know very well that in a controversy to call your opponent well-intentioned is exactly the same as calling him half-witted.) You end on a less generous note: "If the sincerity of such procedure is not to be impugned, it may certainly be questioned on the ground of common sense."

Against Common Sense

As to its sincerity: I am not one of the "movers in the campaign"—though I shall always be proud to serve in their ranks in any capacity for which I am fitted—but I know one or two of them, and I know what heavy personal sacrifices they are making for the cause; such sacrifices as men do not make for a cause they do not believe in.

I think you may take their sincerity for granted, and fall back on the other alternative, accusing them of sinning against common sense.

This is where I most profoundly disagree. I think the campaign is an eminently sensible project.

WHAT is against common sense is to acquiesce in the present preposterous management of our affairs, whereby the more wealth we learn to produce the more does poverty increase.

What is against common sense is to suggest that mankind cannot find a way out of an absurd system which mankind has devised.

What is against common sense is to ask the uninstructed public, a body of amateurs, to name the remedy before it may venture to protest.

What is against common sense is to say, as you have practically said, that the politicians are not the persons who should be called upon to seek the remedy.

If it is not the duty of politicians to seek, with all their energy and ability, the common welfare, what in the name of common sense are politicians for? What do we send them to Parliament for?—to twiddle their thumbs?

YOU cannot have it both ways. When we suggest remedies you reproach us with being ignorant amateurs rushing in where the experts fear to tread; when we humbly accept the rebuke and say that we are prepared to leave it to the experts to say what is the best remedy, you reproach us with not having a remedy up our sleeves. There seems to be no pleasing you.

Straight Flung Words

If what you mean is that the politicians are not responsible because it is the financiers who really hold our social welfare in the hollow of their hands—well, that may be true; in which case it will be well to face the fact that we are the slaves of high finance, and that the word "democracy" is a mockery.

That slavery will be endured for a time; in the end, a way out will be found, but it will not be a way which you or I can contemplate with equanimity. It will be a way from which it is your duty, and mine, and the duty of all men of good will, to seek to save Australia.

BUT if we are a real democracy, in any genuine sense of the term, we have to turn our political power into economic power.

Our politicians must politely but firmly inform the financial experts that they are the servants and not the masters of the country. They must assemble a competent body of such experts, and say to them:

"Here is an evil which, it is obvious to the meanest intelligence, is a preventable evil; and which must and shall be prevented. At least half-a-dozen remedies have been suggested by economists who deserve attention. Your job is to decide which of these suggested remedies is, on the whole, the best. If, at the end of a reasonable time, you come to us and tell us that there is no remedy for this intolerable state of affairs, we shall—with apologies for having mistaken you for experts—show you to the door, and call in some other persons better fitted for the task."

This, as I understand it, is the objective of the present campaign; to tell the politicians, "in straight-flung words and few," that our patience is wearing thin, and that they must cease fooling with trivial questions (such as

whether wild flowers may or may not be picked within a 50-mile radius of the city) and concentrate all they have of vigour and intelligence on the solution of the problem which circumstances have made the most urgent of our time.

I cannot for the life of me see that there is anything in this demand opposed to common sense.

SIR E. D. SIMON, in a recent address, revealed the facts that in a town whose conditions he had investigated, the children of hundreds of unemployed families got no milk whatever; that no child of an unemployed family got more than half the milk a child ought to have; that the retail price of milk was 2s. a gallon, nobody being allowed to retail it at a lower price; and that surplus milk was sold to the manufacturers of umbrella handles at 4d. per gallon.

Farmers in the neighbourhood, he found, were anxious to produce more milk, but could find no market.

The people were bewildered, "quite unable to understand why the farmers should not be able to find an outlet for all the milk they were able to produce, nor why milk for umbrella handles should be provided literally at one-sixth the price which they had to pay for milk for their under-nourished children."

What most surprised Sir E. D. Simon was "the moderation with which these extraordinary and (to them) unintelligible facts was received."

There Is No Need To Be An Expert

That is in England; but we all know perfectly well that if we keep our eyes open we shall see on all sides of us, in Australia and in every other country, similar preposterous facts.

And, great and admirable as the "moderation" of our people is, it must not be expected to last for ever.

They are bound to grow tired of being told that the subject is a vast and complex one; also that it is an international problem and cannot be solved by any one country—with the implication that we can do nothing about it until Czechoslovakia and Kamchatka have made a move in the matter.

THE International Labour Organisation, in its latest bulletin, remarks that "perhaps the most outstanding lesson of the slump is to be found in the profound change which it has produced in ideas about monetary policy. In this field more than in any other lies the key to economic prosperity and social progress."

One does not need to be an expert to see that this is true.

Such recovery as we are witnessing at present is obviously due, in the main, to the purchasing power supplied to the people by the vast rearmament schemes of the nations. When the nations call a halt in the matter of rearmament (if they ever do) there is likely to be a far worse depression than the last unless we do one of two things.

When Money Flows—

We may, in the first place, start a war; in war, as everyone knows, purchasing power is distributed generously; the floodgates of credit are opened wide; money flows like water—or like blood.

Alternatively, we may direct our governments to provide in peace-time the purchasing power which they have no difficulty in providing in war-time.

THIS seems to me—and, I trust, to you when you think it over—the preferable alternative: to say to our rulers,

"This is the thing you have got to do. How you are to do it we do not presume to say; we are not your technical advisers, therefore we leave the technique to you to discover by the best means at your disposal."

"We know that the thing can be done; and we require you to do it."

"We warn you that we shall not be content with promises; promises are readily given, and readily forgotten."

"We are going to watch you, lest you forget, lest you forget."

