

The
Mystery
Of The
Metropolis
By
G.W.L. DAY
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SOCIAL CREDIT

WE live in the Power Age, with ability to produce wealth enough for all. This paper exists to champion The People's right to proper distribution of this wealth; to declare the subservience of all financial and other institutions to The People's will; and to demand the National Dividends our country can well afford, so that all may enjoy the Plenty that is now possible.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1938

Weekly Twopence

IT HAPPENS IN ENGLAND TO-DAY

From a Letter :

Stopping to ask a direction led to an interesting conversation. He was a fine-looking type of man, a miner, and two years ago had been "buried" in a fall. He was captain of the rescue team and got £100 special award and a special disability award until he was well again. Now they were cutting his dole from 31s. to 27s. a week for himself, wife, and girl of thirteen. He objected and had to go before a tribunal on which sat a doctor and a lawyer who seemed to have upset him, particularly the lawyer; he said he knew they had a fee of three guineas and went for a fine lunch at the "Grand." He told them that he was accustomed to about £4 a week when working and had made the most of it. The tone of the interview seems to have degenerated; he asked the lawyer chap, could he live on 27s. a week? and was told that was not the point and it was no use if "they" made rules and did not stick to them. Eventually he told the "lawyer chap" that it took more to redden his b—y nose than he could live on, and as a parting shot he threatened to turn burglar and throw the blame on them the first time he was "up" for it.

He was in doubts about getting any dole this Friday.

It seems a pity that this fine English spirit should take this "bolshie" form and, of course, he must be taught his place. Even the captain of a rescue team can be undermined through the suffering of his wife and daughter . . .

STOP PRESS

Wednesday, June 8.

Latest News From The Canadian Social Credit Front

BELOW we print two important cables bearing upon the situation in Western Canada.

With regard to the first sent recently by Major Douglas to a prominent citizen in Saskatchewan, it may be recalled that Mr. Hugill was appointed Attorney-General on the formation of the Albertan Social Credit Government and accompanied Mr. Aberhart to Ottawa on the visit which resulted in the appointment of Mr. Magor, — who had handed over the population of Newfoundland to a Financial Commission,—as financial adviser to the Social Credit Government.

The resignation of Mr. Hugill was demanded by Mr. Aberhart about a year ago. Mr. Hugill had been following Mr. Aberhart in Saskatchewan—opposing Social Credit, and pointing out that a rise in taxation has occurred in Alberta, without stating the modifications in this taxation which had been made during the past year.

With regard to the second cable, we think our readers will agree that the financial interests must be desperate when they are driven to, what at this distance appears to be, undiluted intimidation.

Cable sent recently by Major Douglas:

RECOMMENDATION APPOINTMENT MAGOR CONVEYED THROUGH HUGILL STOP TAX INCREASES WERE MAGOR POLICY STOP CONSIDER HUGILL PROMINENT FACTOR ABERHART EARLY DIFFICULTIES DOUGLAS

Cable received by Major Douglas at the moment of going to press:

ABERHART TELEGRAPHED MACKENZIE KING TO-DAY PROTESTING ACTION BANKS THREATENING CLOSE MANY BRANCHES IN PROVINCE UNLESS LOCAL CITIZENS SECURE DISALLOWANCE OR REPEAL RECENT LEGISLATION FINANCIAL INTERESTS URGING THE DISALLOWANCE STOP GOVERNMENT HAS DEMANDED PROPER SERVICE OR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL BANKS FROM PROVINCE WITH DUE NOTICE STOP

Taxpayers To Foot The Bank Of England Bill ?

GERMANY seized Austria, but very naturally is showing little enthusiasm for the suggestions that she thereby assumed responsibility for Austrian debts. Negotiations for a settlement have been going on for several weeks now between representatives of the British Treasury and the German Government.

It may well be wondered why the British Treasury is concerned in this question. The reason is that the Government has guaranteed a number of Austrian loans floated by the Bank of England and, in one case at least, took over a loan originally granted by the Bank. If, therefore, Germany refuses to pay and everything points to the probability of such a refusal, the British taxpayer will have to foot the bill.

Here are some of the comments of Members of the House of Commons on the Bill by which the Government—our Government!—in February, 1933, paid off a loan made by the Bank of England to Austria:

"One of the most sordid stories of international finance."—Mr. Rhys Davies.

"What is this all-pervading power which has turned the Treasury into the West End branch of the Bank of England? . . . If the Governor [i.e., of the Bank of England] is so well fitted to determine our financial commitments, then for goodness' sake make him Chancellor of the Exchequer."—Mr. Brackner.

"A very good example of the curious and nebulous relationship between the Treasury and the Bank of England. I am not saying that the present Government are the exception, because all Governments are the same. Sometimes we are told that the Bank of England is a completely independent body, maintaining friendly relations with the Treasury. That argument is used when it suits the Government. On other occasions, we have the case in which, apparently, the Government feel in duty bound to take over a commitment from the Bank of England. Of course, it simply means in other words

that the Treasury, or rather the *British taxpayer* (our italics), is assuming a responsibility which, in the Financial Secretary's own words, the Bank of England took entirely on its own account."—Captain Cazalet.

"We are conniving at the transfer of a private debt which was incurred without the consent of this House between the Austrian Government and the Bank of England, and we are conniving at the transfer of this liability to the responsibility of the British taxpayer."—Captain Fuller.

"It is bolstering up a private company that has made a bad investment."—Mr. Lambert.

"I believe the total sum received by way of interest [on the loan being transferred to our shoulders!] by the Bank of England is pounds: Who gets that great sum? The Bank of England. Does it share it with the Treasury? Most certainly not. It only shares its liabilities with the Treasury! . . . Are you willing to vote large sums to Austria's London banker, while you are slashing the standard of livelihood of your own people?"—Mr. Brackner.

These extracts from Hansard for February 7, 1933, show that some of the members on

both sides of the House realised the swindle that was being perpetrated on the British taxpayer. Nevertheless the Bill went through. It is to be hoped that those Members who so far realised their responsibilities to their constituents in 1933 as to speak against this swindle, will lose no opportunity of pointing out that any rise in taxation due to Austrian default should be debited to the Bank.

WELCOME TO G.F.P.

MR. G. F. POWELL arrived back in England on the "Aquitania" on Tuesday, June 7, exactly a year and ten days after he left this country.

At Waterloo he was welcomed by his sons, Mr. Geoffrey Powell and Mr. Alan Powell, and by a large circle of friends, including many prominent Social Crediters, who surged around him in the bustle of the arriving boat train and tried to express simultaneously their pleasure in seeing him back and their appreciation of the fine work he had done. He looked happier after his eventful year, but in very good spirits. He had a warm handshake for all his friends, and although he did not say much he was enthusiastic about the prospects of Social Credit in Canada.

Concerning the elections in Saskatchewan (which were to take place on Wednesday, June 8) he was full of confidence and hope that in this Province, too, the people would gain control of their own policy and their own credit.

He said that meetings of 2,000 to 4,000 were being addressed by Mr. Aberhart and his colleagues, while meetings of other political parties—notably the Liberal Party, which has won every election in Saskatchewan to date—were attended by less than 500 people.