This is what the leaders of the campaign, if I interpret their meaning correctly, intend that the people of Australia shall say with united voice to the politicians of Australia.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

Mr. Aberhart's Challenging Reply to Mr. Mackenzie King

(Continued from page 3)

If your Government still desires to confer with ours, we will so arrange it, but not on the condition of delayed action by Alberta. That would be much too costly. Your attitude now which exalts the institution above the individual is fraught with danger—not only to THE PEOPLE in this Province, but to all Canadians.

War—price structures—trade disturbances—and world depressions, are all manifestations of frustration which arise from separating PEOPLE from freedom to realise the results derived from their own credit in association. This realisation of results is, we claim, the first "essential step to the maintenance of our democratic institutions and the preservation of the hard-won rights and liberties of individual citizens."

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While awaiting the outcome of any negotiation that might be entered into, we must in the meantime proceed most rapidly to end poverty and starvation in this province. In order to accomplish this, we are going to implement immediately the legislation passed at our last session and which you purported to disallow.

We propose to go through the formality of asking you to withdraw your "disallowance" before it is proclaimed here.

In this connection, I might state that we have gone more fully into the matter of disallowance and find that you have not now such powers. Consequently, our legislation is still law and will remain law until declared *ultra vires* by the Courts. If, and when, this situation does arise, we may point out the position of Manitoba in enforcing legislation which had been declared *ultra vires* by the Privy Council nearly 50 years ago and which you and previous Governments have never disallowed even when you still had that right which we repeat you do not now enjoy.

In conclusion, may I issue a most solemn warning to you and the banks that our people have tightened their belts to the limit, and if you and the banks are allowed to continue with the policy you have been carrying out for years, it will mean the starvation of our people. This we are determined to avoid at all cost. We are sorry that we have not had your co-operation in our endeavour to alleviate the suffering of our people in this Province. Nevertheless, for the sake of OUR PEOPLE we are compelled to carry on in the face of all opposition.

ONE SIDE MUST WIN

In Richly Endowed Alberta a Debt-ridden Poverty-Stricken PEOPLE has challenged the Tyranny of Finance

AN American journalist visiting Alberta about a month ago very rightly described Edmonton, the capital of the Province, as the centre of world news at a time when events in every country were of immense importance. Though it is since the issue of Social Credit has arisen in Alberta that it has figured so prominently in the news, it has very substantial claims to recognition apart from this.

The Province of Alberta is one of the most richly endowed parts of the earth. Its soil, in places some of the most fertile in the North American continent, yields its share of the world's finest wheat. Sugar beet, poultry, sheep, cattle, and pigs each occupy an important place in the production of Alberta's chief industry—namely, agriculture.

However, the immense potential resources of the Province are in her minerals. In the Turner Valley, the only developed oilfields of possibly many oil areas, are the largest producing oil wells in the British Empire. Further development is taking place, and the results up to the present have been extremely promising. In the Murry district 10,000 square miles of tar sands are said to have an oil content of over five times the total oil content of the world's known oil reserves, and experiments have indicated that in addition a very high quality of petrol can be extracted from these deposits. In the same district rich salt deposits await exploitation.

Timber, water power, clay deposits, and coal in immense quantities add to the resources awaiting development. With a modest population of under three-quarters of a million, most of whom are concentrated in agriculture, it will be evident that the opportunities for progress in Alberta are almost unlimited.

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THAT is one aspect of the picture. To the people living there the vast resources of the Province are only too evident—though even for them it is difficult to realise the extent of Alberta's riches. What they do know beyond any shadow of doubt is that their resources could give security to all.

Yet the entire Province is debt-ridden and poverty-stricken. The farms are mortgaged, the crops are mortgaged to the banks in advance, and the conditions under which most of the people exist is little removed from slavery. The following table of the increase of Provincial debt tells its own vivid story:

Year	Gross public debt
1910	\$2,981,544
1915	\$26,935,580
1920	\$45,818,922
1925	\$91,196,779
1930	\$119,843,633
1935	\$163,288,234

It is probable that private debts have increased even more steeply during this period.

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IN considering these facts it must be remembered that Alberta is comparatively a young Province. Most of its development has taken place during the past 60 years. It is not surprising that here, before any other place in the world, it has become evident to the people that a savage financial system has reduced what should be a wealthy and progressive Province to a condition of poverty bordering upon collapse. Year by year the people of Alberta have witnessed the terrible blight which debt, taxation and financial restrictions have cast upon their Eden.

Under such conditions the appeal of Social Credit met with

ready support, and the genius of Premier Aberhart in teaching electors to vote for results, leaving technical methods to those qualified to deal with them, led to true democracy being established in Alberta for the first time in history. Whatever mistakes may have been made during the last two years, this great achievement has been steadily becoming consolidated.

With the first steps to implement their demands, the Government of Alberta has received the full support of THE PEOPLE. This is due almost entirely to the wide recognition of the basic necessity in a real democracy for unity for results. While disagreeing in regard to methods, Communists, members of the C.C.F. Party, Liberals and others have pledged themselves to stand united for the clear demand of the electorate for \$25 a month and a lower cost to live, involving drastic tax reductions and advantages for all sections of the community.

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WHILE the fact has been carefully kept out of the news, the purpose of the recent legislation of the Government of Alberta was to give THE PEOPLE of the Province effective control of financial policy within Alberta, so far as it affected their own credit. It was made perfectly clear that the legislation would not go beyond this—but that control of policy was essential to the introduction of economic democracy.

The hasty and ill-conceived measures adopted by the Federal Government, under pressure from Wall Street, New York, Threadneedle Street, London, and St. James' Street, Montreal, in attempting to disallow the Alberta legislation in contravention of its constitutional powers, indicate at once the panic which was caused in high financial quarters, the implacable determination of the Credit Monopoly to impose its control at all costs, and its power to influence even Governments.

Following immediately upon the decision to deal drastically with Alberta's bid for economic freedom, came the announcement of a Royal Commission with wide powers to recommend sweeping changes in the constitution, particularly in regard to the financial status of the Provinces of Canada. Of the five members appointed to the Commission, two were well known opponents of Social Credit, a third was a past President of a trusts corporation, and a fourth, by his connections, could be relied upon to be thoroughly orthodox in regard to any financial matters presented to the Commission. The whole affair was so pointedly and so obviously directed against Alberta that it is not surprising the Commission was hailed with loud applause from the financial press in America, England and Canada. But it was done much too clumsily, particularly as it was to prove the herald of the Federal act of disallowance.

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THE situation is developing rapidly. In going ahead with implementing the demands of THE PEOPLE of Alberta, Premier Aberhart has challenged the supreme power in the world—the tyranny of finance. The battle of the ages has commenced and one side must win.

At such a time, with the future of humanity in the balance, every Social Creditor everywhere should throw himself or herself into the fight. Each has a very grave personal responsibility in this critical hour in the world's history and the outcome of the struggle will depend upon how each faces this responsibility. Tomorrow may be too late; the time to act is NOW.

L. D. Byrne

TWO THOUSAND SCIENTISTS CONFERENCE

Ingenuity of an African Tunnelling Maggot

THE attendance at this year's meeting of the British Association at Nottingham was smaller than when it first visited Nottingham seventy years ago.

From the thin and unsatisfying utterances made, it may be deduced that careful steps were taken to see that nobody should make such explosive and awkward speeches as were delivered in 1935 and 1936.

Such preparations would be fully sufficient to account for the paucity of the attendance. Everybody would know that it was to be like a Sunday School treat, and it was in the best traditions of parish journalism that *The Times* announced that the British Association had "well maintained its customary high standard of usefulness and interest."

Here is an actual newspaper account of a meeting of the mathematical section.

"They sat dutifully from 10 a.m. until the luncheon hour and were agreed as to the necessity for reforms in the present methods of teaching algebra."

In the educational science section they had to listen to this sort of thing, as reported in *The Times*:

"Professor R. Peers said that science dominated our lives to-day, and a knowledge of science must be regarded as an essential part of the informative content of education. Some knowledge of physiology and chemistry had come to be an essential condition of good living in the modern community. One had only to think of the important principles of diet to realise how much in our ordinary

knowledge of certain aspects of science. Knowledge of some at least of the natural sciences was a necessary background for the study of social science, which was forming a considerable part of the curriculum of adult education. The analysis used in the natural sciences was needed as a corrective of loose thinking and hasty generalisations, which characterised the discussion of many important problems of modern life."

A Few Pointers

Britons need £200,000,000 worth more food than they can buy every year to provide perfect nutrition, according to Sir Richard Gregory, the editor of *Nature*.

He told business men at a Nottingham luncheon that 20,000,000 people, or nearly half the population, need to consume more expensive foods, such as milk, fruit and vegetables, to improve their health.

"Examinations of family food budgets and family incomes show," he said, "that price is the limiting factor for consumption of these things."

All this was said at last year's meeting, and much more forcibly, and not at a luncheon.

A plan to "short-circuit" the cow and make cheese direct from grass to provide food for Britain's forty millions in the event of war was outlined by Dr. R. E. Slade.

The cheese, he said, would make a useful food for pigs in peace time, and in time of necessity might supply a "nutritious and valuable maintenance ration for the people."

Advertising British food and steering consumption by direct publicity should become

tional or marketing policies, said Mr. A. N. Duckham.

Mr. J. M. Case, President of the Agricultural Section, told his audience that our wheat acreage shows no significant increase in yield per acre. British agriculture at present falls short of producing as much home-grown food as is possible and desirable, and also of employing on the land as many persons as is reasonably practicable. Since the pre-war years 2,000,000 acres have gone out of arable cultivation.

The best things which were said were one by Mr. Gordon Selfridge, jun., on retail stores.

Every facet of the organisation of these complex businesses and all their applications were there for one reason only—namely, because the individual customers wanted them there and were willing to pay to have them there. That was the difference between retail trade and all the preceding links in the chain of production and supply.

In everything the retailer did it was those demands of the customer for which the customer was willing to pay that determined action. Competition would put out of existence the trader who guessed wrongly what the customer wanted to have and to have done.

The other was by Dr. E. Miller, who said the methods of so-called intellectuals might belie their motives. How much of so-called intellectual avoidance of direct solutions? It is for unconscious deficiencies or unconscious conflicts which took the form of an intellectual avoidance of direct solutions? It

persons were singularly incapable of taking action even when their intelligence presented clear lines for the pursuit of a solution.

Our headline for this article is copied from one of the *News Chronicle* reports. It sums up the whole affair.

Blunt Criticism of Labour Party's Pensions Plan

THE Labour Pensions Plan, with its surrender to financial orthodoxy, came in for blunt criticism at the Trades Union Congress in Norwich.

Mr. T. Griffen (National Union of Dyers) moved its rejection, saying:

"If this is all Labour can give us when they get into power then God help the working classes of this country."

Until now, said Mr. Griffen scornfully, the party had always talked of non-contributory pensions, but now he understood that men would have to pay 1s. a week and women 9d.

Party politicians have to obey the party whip and give the people what is considered good for them—not on any account what they want.