We feel sure that all readers of SOCIAL CREDIT would wish to take this opportunity of adding their thanks for his splendid work in Alberta and hope he will enjoy a well-deserved spell of rest at home with his family. E.E.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

THE Ministry of Agriculture, in Bulletin No. 32, entitled "Pig Keeping," when drawing attention to the matter of the construction of piggeries, indicate that no farm animal is so clean in its habits as the pig, and probably none suffers so much if obliged to exist in wet, foul, cold surroundings.

The Ministry state: . . . The pig is an accommodating animal in many respects, but it is not fitted like other farm stock to withstand great changes in temperature. It is very sensitive to damp, and pig-keeping is more likely to be a success if warm, dry, fairly roomy, well-ventilated houses are available."

For a mere man, of course, who possibly is not so "profitable" . . . we could not recommend anything quite so palatial.

The pigs might be shocked at our slums.

ABUNDANCE OF COAL — For the Coming Generations

AN International Labour Office report on the world coal industry, says that if the future rate of extraction of coal does not exceed the average of 1925-35, the world's supply of bituminous or anthracite coal will last another 37 centuries.

This is not our fault. Millions of housewives would like to reduce that reserve considerably by burning enough coal now to keep their houses warm and comfortable.

Here is real wealth enough—but where is the financial wealth to distribute it?

That is what the housewife would like to know. The *Daily Express* tells us: "There are no limits to the ways in which money can be made."

Making money is much easier than mining coal,—ask the bankers, but if you want money to buy coal, you must demand that it be made and distributed to the amount required to buy what is now restricted, abandoned or destroyed.

Why Not Get Behind Mr. Savage

REPLYING to a deputation of the Defence League, Mr. Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said that no one could say what would be necessary in a war when the nation was fighting for its life, but if war came, they would see to it that men were properly looked after while fighting, and were not called on to pay debts created for centuries to come."—*The Times*, June 3.

Once again, it seems to us, Mr. Savage is showing himself ready to act as a true representative of the People—if only the People will help him by demanding the results they want. Mr. Savage cannot act without orders. At present the financiers are giving them, and the People of New Zealand say nothing. When individuals unite to order a certain Result from their Prime Minister, it may be that no one will be better pleased than Mr. Savage.

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It was probably at Ernest Sutton's ERNEST SUTTON LIMITED 24 BRUTON PLACE, W. I

Every Man Is Worth Two — In Association

POST ONE OF THESE FORMS TO-DAY

To the Treasurer, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

FORM A I wish to become a Registered Supporter of the Social Credit Secretariat, Ltd. I can afford to pay £ : : a week month year and enclose my first contribution.

Name

Address

Subscribers to Social Credit Funds under this plan who are also direct subscribers to the Social Credit newspaper are entitled to receive the Monthly Supplement.

To the Treasurer, Social Credit Expansion Fund, c/o Social Credit Secretariat, Ltd., 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

FORM B I enclose the sum of £ : : as a special donation to the Social Credit Expansion Fund, to be expended by the Administrators at the sole discretion of MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS or his nominee.

Name

Address

REVIEW

CAN 1931 COME AGAIN?

THIS book sets out to be a warning that, unless drastic preventative measures are taken in time, the "crisis" of 1931 will be repeated. Financially, of course, the next crisis will be worse than the last. There is much of interest both to those of "orthodox" and "real" economic views.

Although the author assumes an unorthodox rôle, most of the orthodox stock phrases are well to the fore.

The country is suffering from a disease, and although the disease is sought, it is not clearly defined, whilst the symptoms are stated in the orthodox manner.

Entirely "sound" remedies boil down to tightening our belts and reducing our standard of living in the interests of export trade. It is suggested that we should do well to copy Germany and Italy in the process.

* "Can 1931 Come Again? An Examination of Britain's Present Financial Position," by Collier Brooks (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 2s. 6d.).

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

COMMENTARY

Perhaps you've read these items in your newspapers—our comment will give them a new significance

The Trade Route

A LONDON evening paper boasted a few days ago of the fact that we are exporting more aeroplanes than Germany. Considering the state of our own air defences compared to that of some other countries, this will sound strange news, but isn't it good for trade!

Work and Pay for Nowt

The new loan to Turkey necessitates the passing of special legislation to legalise the lending of British credit abroad for the purpose of armaments. Apart from the fact that if Turkey defaults on the loan it is being arranged that the British taxpayer shall pay it instead, isn't it good for trade!

The Solution of the "Work" Problem

When the next war breaks out, there will be no unemployment problem, and won't it be good for trade!

The Wages of "Work-worship"

The timber merchants will get orders, for instance, for millions of wooden crosses to mark the spot where the victims were buried. Won't it be good for trade!

Planned Starvation

CHILDREN in Honiton (Devon) rural district, although surrounded by some of the finest dairy farms in the country, are suffering from lack of milk, according to the report of the local medical officer just issued.

All milk has to be consigned to the orders of the centralised Milk Board and none is left for local needs.

All this mania for planning is done at the wrong end. A little common-sense planning in the way of National Dividends would enable us to buy the goods which are now wasted and withheld.

But unless we voice our Demands in the right way—see the Elector's Demand on the back page—we shall have to suffer the pains and penalties of further ruthless Planning.

Man was not made for Plans, but Plans should be made to serve man.

Another Interruption

MR. G. LLOYD, Under-Secretary, Home Office, had just finished his reply in the debate on A.R.P. in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 1, when a young man in the Strangers' Gallery stood up and, shouting "Social Credit is the only remedy," dropped a small green paper parachute into the Chamber.

Financial Poverty

MR. SIMON MARKS, chairman and managing director of Marks and Spencer, Limited, at the annual general meeting held recently referred in his speech to the fact that

"It must be realised that 90 per cent. of all incomes in the United Kingdom are £250 or less."

Later on he said:

"We are helping in some measure to bring the nation's capacity to consume more nearly up to its capacity to produce."

Mr. Marks, being a business man and not a professional economist, evidently does not insist that the purchasing power of consumers is equal to our capacity in association to produce.

State Kidnappers

A MOTHER struggling for the possession of her three-year-old child while the father stood by weeping—this was a scene which was witnessed in the Slough Police Court recently.

The magistrates ordered the child to be taken away from its parents, who were very poor, whereupon the mother snatched up her child and tried to run out of court with it. When the child was forced out of her grasp, she collapsed.

CONSCRIPTION

The following letter appeared in *Reconciliation* for June, 1938. It should appeal to all potential conscripts and present ratepayers. After all, what is sauce for you as a conscript goose should also be good for the financial gander:

Dear Sir,—When prominent public men are openly advocating the conscription of life and property, it is time humbler folk said their say. I suspect that if the conscription of financial capital were closely linked up in the public mind with the conscription of life and property, the latter would lose most of its attractiveness for those in authority. Therefore I suggest that upon the introduction of a compulsory national service scheme, involving persons and property, there should also be passed a measure taking over the whole of the shares of the Bank of England, the Joint Stock Banks, the Discount Houses and Insurance Companies at their original issue price, payment being made in Government Stock. These shares should be placed in a Trust formed by representatives of every Ratepayers' Association in the land, and the whole of the receipts from them should be distributed to the ratepayers, and all war loans should be underwritten by this Trust.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART MECHIE

It's a Fine Business!

IT is reported in the *Financial Times* that "the directors of the Bank of New York and Trust Company have decided that the company shall revert to its original title, Bank of New York. The oldest bank in New York, it was founded by Alexander Hamilton and other prominent New Yorkers on February 24, 1784, at a meeting held at the Merchants Coffee House.

"Among the original directors and early presidents of the bank was Isaac Roosevelt, great-great-great grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

This will explain much to those who know what's what in finance and "party politics."

The Seeds of Revolution

WRITING of the end of Austria in "Twilight in Vienna," Mr. Willi Frischauer makes it quite clear what causes revolutions. The origins are always economic—the inability of large numbers of the middle class to find within the social structure a place where they will have sufficient goods and services to lead their own lives.

The idea of totalitarianism remains just theory without these conditions.

"England," he writes, "is now in the first stage of social disintegration."

Milk Boards as Dictators

THE Liberal National Council strongly condemns the Milk Boards in a recently drafted report.

The Milk Boards, it says, have used their powers to dictate contracts instead of negotiating them; they have entered unfairly into competition with private traders and they have used their powers of licence in a way to destroy the value of the goodwill of businesses.

Uncle Sam in Queer Street

WRITING of the American slump, now in full swing, the *New Statesman* says, "Meanwhile business paralysis spreads. The railways slide into universal bankruptcy, commodity prices continue to slump and unemployment to mount. The soul of the New Deal may go marching on, but its body of achievement lies mouldering in a sticky economic morass."

Underpaid Clerks

SOME years ago a man advertised for a clerk at £3 10s. a week, and he received 100,000 replies. Because of the excess of supply over demand thousands of clerks today are receiving miserable pittance. Mr. H. W. Hughes, president of the National Union of Clerks, quoted the advertisements of two borough councils.

One offered £1 a week rising to £2 a week for an experienced shorthand-typist-book-keeper not under 17.

The other offered £1 15s. a week for a competent male shorthand typist.

Slaves of the Machine

AN ominous piece of evidence as to the extent to which man is victimised by modern factory speed-up methods is the fact that out of 5,322 members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union on benefit, 223 are in mental asylums and 259 are suffering from various forms of nervous trouble.

One in eleven is either in an asylum or suffering from some sort of nervous breakdown.

The Lost Legion

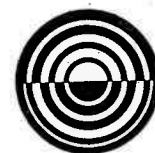
AT the conference held by the British Legion at Newcastle recently a resolution was passed calling for increased pensions for disabled ex-servicemen who had married since their disability was incurred, being too young to do so at the time. Capt. A. Harris, of Churchill, Somerset, opposing the resolution, said that they had so many men who incurred disabilities during the war that they could hardly ask the Government to consider the case of a man who took on a "voluntary disability" after the war. (Laughter.)—"Daily Telegraph and Morning Post," June 7.

1937 SECRETARIAT ELECTION

Social Crediters will remember that in the last election, where Registered Social Crediters in the United Kingdom and European Countries voted in December, 1937, the result was an overwhelming majority in favour of the present policy, and also for Major Douglas, as Chairman, to carry it out.

As a number of Overseas Registered Social Crediters, living in the Dominions and elsewhere, were unable to vote in time for the main part of the election last December, it was decided to hold a further poll for them in the Spring of 1938.

This has now been completed and the result is that every vote received was (without qualification or exception) in favour of the policy and our present Chairman.



THE

FIG TREE

A Quarterly Edited by Major C. H. Douglas

J
U
N
E

1938

Containing articles by

Major Douglas Norman Webb

Elizabeth Edwards T. V. Holmes

A. R. Reade and others

NOW OUT
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BOUND COPIES of the second volume of THE FIG TREE from June, 1937, to March, 1938, will be available at 15s. each to readers who apply for them before June 1. Separate binding cases 3s. 6d. each, post free.

Mrs. Palmer's Page . . . Women Should Realise Their Power, And Use It!

A FEW days ago I received an appeal for funds from a society devoted to the political interests of women. In their report they give an account of the work they have accomplished last year.

Here it is:
"In the cause of 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' we succeeded in persuading the Hammersmith Borough Council to grant equal pay to their men and women employees; for 'Married Women's Right to Earn'—in response to our repeated requests the London County Council has agreed to receive a deputation of representatives of women's organisations on this matter; for 'the Nationality of Married Women' we shall be supporting a Bill very shortly which is to be introduced in the House of Lords to give British women the independent right to their own nationality; and we continue to press for an equal consideration of women with men in the State whenever the opportunity arises."

I wish I had by me some of the books and periodicals published by the women's suffrage societies just before the war. In the light of the high hopes that women had then, how pathetic this poor little appeal seems now! I am quite sure that if the suffragettes of twenty-five years ago had been asked to forecast the position of women in 1938, twenty years after enfranchisement, their account of the achievements they expected would have been far different from this.
To think that women should still be asking for equal pay for equal work after twenty years' voting power, during at least half of which time they could easily have outnumbered men at the polls! This demand was most urgently insisted upon during the campaign, yet here we are, still the black-legs of industry, still undercutting the men in factory, office and shop.

The "equalitarians" today maintain that all special legislation protecting women as a sex in industry should be swept away. Special treatment under the law, they say, means that women are kept out of special processes, or forbidden to work long hours and overtime. Thus their work, becomes of less value, and they receive lower wages.
The Trade Boards standardised wages at the weekly rate of 48s. 6d. for men and 27s. 6d. for women. The Burnham Scale fixed women's rates at four-fifths that of men.
It is maintained that equal pay would mean that a woman would no longer be employed in preference to a man, unless her work were better.
But, say the men, where is the money to come from? How on earth can your wages be raised unless ours are cut down? And what about our wives and children? Don't we have to provide for them?
And so the old tug-o'-war goes on. In the light of orthodox, scarcity-economics, there

is no solution that will satisfy both sides. Thus bitterness and strife arise, and sex rivalry is increased.

The phrase "The Married Women's Right to Earn" is bristling with so many errors from the Social Crediter's point of view that it is difficult to know where to begin to demolish them. I should be the very last to deny any woman the full power to exercise any talent she may have—one of my chief complaints about modern home life is that the lack of well-planned houses and labour-saving devices, and such help as nursery schools afford a mother, prevents so many women from developing their powers to the full. Why on earth shouldn't a clever woman who can teach, design, or manage a business continue to do so after marriage?

But this business of "earning" throws quite a wrong light on the question by trying to value talent in the terms of £ s. d.

Perhaps I can make this clear by a little story, quite a personal one, but it is so apt an illustration that I hope it is permissible.

A friend of mine was anxious for me to spend the day with her. I was not particularly desirous of doing so, it is true, but for all that I spoke sincerely when I said I couldn't go because I had a "Social Credit" engagement.

"What does that matter?" said she. "It is only voluntary work."

And I am afraid there are many who would have made a similar remark.

When you track this error to its source you will find that it is exactly the same spirit that would leave the poet to starve in his garret and the musician to play in the gutter, simply because his talent wasn't marketable.

By all means let women have the same opportunities as men both before and after marriage, but for God's sake let us women see clearly, even if the men don't, that no real progress will ever be made while every aspect of life is dominated by false values.

The only job that is worth doing is the work that you are drawn to by your own inner necessity.