Mr. Griffen is about ready to abandon

People acting in unison to enforce a specific and reasonable demand can always impose their will on those authorities and institutions whose job it is to serve them. This page is devoted to news of such demands and help for those who are fighting for them

Parents Start Their Own School

USE YOUR AUTHORITY

WE hear a lot of talk nowadays about the relative merits of Democracy and Dictatorship, and most of the points for and against are very subtle and abstract. Now it is obvious to anyone who gives the matter some consideration that the only way of judging any system of government is by how it works—by what it feels like to be governed. Subtleties, abstracts and ultimate ideals only come into the matter as they are put into practice—American gunmen, who are so frequently depicted on the films mowing down rows of good citizens, may have many philanthropic theories about the Good of Man, but the effects of their gunning activities on their fellow men cannot be judged by these. Only by the deadness of the individuals.

What does it feel like to be governed as we are now?

TO begin with, it doesn't feel like a democracy; it doesn't feel as if we are governing ourselves. It is too uncomfortable. If we were governing ourselves we should make ourselves more comfortable and arrange things in our own districts to suit our own individual ends. In small affairs as well as in large the institutions we put together to serve us and to obtain for us what we wanted in specific directions appear to be telling us what we want and in many cases administering it forcibly without even the grace of a sugar-coating to the pill. As if the waitress in the shop had firmly told us that we were to have mutton today, not fish.

But when this tyranny of little things goes too far, people begin to get irritated and question the annoyances that are the outcome; and then they may develop the "My-Goodness - this - is - really - too - much - to - be - stood - Charles - we - must - do - something - about - this" feeling. When, in a mass, they give vent to this feeling, they frequently discover that the offending institution has just not realised the effect of its actions and only needed to be told about it to correct them. Or if they want something done, as soon as they know what it is, the authority will do it; as in the case of the Totton residents who asked the Parish Council to get them a reduction in bus fares.

Sometimes it takes sterner measures to show that the people intend to get what they want—as the parents living on the Thornhill Estate, Charlton, S.E., found. When they petitioned for a policeman to conduct the children across the road, the petition failed, so they conducted a one-day school strike and got their policeman. Where local authorities have completely forgotten their origin as representatives of the people, heroic determination may be necessary, as at Romford.

EVIDENTLY, since we will go to such lengths to get what we want, we still have a tendency towards liberty. Judging by the number of school strikes and demands for the imposition of a speed limit on the roads, this spirit seems to be most easily aroused by concern for our children.

There is only one disquieting thing about it, and that is its habit of manifesting itself in the form of petitions. There is an avalanche of petitions reported this week—and may they all succeed—but a petition is no way to address a body elected to serve you.

The Government, both central and local, professes to be democratic and is therefore bound to rule according to our wishes. Put at the best, it cannot give us what we want until it knows what it is; so we must say what we want. Put at the worst, it refuses to give us what we want; in which case we must fight for it, remembering that councils consist of elected members who may always be turned out at election time. It is more than just a matter of words: make a petition for something and you are "asking humbly"—you acknowledge that the authority is not with you.

But the authority is yours—so use it.

They Get What They Want

THE Hampshire County Council planned to build a 120ft. highway encircling the small town of Totton.

This so-called by-pass would have made a cross-roads, two corners of which would have been occupied by a recreation ground and a workman's club; and a parish church and hall were situated 50 yards, and the site of a proposed school 200 yards away from it. At another cross-roads further on the road would have passed two elementary schools.

It is difficult to believe that anyone who had studied the site, or even the plan, could suggest such a route for a road carrying all the fast traffic of the district.

Owing to the personal efforts to Mr. J. Doulton, the compulsory sale of whose house was involved, this scheme was altered.

First he brought the matter up when the County Councillor spoke at a meeting of the Ratepayers' Association. In spite of polite promises to investigate nothing had been done at the end of a month, nor had any communication been received from the Councillor.

Mr. Doulton then wrote to the Councillor and received, in due course, a courteous reply.

After that he tried the local paper, and persuaded several neighbours to write letters as well; he also wrote to the Ministry of Transport and the Member of Parliament; and he started to obtain signatures to a "protest."

Within a month, largely because of pressure from the Ministry and the Member, the surveyors were plotting an alternative and safe route.

* * *

That Councillor only represented his electors in the district after the necessity had been emphasised by the Ministry of Transport and a Member of Parliament.

In future he should go direct to the fountain-head of authority for instructions; to the people concerned.

Totton Bus-Fares

The Parish Council of Totton appear to realise their function; on receipt of a petition asking them to obtain from the Hampshire and Dorset Bus Co. a reduction in a certain bus-fare, they carried the negotiations through successfully and provided the required results.

REBELLION AT ROMFORD

ROMFORD parents who are protesting against the decision of Essex Education Committee to transfer 300 children to another school two miles away, have formed their own private school, which opened on September 7 in a recreation ground.

It is to the journey down and across the busy London Road—a mile of it, heavy with traffic—that the parents object.

Half an hour before lessons began in the field, the children, all senior (11 to 14-year-old) pupils, had formally presented themselves at their old school with a body of parents in support.

Essex Education Committee has decided that juniors (8 to 10-year-olds) only shall be taught there in future, and that the seniors must now go to a new school in Whalebone Lane, a mile and a quarter away.

The children were, therefore, lined up and marched, amid considerable local excitement, to the recreation ground, which is well away from the traffic and fairly close to the old school.

In charge of them was the new master, Mr. T. H. Harvey, L.C.C. supply teacher, who began by compiling a register. At the end of the morning it contained 212 names. Twelve more pupils arrived after lunch-time.