As things are, what happens? The wife of a well-to-do man, talented though she may be, frequently wastes herself because it seems unfair and unnecessary to compete in the "market" with women worse off than herself; while a poor over-worked mother goes out to business when she would much rather stay at home simply because her husband cannot earn enough to support the family.

What a ridiculous state of affairs!

Both these problems, "equality" and the "right to earn" would be solved immediately by the issue of the National Dividend. An income of her own that no one could take away would enable a woman to refuse all work that was underpaid or in bad conditions. She could thus claim equality with men in industry, if she wanted to, for she could claim a job on her own merits.

Extra money every week would give the married woman more leisure and opportunity to develop her own talents, either at home or abroad.

Instead of the "Right to Earn" it would be the "right to self-expression" that she would claim. And for the first time the National Dividend would make this possible to every woman.

The "Nationality of Married Women" is a matter which receives very little public attention because it affects so few women. It is not generally realised that immediately after marriage to a foreigner an Englishwoman loses her right to vote and every other privilege her nationality should give her. She is classed as an alien, even though she may never have left England in her life.

We are supposed to be living in a democracy, and yet the fact that Parliament exists to enforce the will of the people is still only very imperfectly understood.

It cannot be the will of the people that these women should be thus penalised. It is their right to choose whether they will adopt their husband's nationality or retain their own.

But minorities can expect to make little impression while the vast majority of the nation remains in ignorance of its power to enforce its will on its own executive.

If the women's political societies of this country would give up all discussion of methods of social reform and concentrate on the correct use of the vote, as explained on the back page of this paper in the Elector's Demand and Undertaking, it would not be very long before their Members of Parliament would give Englishwomen a respectful attention they have never yet received. From this it would be an easy step to the issue of the National Dividend, to the righting of the wrongs of minorities, and to any other reforms we might think desirable.

The Social Credit movement has the knowledge, the women of England have the power.

It only needs the fusing of these two for us to make one of those great advances in human betterment which, occurring at long intervals, have justified centuries of struggle.

It is for us to say the word.

B. M. PALMER.

— THE RAG THAT FAILED —

IN the city in which the writer lives, Saturday, May 28, 1938, was Hospital Rag Day. For several weeks, great preparations had been made, programmes planned and rehearsals indulged in by an ardent and enthusiastic band of technical college students, with a view to descending upon the populace with intent to persuade them to disgorge the sum of £2,000, in support of local hospitals.

It should be noted that the citizens of this city are accustomed to this particular kind of piracy. For some months past, they have been under pressure to donate upwards of £30,000 on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Radium Fund. Such ardour and enthusiasm as is shown by raggars, therefore, is regarded as highly commendable, for is not such sup-

port of hospitals known as "Sweet Charity" and is it not a "Good Cause"?

The great day arrived and the students, at an early hour, arrayed themselves in a most heterogeneous assortment of garments and appeared on the city streets in various guises, as Kings, Queens, Prince Charmings, Cinderellas, knights, jesters, Hamlets, Othellos, Nelsons, Napoleons, nigger minstrels, troubadours, pierrots, Geisha girls, Florence Nightingales, etc., etc., with their collecting boxes, all prepared to enjoy themselves mightily, to indulge in a huge rag and at the same time to lighten the pockets of the people. Unfortunately for the success of the enterprise, the Clerk of the Weather had apparently overlooked the arrangements, or wasn't feeling very charitable. At all events, the rain began very early in the proceedings and fell increasingly and incessantly. The fancy dresses were soon bedraggled and hidden under dripping mackintoshes. The populace remained at home and under cover. Except for the raggars and their collecting boxes, the streets were deserted, apart from a few poor unfortunates, who sought to take advantage of the general conditions to obtain bargains at the markets, where sales had been effected. The spirits of the roysterers and of the "birds to be plucked" were soon as depressed as the weather. Enthusiasm was very much damped. The programme went all awry and the Rag became very ragged.

It is to be safely assumed that the high hopes of the collectors and their prompters were not realised and that much of the £2,000 which should have been lifted back to where it originally came from, still remains where it was, to be spent by the owners themselves on something they require.

The Rag of 1938 was decidedly not a success. And now, what? The medical and surgical skill, knowledge and experience, the hospital buildings and equipment, the medical and material comforts, the doctors, the nurses, the medicines, etc., etc., are all available, in spite of the lack of increased

funds. The great part of £2,000, which it was designed to spend on these things, remains at the disposal of those who have earned or otherwise acquired it, to be spent by themselves on something which they want and which is also available.

Where, now, is the money to come from which the hospitals need to buy the things which exist and why the shortage of money? One admires the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice of those who work for a "good cause"; but such enthusiasm and ardour could be used to so much better purpose and effect by working to show that Rag Days are entirely unnecessary; that they only serve to perpetuate our rotten systems, and that the hospitals can be run at their highest possible efficiency without appeals to charity and without depriving any of our fellows in association of any position of the purchasing power which they have been able to acquire.

The National Credit which belongs to us all is such that it could build, equip and maintain all the hospitals we can ever need, at the highest point of efficiency and yet leave us all with enough and to spare.

"NORMAN CONQUEST."

Three Experts Speak About Poverty

AT the conference of Rotary International, Mr. Frederick Voigt said that he knew of some European villages where poverty was so great that villagers had learned to slice matches into four. He wondered whether people in England knew how well off they were. Even in the depressed areas people had much to lose.

—From the "Daily Express."

This is the topsy-turvy reasoning which our newspapers love to publish. Thus the people of the depressed areas, "where they do not eat on Thursdays"—which suggests that they have lost their dinners—should consider the lot of the European villagers and be thankful.

Are we to judge wealth by how much people have to lose?

No, we judge it by how much we have to gain, and with shops and factories laden with

goods, we need not learn to slice matches into quarters when the whole product of a wealthy nation is waiting to be distributed.

Sir Raymond Unwin puts the case in another way when he says:

"Hardened as I am to the slums of many lands, what I saw in London came upon me with a shock of disgust. Such a mass of congestion, confusion, hideous squalor and misery as that visit revealed would almost reconcile one to a second Great Fire of London."

—From the "Daily Telegraph and Morning Post."

Speaking at Torquay, Doctor Dorothy Parsons, hon. secretary of the Friends of the Poor, said: "To-day, there are between 6,000 and 7,000 cases on the books. The most difficult cases were the unfortunate people who were left with no incomes whatever. Even worse than poverty was uncertainty about the future. Although no Society could support them indefinitely, great assistance was given, and things made much easier for them."

But with a National Dividend these cases would not be on the books, and things would indeed be made much easier for them!

A.D.C.

The NEW ERA

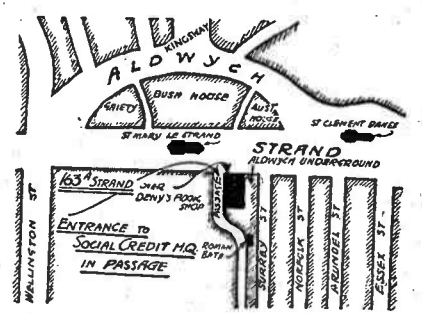
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**Bank Raid
Precautions****A**IR Raid Precautions are very topical just now.

There is something to be said for making ourselves safe from invading aeroplanes and the death they may distribute.

But at best such measures are only defensive against evil effects, they leave the cause of war untouched. It is as if we were preparing hospitals for the victims of a typhoid epidemic whilst leaving the tainted water supply and the leaky drains carefully as they are!

The analogy is a fair one.

Nobody can accuse foreign invaders for the death that stalks in the distressed areas. There is an enemy within these shores that ultimately must be drastically dealt with before we can live in security and peace in our own country.

Air raid precautions have become necessary because we have failed to take adequate precautions against the financial institutions which have looted the credit of the country—our credit.

These institutions invade every home; they have, by a clever trick, captured the forces of the State—the power of increment due to orderly association—and these are used against us, the British people, to collect tribute in the form of rates, taxes, loan charges, and high prices, as if we are a conquered and enslaved nation.

We are an enslaved people.

We are enslaved by debt, private debt, industrial debt, municipal debt, and national debt.

We cannot accuse foreign dictators for the perpetuation of this crime, we ourselves are—in the last analysis—entirely to blame.

Financial institutions located in our own country pursue a policy unchallenged in Parliament. We, the people, have permitted our public representatives to be dominated by a Cabinet which makes decisions on prime policy identical with that of the Central Bank, and which is opposed to the interests and safety of our people and our country.

We have permitted financial institutions to make a raid and claim as their own, property which belongs to the people—the nation's credit—and the institutions have used it to enslave us with debt, to restrict our liberties, and to endanger by economic stress the lives of many.

These institutions, by their policy, have bombed large areas of our own country with destitution and misery more pitiless, more ruthless, more cruel, more pregnant with death, and over longer periods of time, than has any foreign invader in violent war.

It is time we acted in unity to take precautions against the money-raids on our pockets carried out ceaselessly against us by the financial institutions located in this country. The raiders bomb us with rates and tax demand notes, against which "shelters" (in the form of money to meet the demands) are not provided in sufficiency to protect our health, hearth, and very lives.

Every day there are long casualty lists. How many distraint warrants were issued last week? How many bankruptcies, how many whose health broke down through financial worry or malnutrition?

Who knows? But that we are in a state of siege, none can doubt.

How much of your income went to pay (via rates) "interest and loan charges," the racketeers have fixed upon you as a debt-slave?

You don't know? Well, find out, all your friends and neighbours are victimised similarly. Unite and demand an "account" from your public representatives, and kick them out of office next November if they won't produce the "names" of those who receive the money-rent tribute.

Find out who your antagonist is, and incidentally, who amongst your representatives serves you—or the inside enemy's—interest.

Make sure the Wardens are not helping the "raiders," whilst pretending to protect you!

**THE MYSTERY OF THE
METROPOLIS****A**FTER twenty years of muddling along, with a rapidly expanding Metropolis writhing and choking from internal strangulation, we at last took fright and appointed a couple of experts to draw up a thorough-going plan. This plan, the result of three years' hard work, has now been published.

The first thing that strikes one on reading it is the peculiar haphazardness of London's growth. Being the capital of these islands, you would imagine it would become, in some degree at any rate, the sort of Metropolis the public wants. But actually it is what no section of the public, nor even what any single citizen, would have it be. Here is a striking example of how events unfold themselves in direct opposition to the will of the people.

The central area of London is closely built up with streets completely unsuited to modern traffic. It has grown much faster than the rest of the country, and so has its population, particularly in the areas of continuous building.

There are a few new arterial roads leading out of London, but the planners of these roads did not foresee how rapidly the Metropolis would spread; in consequence they already end too near to London. Moreover, so fast are they being lined with houses and shops that they, in their turn, need bypassing.

To overcome these and many other difficulties, Sir Charles Bressey, in his "Highway Development Survey," lays down the outline of a 30-year plan. This plan at first sight is positively startling, for it is far and away more sweeping than anything that has been officially suggested for a century.

Firstly, Central London is to be criss-crossed with many brand-new roads, some of them carried overhead on viaducts, others running underground in tunnels. Large, intensively built-up areas are to be demolished and replanned. Secondly, the

By G.W.L. DAY

great circular roads are to be completed and amplified so as to facilitate the intrepid traveller's journey across the wilds of Outer London.

Without going into details, it is obvious that we have here a plan which is realistic, and in quite a different class from the petty tittivations so dear to Governments which have attested their faith in the 39 Articles of Finance.

The monetary value of land in London has risen to fantastic heights, so that even the most trifling road alterations are apt to run into millions. Yet here are proposals which seem to ignore questions of £ s. d. altogether.

If it were a question of spending a moderate sum in feeding the half-starved, we should, of course, be told that the thing was impossible. Yet now we seem likely to embark upon this tremendous and costly piece of work—on top of our huge rearmament programme and despite the fact that both rates and taxes are already sky-high!

What is the explanation? It is that the replanning of London has become a matter of extreme physical urgency, and that physical urgency, if it is sufficiently great, will always surmount financial resistance. For the first is a concrete and tangible fact, whereas the second is a mere abstraction.

Suppose, now, the financial cost of replanning London were exactly a thousand times

what it actually is—namely, a "prohibitive" figure—while the physical urgency for a new London was also a thousand times what it is. Can you doubt that even then London would be rebuilt? I can't.

But where would the money come from? Where it comes from now, and where it always has come from. And the public would have to pay out of their own pockets just as much as the financial dictators were able to foist upon them. And this debt burden would depend upon psychological factors—will-to-pay, or will-to-resist—and not on the book cost of the plan.

Once this point is understood, we can insist on many other things being done for which there is a physical necessity. And we can refuse to be jockeyed into paying a second time, in money, for what we have already paid in labour and materials.

**BUREAUCRATS TO
INVESTIGATE
BUREAUCRACY****I**N consequence of the increasing protests against the penalties, from which there is no appeal to the courts, imposed under the various marketing and industrial organisation schemes, the Government has been forced to initiate an enquiry. But it will be a whitewashing enquiry, for it is to be undertaken by a Departmental Committee.

Under these schemes, the Ministers responsible for imposing them is usually the only court of appeal from the penalties for which they provide. Is it likely that either Ministers themselves or the bureaucrats who administer the schemes and who are their subordinates will find fault with their own handiwork?

When people unite in demanding National Dividends to buy the goods now restricted, exported or destroyed, all these schemes will be abolished. They are intended to restrict production to existing financial demand, and the penalties for which they provide are for producing or selling in excess of the arbitrary limitations they impose.

National Dividends will make the limit to production satisfied demand instead of, as at present, an artificial shortage of tickets-money.

**THE CHRISTIAN
CONSCIENCE****F**ROM a report* published by the Christian Social Council and commended to the consideration of the Churches, the following interesting extracts are taken:

"We believe that the Christian Church should recognise frankly and clearly expose such results of the present monetary system as appear harmful to human welfare and should further declare that any monetary system must have objectives in accordance with Christian ethics. Economic policy must be subordinated to social policy and monetary policy subordinated to both.

"A mistaken monetary policy, whether on the part of the Government, or of the financiers who influence policy, or even of private investors in the aggregate, hinders and postpones the solution of social problems. A sound monetary policy is almost a precondition of social progress. For that reason, among others, the Church cannot be indifferent to monetary questions.

"The Christian conscience requires that whatever may be the authority which by law creates and issues money, it should discharge its function in a way which will enable the nation to consume and utilise all that it rightly desires of those goods and services which it is able to produce or import.