Parents Stand Firm

The parents who were there declared roundly that they intended to "go through with this." Nothing but the extension of the old school or a new school nearby, would satisfy them.

Mothers spoke of the traffic dangers and the long walk in winter weather.

Councillor A. E. Fruitnight, who is official champion of the parents, said that, if negotiations with the Education Committee were not satisfactory they would get more teachers and run the school in earnest in local church and mission halls.

Sympathisers have promised enough money to go on for six months.

The 1921 Education Act says that it shall be the parents' duty to see that children get "efficient elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic."

As long as the Rebel School does that, its sponsors claim, it can go on, quite legally, for as long as it likes.

Education Committee Giving Way

A compromise has already been offered. A deputation from the Parents' Association has met the Romford school managers, who have now offered alternative school accommodation, much nearer to the children living farthest from the new school at Whalebone. This offer affects half the London Road children. If the parents accept the plan the rebellion will be over.

Romford parents have the courage of their convictions, and may that courage continue until they have gained safety for all the children, not only for half.

Rebel Education Committee

The school started by the parents has been nicknamed the "rebel" school, and the "insurgent" school. These adjectives are misapplied. They belong to the Education Committee.

From where do the members of the Education Committee derive their authority? From the ratepayers. They are the elected representatives of the ratepayers, and as such

should fulfil their reasonable wishes in the matter of the children's education, and in refusing to implement them the Committee is the rebel.

WANTED

Prevention of Flooding at Broughton

When a petition by 25 Broughton shopkeepers asking for steps to be taken to prevent flooding was considered by Salford Council, Dr. Shlossberg, for the Highway and Paving Committee, said storms were an act of God, and no highways authority could be held responsible. Measures had been discussed with a view to reducing inconvenience to a minimum.

Alderman Webb reminded the Council that 10 years ago the then City Engineer stated that he could no longer hold himself responsible for the condition of the drains and sewers in the city, but nothing had been done to remedy the position.

Speed-Limit at Eltham

New Eltham residents have sent a petition to the Ministry of Transport asking for the imposition of a 30 mile-an-hour speed limit on Sidcup-road between Court-road, Mottingham, and Kennal-corner, a stretch which they describe as a "death-trap." Several fatal accidents have occurred on it recently.

Fire Station at Muswell Hill

Residents in Muswell Hill are objecting to Hornsey Borough Council's proposal to close the 25-year-old fire sub-station at Fortis Green.

It is proposed to build a new central fire-station on the old Crouch End High School estate. A petition protesting against the scheme is being circulated, and it is pointed out that the closing of the local sub-station will mean that some properties, including the Isolation Hospital, will be two miles from the central station.

Policeman at Ringstead

Ringstead, Northants., with 1,000 inhabitants, is pressing for a resident policeman. So strong is the feeling that a petition is to be sent to the Home Secretary.

IT IS BETTER TO DEMAND THAN TO PETITION

Bus Route 33

LONDONERS who use the 33 bus route, formerly from the Strand to Richmond, and who object to its curtailment at Hammersmith, are asked to join in a demand for an efficient service from Richmond to the City. Forms expressing this request and ready for signatures may be obtained from J. Mitchell, 28, Larkfield Road, Richmond, and as soon as there is evidence that people want such a bus service, pressure will be brought to bear on the L.P.T.B. Letters direct to the Transport Board will also help.

* * *

Now that the buses are stopped at Hammersmith, passengers to Richmond have to change and waste up to 20 or more minutes in waiting for buses. Local business interests are being affected, as fewer people will come to live there now that transport in and out of London is so bad.

The L.P.T.B. say that complaints were received about the irregularity of the buses—so they stopped them!

Comment: Catty!

At H.M. Stationery Office

A FEW days ago I had cause to visit the stationery shop in Kingsway. After one of those waits which endears the establishment to all who know it, I counted 18 customers, and there was one man to attend to the counter. His duties seemed to consist in answering questions at the "special enquiry" window, taking orders, walking round the back of the premises, taking down bundles of stringed papers, extracting one paper, tying up the bundle again, returning to the counter, inserting the goods in an envelope, walking to the till at the other side of the shop with the cash, and then handing the change to the customer. This was repeated a number of times in my presence, and noticing a customer near me obviously ready to scream, I said rather loudly: "I don't think much of the service here."

Customer No. 1 then exploded with a remark about the Civil Service, and Customer No. 2 made some remark which stung the assistant to retort "This is not a fish shop!"

Said Customer No. 3: "Fish shop! You couldn't run a fish shop. People want fish hot."

Customers 4 and 5 joined in.

The assistant then went to the rear of the shop again and in a few minutes returned with three or four more assistants.

'Twas ever thus—people acting in unison to enforce a specific and reasonable demand can always impose their will on those authorities and institutions whose job it is to serve them.

T.H.S.

SEE ALSO PAGE EIGHT

SOCIAL CREDIT RENDEZVOUS

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NOTICES

Every Thursday at 8 p.m. an open meeting is held, at which all are welcome, especially visitors to London and enquirers. Bring your friends.

On Thursday, September 23, there will be a short address by Mr. Brian Reed, "What You Should Know About Taxation." Refreshments.

Volunteers are spreading the truth about Alberta by selling SOCIAL CREDIT in the streets. They start from here between 5 and 7 p.m. on Fridays. Come and help, or write to G.R.T. saying what days and times are more convenient.

Announcements & Meetings

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

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

Cardiff Social Credit Association. Weekly Conference of Supervisors, Officials and Dept. Officers at 34, Charles Street, on Wednesdays, at 7.15 p.m. prompt.