"To that end the supply of legal purchasing power should be regulated in the fullest possible accordance with the nation's capacity to produce real wealth in desired goods and services.

"The issue of new money to final consumers, secured by the issue of new notes, either directly by such measures as the grant of increased benefit to pensioners, old people, those receiving education, the sick and the disabled, or indirectly by subsidies or price discounts to producers on condition of their lowering their prices."

INSANITY FAIR**D**OUGLAS REED has written an autobiography* that is remarkable and interesting in many ways. To Social Credit adherents it will prove especially enlightening, for a wealth of new evidence is here disclosed, showing the growth of conflict within and between nations, and especially the necessity to mislead the common people everywhere as a consequence of the conspiracy of silence everywhere operative regarding the will opposed to individual freedom, economic or political.

The cause is obviously a puzzle to the author, but his book is none the less valuable for that, because he is transparently an honest observer. His seven years as a foreign correspondent in Germany, for instance, are reported frankly and without prejudice, and so typically English that no one can accuse him of favouring violently any one side of the antagonisms he observes. His observation of what happens in the seats of power in England is a blacker picture than anything he saw in Germany!

He tells the story of how he listened to the Führer speaking to a hundred million people after the march into Austria.

"... I listened to Hitler and watched my Viennese friends. Their faces showed respect as he recapitulated the deeds of National Socialism in the Reich, rising trade, falling unemployment, 'rearmament without its like in history.' They smiled involuntarily as he repeatedly poured derision and contempt on England.

"I smiled, too, ruefully, and wondered whether this speech would at last open England's eyes. True, it needed to be heard, the bitter satire, the volleys of laughter, cold print could never convey the full effect. He derided the well-fed incompetency of England, English cant in moralising about the wickedness of war when England had obtained her empire by war and grab. He lavished contempt on people who thought that Germany's good behaviour or Germany's renunciation of her aims could be bought by credits, on people who thought of enticing Germany back into the League, and particularly on people who thought they could get him to a conference table. What he said was absolutely candid and, from his angle, right. He was kicking the 'conciliate

Germany' group in England in the pants, as hard as he could, over and over again.

"Inwardly I prayed 'Let them hear this in England, and let it bring them to their senses.' But inwardly I knew that England would neither hear nor understand.

"That evening the British radio announced that Hitler had made 'a friendly gesture to England.'

"... But that was not the worst. He made two bitterly sarcastic references to Anthony Eden by name. That was between noon and three o'clock. At five I sat down and wrote to a friend in England, saying I was sure that Berlin had heard that Eden's resignation was likely, and that the references to him had been included so that this, too, could appear as a success for Hitler.

"At midnight I walked down the Kämtnerstrasse. Nazis had been marching about all over the town, cheering Hitler, celebrating their regained liberty, and I watched them. Outside St. Stephen's I met Robert Best, of the American United Press. 'Hey,' he said, 'have you heard that Eden's resigned?'

"It was incredible. It looked as if the whole British Cabinet had been sitting round the loudspeaker that Sunday afternoon and, when Hitler had finished, had turned to Eden and said, 'Well, Anthony, you hear what the Führer says?'

"... Millions of people all over Europe... see a triumphant Hitler, imparting in hoarse accents his lesson of hatred and war, proclaiming his success in Austria, making sinister hints about the future, deriding England and jibing at England's Foreign Minister... they see, a few hours later, the resignation of that Minister and the grateful acknowledgment of Hitler's 'friendly gesture to England.'

"Masochism is the only word that fits it."

All of which goes to show what happens in England under Cabinet rule and the B.B.C.

It's a frightening book in the sense that it exposes ruthlessly not only what is going on "inside Europe," but the extremely dangerous hoodwinking policy that is carried out by suppression in this country, and which is leading the unsuspecting people straight to the slaughter of war.

"Insanity Fair" is an extremely apt title.

J.C.

* "Insanity Fair," by Douglas Reed. Jonathan Cape. 10s. 6d.

* "Monetary Steps Toward a Better Social Order."

Space reserved
by—

THE UNITED RATEPAYERS' ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

WE WANT THE RIGHT RESULTS

Secretary:
John Mitchell

ON May 30, Mr. Temple Morris asked a question in Parliament as to what action Mr. Elliot, the Minister of Health, proposed to take to deal with the problem of increasing rates in all parts of the country. Mr. Elliot said that he was asking all local authorities to prepare and submit to him programmes covering the next five years, so as to secure that new capital expenditure was carefully planned and entered into with due regard to the economic circumstances as well as the financial position of the local authority concerned.

Undoubtedly this is a result of the grow-

POSTPONEMENT

The next issue of Lower Rates will appear on June 24, and not on June 17 as announced.

ing volume of protest and pressure all over the country against high rates. It is a result, but not the result required.

Ratepayers acting on the advice of the United Ratepayers' Advisory Association will not be taken in by this red herring. They have stated that what they want is lower rates with no decrease in social services, and they will continue to exert directed pressure until rates are reduced.

No evasion or procrastination will satisfy them; they want lower rates and they want them quickly. If submission of plans for expenditure in the next five years will give them lower rates without any interference in the social services—well and good. But protest and pressure will continue until the reduction takes place.

Mr. Elliot should be careful to take all the relevant facts into consideration before deciding on the action he will take to carry

out the policy expressed by the ratepayers. He should, when money is borrowed by a local authority from a financial institution, consider whether the amounts paid out in loan charges are not out of all proportion to the services rendered?

The ratepayers are becoming aware of the facts concerning borrowing by local authorities. They are therefore aware that it is perfectly possible to have what they demand, and no high-sounding phrases—nothing short of the results they want will satisfy them.

For ratepayers who really want this objective, methods for gaining it have been devised, tested and found successful, while schemes for raising revenue have been prepared.

All these may be obtained from:
The United Ratepayers' Advisory Association, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

E.E.

LOWER RATES CAMPAIGNERS' Special Meeting

On Saturday, June 25,
at 163A, Strand, W.C.2
From 3.0 p.m. to 10.0 p.m.

The
Director and Secretary
will be in attendance
for personal interviews
between
3.0 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.
Interval for Tea
Address at 6.30 p.m.

A NATIONAL DIVIDEND IS MONEY
TO BUY THE GOODS THAT ARE
DESTROYED AND THE PRODUCTION
THAT IS RESTRICTED

GENERAL STRIKE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUGGESTED

UNLESS the Government takes drastic steps in the near future to reduce the well-nigh intolerable burdens of rating in Durham County, there is a likelihood of a "general strike" of local authorities taking place in the county.

Warnings to this effect were heard at a conference of local authorities from all over the county in the Shire Hall, Durham, convened by Consett Urban District Council to review the position of rating and to consider what action could be taken to force the seriousness of the state of affairs on White-

In the course of a two hours' discussion various suggestions were made by delegates, who numbered nearly 100, and it was finally resolved, on the motion of Councillor A Nattrass, of Consett, seconded by Councillor Atkinson, of Darlington, to form a committee from the conference, with power to co-opt representatives of other authorities and interests, to collect and explore all available information and prepare a case, and to take every step to present that case in a most forceful manner to the Government. The findings of the committee will be reported at a further conference, to be convened at a later date by the chairman (County Councillor J. R. Ashby, chairman of the Consett Urban District Council).