Cardiff Social Credit Association. Special meeting at 34, Charles Street, on Wednesday, September 15, at 8 p.m. An Address, "Alberta and the Banks," by Capt. A. O. Cooper. Chairman, Rev. Colin Gibb, M.A.

Erdington Douglas Social Credit Group. Meeting at Parochial Rooms, Broomfield Road. Discussion on "Implications of Democracy." You are welcome. Friday, September 24, 8 prompt. Annual Meeting, October 8.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Green Gates, Hillside Drive, Woolton, Liverpool.

London United Democrats. Meeting at Rendezvous, 163A, Strand, September 23, at 8 p.m. Address by Mr. Brian Reed. See notice above. All interested in the Movement invited.

National Dividend Club. Help of all members most urgently needed. Friday, Reception Room from 5 to 7.30 p.m.

Newcastle United Democrats, 14A, Pilgrim Street (opposite Paramount Theatre). Fortnightly meetings, 7.30 p.m., September 23 onwards. Enquiries welcomed.

N. W. London. Every Wednesday, 7 to 10 p.m. "At Home" for N.W. contacts at 14, Richmond Gardens, Hendon Central. Phone HEN 3151.

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Friday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome. Social Credit and other literature on sale at Brankson's Chinese Café.

Portsmouth and Southsea. Group meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m., conducted by Mr. D. Jackson at 16, St. Ursula Grove, Southsea. Holiday visitors and area residents are urged to make contact.

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

Sutton Coldfield S.C. Group. Next meeting in Methodist Hall, South Parade, Friday, September 17, at 8 p.m.

Wallasey Social Credit Association. Public Meetings first Tuesday in each month at the Sandrock Hotel, New Brighton (Rowson Street entrance) at 8 p.m. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., 2, Empress Road, Wallasey.

Miscellaneous Notices

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MRS. PALMER is on holiday and MISS DOROTHY BEAMISH, deputising for her, discusses the problem of—

Lonely Bachelor Women

"BACHELOR WOMEN," said an old family doctor to me one day, "constitute a problem. Living alone in a flat or flatlet, studio or what have you, with nobody to look after them if they are ill.

"I had a case a little while ago, a young woman with tonsillitis who could hardly speak. There she was, lying alone at the top of the house. The landlady was kind, but one day she said to me suddenly, 'I suppose you know, doctor, there will be nobody in the house over the week-end?'

"So there was my patient with nobody even to answer the door or take in the milk. She asked if she couldn't go into the hospital, but of course she couldn't with a filthy septic throat. In the end I got her into the infirmary where she was put into an observation room.

"It was better in the old days when folk lived in houses with maids and there were plenty of people about; always somebody to look after one in illness."

What the doctor had forgotten was that those who lived in houses with maids even in the old days were people with money. Even in these days it is usually possible for the sick to be cared for if they can pay.

THOUSANDS of bachelor women of all ages who live alone in bed-sitting-rooms or flats simply cannot afford to be ill, and because they cannot be nursed at the onset of illness, are often very ill indeed, or even lose their lives, when a little ordinary care at the appearance of the first symptoms would have averted the calamity.

However kind landladies may be, they usually have quite as much as they can

cope with without undertaking the burden and responsibility of nursing a lodger through, perhaps, a long illness.

There are plenty of nursing homes for those who can afford to pay four, five or six guineas a week. There are some where one can go for a thorough rest if run down or tired. But the women most likely to need a rest, poor, hard-working women, or those who have no work but who have the worry and nerve-destroying anxiety of trying to live and keep up some kind of appearance on something like a pound or thirty shillings a week—these are the women who cannot avail themselves of such homes.

I once knew an elderly woman, educated and charming, who was a bad heart case. At one time she was thought to be dying and was admitted to a home for the dying.

She did not die, however, but recovered sufficiently to be ineligible for the home. She had no near relatives; there was no place where she could go. She tried to get a bed-sitting-room (she had a minute income). Many landladies refused her because she looked so ill that they were afraid of the responsibility of having her.

Finally she found one, more humane or less observant than the rest, and settled into a small, dark and dimly furnished room. She could not get better. Her only hope of more comfortable surroundings was to get worse and return to the home for the dying.

Money could not save her life, but would have given her comfort and companionship.

IN millions of cases a little money would cure illness far more quickly and effectually than much medicine.

There are thousands of unattached women who without having any specific ailment, are

SHE KNEW

IN a South London school the teacher is giving a lesson on South America.

Teacher tells of destruction of coffee in Brazil and adds "Well, I suppose there was nothing else to do with it—I can't think of anything else to do with it."

Twelve-year-old girl says: "I think they could have given it to the poor people."

"Oh yes!" says teacher, "that's one idea."

just "not strong"; that is to say, they are well and healthy as long as they do about half the amount of work required in any kind of gainful occupation.

There is no need for them to be gainfully employed; there are plenty of younger, stronger women to do the work which they are obliged to make such frantic efforts to obtain. Truth has to be thrown overboard. "Oh, yes, I am quite strong . . . I may not look robust, but I am wiry . . ."

A National Dividend would prevent all this cruel, unnecessary waste of life and happiness. It would enable many spinsters to marry. I heard of a case the other day where a governess had been engaged to a hospital dispenser for fifteen years. He had an old mother to support who required expert and, therefore, expensive care. So they could not afford to marry.

And yet, far from there being any lack of the goods and services they need in order to live, enormous sums are spent in trying to induce the public to buy more goods and hire more services.

We do not need so much advertisement to tell us about all the good things there are to be bought. We need the money to buy them. Then the problem of the sick bachelor woman would disappear together with most of our other problems. For they too are nearly always problems of poverty, or near poverty, or the fear of poverty.