At the outset the chairman emphasised that consideration of the position must not be made from a party standpoint. It should be united action, free from political bias.

"The people we represent are sitting under a burden which they cannot support any longer," he said. "I feel that in London there is no real understanding of our position in this county. If we can get down to this question successfully, we will have achieved the biggest thing that has been done in this county in the last decade."

Disparity of Rates

Councillor J. F. J. Smith, of Durham, pointed out that there was a great disparity of rates between some local authorities in the county. If they agreed with equalisation of rate for the country, why did they not first of all equalise the rate in their own county?

Figures illustrating the drain on public money in the county owing to relief were quoted by Mr. W. J. Stewart, M.P. for Houghton Division. The cost of poor relief last year, he said, was £937,880, and of relief for able-bodied unemployed £24,908. Mr. Stewart also urged earnest consideration of the question of location of industries. From 1932 to 1936 there were 2,700 factories started in the country, of which greater London had claimed 1,190, and the North-East, including the Midland Counties and Cumberland, 218. Another disquieting feature, he said, was the transference from Durham to the South of 41,607 men, women, boys, and girls from 1932 to March of this year.

"We are transferring from our county the best of our people," he said. "These people are ready to enter industry, and are received with open arms by industrialists in the

South, while Durham has been left with the middle-aged, the old, and the infirm, who are going to become a permanent charge on the ratepayers of the county."

"Strike" Suggestion

The likelihood of local authorities going "on strike" was mentioned by Mr. T. M. Sexton, M.P., who said that the members for the county had used logic, reason, and arguments, very often to empty Benches. Three alternatives, he said, were open to the county local authorities. They could make a last effort by going to the National Government with a thoroughly-prepared scheme. At the expense of the suffering ratepayers they could continue to carry on the public services.

"Thirdly, you can refuse to carry on any longer," he said. "A general strike may be your final solution, and may be the only way out at the finish. If the Government refuses to help you, if your suffering ratepayers refuse to pay any more, what can you do? Hammer out a case, make it as exhaustive as possible, and then say: 'This is the last appeal. After this we are going to consider a general strike.'"

Mr. Stewart speaks of the cost of poor relief and relief for the unemployed, and urges consideration of the "question of location of industries." He did not mention the drain on the public money made by the debts of the local authorities in County Durham. In Gateshead alone the debt is over two million pounds, and loan charges amount to £160,189.

Poor relief and unemployment payments have a real and important result in keeping the poor and the unemployed alive.

On the other hand, about 85 per cent. of the money owed by local authorities in this country is owed to the banks for the service of monetising the ratepayers' own real credit—that is, for the service of creating financial credit by a simple and costless method of book-keeping.

How much of Gateshead's two millions of debt is owed in this way?

To whom exactly is that two millions owed and for what service?

If this two millions are for Gateshead only, what are the figures for the whole of Durham?

Direct action for lower rates with no decrease in social services has been started in Gateshead and elsewhere in Durham. So, with the people and their representatives on the local authorities united in their aim, and all of them knowing that the aim is physically possible, it must be made financially possible.

As for a strike—it would be an excellent method of calling attention to the people's will. But it must be remembered that in this democracy it is the ratepayers themselves that make the law, so it must be perfectly possible to change it if it does not produce the required results.

We want the right results.

Believe It?

A TOTAL rate of 31s. 8d. in the £ was to be fixed by Listowel (N.I.) Urban Council on May 17 for the year ending March 31, 1939. Irrecoverable rates amounting to more than £500 had to be written off. Most of these related to the year 1937, when a rate of 35s. in the £ was struck.

LYTHAM ST. ANNE'S

AT the first meeting of the Lytham St. Anne's L.R.D.A. on Friday, May 27, the room was crowded out and Mr. W. Jacklin's address was received enthusiastically.

Resolutions were passed demanding a statement of the ratepayers' money that went to financial institutions during the last year, and demanding that there should be a drastic reduction of rates and assessments with no decrease in social services. The only votes against these came from the secretaries of two ratepayers' associations!

Most of those present joined the new association and contributed to the fighting fund.

Rates collected in England and Wales in 1937-38 amounted to about £176,000,000, equivalent to an average poundage of 11s. 7d.

TWO MORE RATES CAMPAIGNS IN YORKSHIRE

A LOWER Rates Demand Association for Otley was formed at a well-attended public meeting on Tuesday evening, with the object of demanding lower rates with no decrease in social services.

The meeting was called by two business men, Mr. L. S. Dawson, of Pool, who presided, and Mr. G. M. Firth, of Rawdon, who outlined the scheme.

It was explained that the movement was a national one; it was being conducted separately in different districts by voluntary workers. They were working with the United Ratepayers' Advisory Association.

Two resolutions were submitted, to be sent to the West Riding County Council, the Otley Urban Council and the Wharfedale Rural Council.

The first required statements "showing the amount of money paid to financial institutions last year and to whom it was paid" and "a detailed list of the holders of all loans made to the local Council which are at present outstanding."

The second contended that "the money paid in interest and repayment of loan charges imposes an intolerable burden upon all of us," and demanded "a drastic reduction in rates and assessments with no decrease in social services."

Both resolutions were passed by a large majority.

WHAT THE LISTENER THINKS

THE following extracts from our correspondence show the extraordinary inspiration that comes to ratepayers on hearing the FACTS about rates in their proper proportion:

"I think I can truthfully say that it was quite different to any public meeting I have ever attended, for instead of the usual fervent anticipation that the speaker was going to forcibly bring home your pet theory or expression which you were waiting to applaud, there was an intense silence throughout nearly the whole time, and watching the faces of the audience, I found every word uttered appeared fresh knowledge to them which they were quietly drinking in. Towards the end of the speech their expression seemed to change into one of real determination to do all they could to help."

"Have received your circular 'Lower the Rates.' I am a widow with a very small income—and really one is not allowed to live these days with one thing and another. I am told that my house was 7s. 9d. clear weekly pre-war. If the new rating comes in it will be over £1. I as one individual alone am writing to thank you for taking this injustice up. . . No wonder those in authority have reduced our dear Liverpool to a slum and are driving people away every day.

"There surely must be a remedy for this state of affairs.

"I am too old to take an active part in the campaign, but I can at least say
"Thank you."

Alderman Bambridge, of the County Council, gave details as to where a quarter of the rate apportioned to the County Council went. He seconded an amendment that the second resolution should be deferred until a reply was received to the first.

Whatever happened to the rate of interest, he said, there would have to be some kind of assessment, and no power in the country could put assessments higher than their proper value.

(Is it intended to refer to the value of the property or to the spirit of the Yorkshire ratepayers?)

At any rate, it is rapidly becoming true in the latter sense, and, as a representative of the people, Alderman Bambridge would do well to find out exactly what it is they want—and get on with the job.

At Colne Valley a letter from Mr. T. H. Walker in the local paper brought 400 replies from people anxious to form a Ratepayers' Association with the object of lowering the rates, along the lines of the one formed at Otley. Rates in this district are 15s. in the £, and in view of the fact that an amount equivalent to about 65 per cent. of the money raised in rates in this country goes to pay loan charges, ratepayers consider that the rate is unduly high.

What is more, they are willing to back this conviction with action.