And poverty can be abolished now.

MR. SMITH LOVES HIS FAMILY

TRAGEDY clings to the names of Shanghai, Santander. It touched last week a much more everyday name . . . the name of Smith.

The story of Ernest Spencer Smith and Mrs. Smith, mother of the six little ones for whom, through two black, bitter days and nights, they could not find shelter, was the most poignantly tragic story of last week.

The agony of Shanghai will make history. The agony of the Smiths will be forgotten.

Millions who read it have forgotten already. Perhaps you, too, have forgotten. After all, you have had four days of home comforts since the story was told in Wealdstone, Middlesex, Court. But for those four days Ernest Spencer Smith has been in prison. So let me remind you.

LAST Tuesday, Smith, a man of 40, was sent to two months' hard labour. His offence was stealing, as bailee, a car valued at £8.

He had sold the car, he said, to get money to find Mrs. Smith, who, it was alleged, disappeared after, in despair, leaving the six children on a pretext at a stranger's house. Ernest Smith's crime was not his tragedy. If he had committed a greater one, his lot might be easier.

Smith did not beat a baby of a few weeks old savagely about the head, did not thrust a sponge into a tiny throat because the baby had dared to cry. A brute who did these things not so long ago got off with only one month in jail.

Smith loves his family of six, loves and seeks his woman. He told the Court, in a statement made in Brixton Prison:

"My wife loves the children. If I can get her a home and her children back she will come back to us.

"Gentlemen, I am pleading to you for your mercy . . . I will get a job if only with pick and shovel, and pay the Middlesex Council for looking after the children until I can get a home for them."

But for two months now—less the meagre remission the law's mercy may allow him—Ernest Smith will not be able to get a job, to make a home.

He is in jail.

I AM going to ask you to do something for this man with the ordinary name, this man you have never met.

It may mean climbing out of your favourite armchair. But—some time this Sunday—rummage in the kitchen, in that cupboard under the stairs, in that odd corner, try to find last Wednesday's morning paper. And read again—carefully, with your heart open—the sorrowful saga of the homeless Smiths.

The man himself has told it better than I could hope to tell it. He has told it bleakly, starkly . . . Bitten into his

find them in that empty house. Then the law might have been very gracious to Smith, even set him free—to go on with his weary wandering . . .

Read the story again. Do not let us worry about what was said of Smith's past, when the pitiful court story was unfolded. For the past, he had paid.

But the punishment he suffered in that fruitless trek for the shelter that eluded him had the galling bitterness of punishment without even the ice-cold logic of the law behind it.

He was being punished, the woman was being punished, because there were six children instead of one or none. They had to bear the knowledge, a keener pain with every hopeless mile and every shut door, that the children were sharing the sting of the searing lash.

By Peter Ross

memory with the acid of unshed tears is a tale that Dickens could only have embroidered . . .

The Smiths were turned out of their home at nine o'clock in the morning. (Have you noticed how restive, how wearying to grown-ups children can be early in the day?) They began a long search for other accommodation. They soon realised that they were branded.

"No children," was the reply that met their applications everywhere. There could be no argument—the faces of the children, their weary, thin wailing as the hours went by, were a "Close, Sesame!" at door after door.

Once a Child found rest with His Mother in a manger.

No one had even a manger for the six little Smiths. They spent half a night in the open, the other half in an empty house. It is a pity a policeman did not

THE Smiths were homeless for something that, even under the tyranny of Italy, of Germany, would have brought tax remission, the compliments of the State.

In a hopeless world this unknown woman had bidden six new fighters into the ranks—to battle forward, as they grew up, into the fairer, freer Britain of tomorrow. You and I believe in that Britain.

It is the sole excuse for your politics and mine, whatever they may be. It is a vision worth the bearing of children . . .

Rashly, perhaps, Mrs. Smith believed it. There was one thing, I fancy, she did not believe. Often, perhaps, she said casually, "After all, no one can go homeless in England now."

You and I have said it, too, casually, as we say, "No one can starve." The saga of the Smiths forbids us to say it again.

It will not make history . . . but it can make its mark in our minds, the mark of some determination, some resolve towards making these things impossible.

This very human little true story was first published in the "Sunday Referee" on August 29, and we print it here, by kind permission of the Editor, because it illustrates so poignantly one of the terrors of poverty in the midst of plenty. Could this miserable story be told if Smith had his National Dividend? And it is no use just being sorry.

Local Objectives
CAMPAIGN TOUR

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

- 18, Bradford, 8 p.m. Driver's Cafe, Kirk-gate (Public meeting. Subject: "Action in Alberta—and in England").
- 19, Bradford, 6.30 p.m. Same address.
- 20, Stockton-on-Tees, 7.30 p.m. Morgan's Cafe, High St.
- 21, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 8 p.m. Belgravia Hall, Nelson St. (near Grey's Monument).
- 22, Glasgow, 7.30 p.m. Religious Institution Rooms, 200 Buchanan St.
- 24, Coleraine, 7.30 p.m. Cafe Hall.
- 25, Belfast, 7.30 p.m. Social Credit Hall, 72 Ann St.

Social Crediters and anyone interested in encouraging the public to exert their authority over their institutions are invited to attend.

Maggots At Newport Pagnell

"NOT A NUISANCE" UNDER THE HEALTH ACT

HAVE you ever had maggots crawling under your door in the morning and had to sweep them up as part of your normal household duties? This is what inhabitants of one part of Newport Pagnell have to put up with. For years the ratepayers have been complaining of the horrible stench that is often prevalent in a densely populated part of the town. The air is polluted for some way round this particular neighbourhood, and it is so bad that it makes people sick and ill. No one can eat, sleep or live comfortably in such a smell. Hundreds of yards away windows and doors have to be kept tightly closed to minimise this foul stench. **And then there are the maggots, thousands of them, crawling about in the streets. They are on view nearly every morning.** Urban Councillor Bullard is vigorously representing the people in this neighbourhood in their fight to rid themselves of this nuisance. A petition signed by scores of people, many saying that they had been ill as a result of these conditions, was presented to the Urban District Council, but nothing has been done.

After one complaint the Medical Officer of Health visited the premises, and the following is an extract from his report: "Although considerable annoyance is caused during the hot weather from effluvia and flies, I am nevertheless of opinion that . . . are using the best practical means for preventing or counteracting the annoyance that must necessarily arise from an offensive trade. In view of these facts it is not possible to give a certificate under Section 114 of Public Health Act, 1825. *Nor do the premises constitute a nuisance under Section 91 of that Act.*"

It is, of course, more polite to say "effluvia" than "smell," but when the smell is of the order of a stench it doesn't convey at all the same thing. The quotation of the Public Health Act is irrelevant, as also are the Medical Officer's opinions. He is talking about methods, which do not concern the ratepayers. They only know that they want the nuisance stopped, and that their local authority must find a way of stopping it. If they were pressed for a reason they might add that, notwithstanding the Medical Officer's report, flies have been found to be associated with diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, cholera, diphtheria, ophthalmia, tuberculosis, anthrax, and smallpox; and that each maggot turns into a fly. When they crawl under doors in numbers, maggots are, in fact, a nuisance, Act or no Act.

It's the RESULTS they want

But this does not alter the RESULTS that the people want—that the maggots and the smell be stopped—and they should keep these clearly before the Council, at the same time pointing out that they are not asking a favour but requesting as a right that the Council should obtain these results as part of its duty. The members are elected by the people and so derive authority from the people for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of the majority when these are clearly expressed. Councillor Bullard appears to realise this; he is energetically doing his best. The remaining Councillors should understand that if one set of representatives fail to represent the people adequately in obtaining their will, it is time to try another set.

An Unhappy Precedent

MR. MACKENZIE KING'S DILEMMA

MR. MACKENZIE KING, the Canadian Premier, must be wondering today whether, when pressed by financial interests to disallow Albertan legislation, he would not have been wiser to defy them, rather than defy every democrat in Canada, which, in effect, was what he did. His action, if democracy means anything in Canada, will lead to his political extinction.

Maybe defiance of the financial interests would have led to a temporary loss of the premiership, but if it had he would have been the hero of every real democrat and thus certain of eventual return. As it is, he has made himself an object of contempt. Not only has he failed to carry out his election pledge to restore control of financial policy to the people, he has deliberately endeavoured to thwart action to achieve this end taken by the Albertan Legislature, by his disallowance of their Acts.

Mr. Mackenzie King has taken the broad road leading to political perdition. Latest reports seem to show that he will have a rough ride.



The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is now calling upon Mr. King to use the powers of disallowance he claims for the Federal Government, to veto what is known as the "Padlock" Act passed some months ago by the Provincial Government of Quebec. This piece of fascist legislation empowers the police to shut any building, including private dwellings, used for "communist propaganda," a phrase which is not defined, and can therefore be used to apply to any activities objectionable to the government. The Act has been condemned by the Canadian Bar Association for its "arbitrary powers," and in other quarters for its vague and confused wording. Further, although it does not deny any aggrieved person access to the Courts in fact, it does so in effect.

The C.C.F. claims that every one of the reasons advanced by Premier Mackenzie King for disallowing the Albertan Acts applies with at least equal force to this "Padlock" Act.

It is pointed out that when the parliamentary leader of the C.C.F. at Ottawa pressed the Attorney-General to disallow the Quebec Act, he promised "serious consideration," but added, "I do not think that in a federation such as this the power of disallowance could be exercised by the central government."

In the circumstances the majority of people will agree with the conclusion of the C.C.F. statement:

"When it is a question of the civil liberties of ordinary citizens in Quebec, the Dominion Government promised to give 'serious consideration' to a proposal of a reference to the Supreme Court and then did nothing; and it professed to believe that the power of disallowance had become obsolete. When it is a matter of the civil liberties of bankers in Alberta, the Dominion Government spontaneously and almost instantly proposes a reference to the Supreme Court, and when that is rejected, promptly disallows not one but three acts! It is difficult to resist the conclusion that it all depends whose ox is gored."



Mr. Mackenzie King is now faced with the choice of disallowing the Quebec Act or, by failing to do so, proving the truth of this statement. It is a choice of evils, for either action or inaction must further discredit him in the eyes of an awakening public. Disallowance now will show him yielding to pressure from the C.C.F.; further, it will intensify the growing feeling in Quebec government circles against federal interference. Failure to act, on the other hand, will be attributed by many to fear of a provincial government, which turned out a corrupt Liberal administration at the last provincial election—and Mr. King is a Liberal.

The least that those financial dictators can do, who forced Mr. King to act in the case of Alberta, is to help him out of the troubles they have brought on him. Whether they will go to his rescue or not depends on whether they have any further use for him. Mr. R. B. Bennett, late Conservative premier, is reported to be active in support of the so-called People's League of Alberta—for "People's" read "Bankers'" (see SOCIAL CREDIT for August 27). Maybe he is now due for the limelight!

M.W.

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.)

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It is worth noting, as the laughter dies down, that he has not much education, but he does know what he wants. There are ways he could get it, but not that way.

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