THOUGHTS AND AFTER-THOUGHTS

By W.A.B.M.

"Via Mexico!"

THE old story of the conversation between the tourist and the Mexican should be given a new slant now that the twenty-three years' struggle to obtain possession of the oil industry is practically over.

The conversation should now run as follows:

Who owns the mines?
The international Banks.
Who owns the railroads?
The international Banks.
And the land?
The international Banks.
And the textile factories?
The international Banks.
And the hardware business?
The international Banks.
What in blazes have the Mexicans got?
They've got debts to the international Banks.
And what in blazes are they doing about it?
Oh, they stand on the corner and shout—"Viva Mexico!"

The story in its original form was aimed at the British and Americans, two national titles adopted by international finance as very convenient pseudonyms, and used to involve the Mexican public in misconceptions as to the real facts of alien control of production units in that country. Since the Government's compensated annexation of various oilfields, the action of the interests concerned have made it clear that the real enemy of the Mexican people is international Finance. But unfortunately the Government has done little to date to show that it intends to benefit by the revolution, or that it is awake to the fact that Mexican prosperity does not depend on more or less abstract transactions, such as, for instance, the sale of silver to other countries, but on the ability of Mexicans to create goods and services and distribute them for their own immediate use and satisfaction.

• • •

Make-Believe House!

Another sham fight has taken place in the Palace of Shams, Westminster, and the windy make-believe was occasioned by the Finance Bill.

Our faithful representatives, probably in gratitude for our assistance in placing them

in very comfortable sinecures, displayed a great deal of liveliness in suggesting new ways in which we could be robbed. The divide and rule game was played to the utmost limit and everybody was encouraged to think up taxes to be imposed on various sections of the public according to their carefully stimulated prejudices.

But it was very noticeable that no Member called in question the principles of modern taxation, or the fraudulent debt-creation monopoly of the Bank of England. On these vital points not one word was said.

There wasn't a Member in the House who gave any indication of a genuine desire to get down to the real problem.

An Amazing Omission!

The National Debt was discussed at length, but nobody asked who owned it or how it was created,—a truly amazing omission! Similarly, no one enquired what happened to the millions of pounds interest taken from the people every year to the detriment of their standard of living and the home market.

The rich were attacked, the poor were attacked, landowners were attacked, motorists were attacked,—in short, the whole nation was attacked with the poison gas of high finance, and the attacking forces were the supposed representatives of the nation, every section of it.

The nation went undefended, but one thing was not attacked; one thing was defended, by an impregnable rampart of silence: the outworn financial system operated by the Bank of England and its dictatorship over national affairs exercised through the Treasury, a dictatorship as complete and effective as anything to be found in Russia, Germany or Italy.

The Price of Careers!

The reason for this conspiracy of silence goes right to the heart of Party Politics.

Disagreement on methods, discussion and support of orthodox alternatives, treacherous attacks on various sections of the public, the stimulation of group antagonisms,—all these are permitted, encouraged, and given the fullest publicity, but there is complete tacit agreement by all the Parties on the essentials of financial policy—it must be Orthodox!

That is the only cost of a successful political career, of well-filled party chests, promotion, flattering press notices, opportunities of office, investment favours, and, finally, honours, titles, and handsome pensions.

If these are the rewards for a few years' sham fighting, what should our ex-Service men be enjoying?

Call the Bluff!

The present Finance Bill, like all its predecessors, is a punitive measure against the people of England. It is an act of war, and its effects will be quite as deadly for individuals, though not so tragically obvious, as the tactics of a foreign aggressor—indeed, it is the work of a foreign aggressor, for finance has no country and acknowledges no patriotism, but wages war unceasingly on all nations, on all peoples.

The casualties, the wounded and dying, are all around us, and every day brings fresh victims. Experience teaches that *no one is safe from this enemy*, not even a king.

The tragedy of modern life is revealed in its stark reality when it is fully and consciously realised that the power of this merciless enemy depends entirely on sheer bluff!—a bluff that would not stand a moment against a determined public. In point of actual fact, it begins to crumble the moment pressure is brought to bear on it.

A clear demand from a determined people would sweep it away with one stroke. Take a hand and make the world safe for future generations.

A LEAD FOR THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

AT the yearly meeting of the Society of Friends held at Friends' House, Euston Road, London, from May 17th to 23rd, 1938.

James Edward Tuke, in the session on the "Industrial and Social Order," said:

Some sixty years ago in a Yorkshire textile town the cruelty to the children was burnt into his mind.

Children of ten years and upwards, working 14, 16 and even 18 hours a day, sometimes too weary to go home to sleep, and slept on the wool sacks in the factory.

The children were an economic asset, they added to the family incomes.

To-day children are *not* an economic asset, the machine has taken their place. Children are not wanted.

The nineteenth century enslaved children in the interests of profits and money-getting, and the twentieth century has seen this scramble for profits come round full circle and the world is in the grip of a money power responsible largely for malnutrition, crime, bankruptcies, suicides, and finally war, first economic and then military.

Friends are ever ready to patch up the

outstanding social sores. When will they be ready to get to the root of the problem, the gigantic power which money exercises to-day over the peoples of the world?

The age-long prerogative of the Crown, as representing the community, to control the creation of money has been filched from the people, and liberty, freedom and peace are in the balance.

The unrestricted power to create new money or credit by book entries has put the world under a mountain of debt, which ever grows, and in this country to-day amounts to some ten thousand million pounds, of national and local government debt, which can never be repaid.

Rates and taxes absorb an ever-growing volume of purchasing power, and poverty spreads in a world of plenty.

The present financial system is bringing the world daily nearer to war and the collapse of civilisation.

Will not Friends realise the responsibility which has been laid upon them, and that if they allow it to proceed they will be responsible for the rapidly growing world danger?
J.E.T.

"EAGER TO WORK"

IT was revealed by a question in the House of Commons on May 25 that the Colonial Office has approved an ordinance in Kenya Colony permitting contracts for child labour for children of the age of ten years. It was also revealed, in an answer by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the Colonial Minister, that this is permitted by law in a number of tropical Dependencies.

Here we see, in all its horror, the "civilising" influence of a "sound" financial system at work, in countries where the people lack all power to resist its dictates.

Great Britain abolished slavery about 100 years ago. Recent disclosures regarding conditions in many British Colonies seem to show that in many cases the freedom so granted has only been freedom to starve, and that another and more pernicious form of slavery has taken the place of chattel slavery—slavery to money. In Jamaica to-day, for example, thousands are on the verge of starvation, and those fortunate enough to have employment are paid 10d. or 1s. a day.

What wages will be offered to these little

ten-year-old money slaves in Kenya was not disclosed. However low they are they will doubtless be welcome to the parents to help pay taxes, which are the chief means by which money slavery is enforced.

A comment made by Mr. F. A. Macquisten, Member for Argyll, in the discussion following the question on the Kenya ordinance, shows this gentleman to be so lacking in understanding of two of the finest traits of childhood, eagerness for self-expression and desire to help their parents, that he approves their exploitation in support of the present system. Here is what he said: "Is the right honourable Gentleman aware of how eager young children in every country are to work, but that the schoolmaster has paralysed initiative?"

Do the people of Argyll believe in working children of ten? If not, they had better tell Mr. Macquisten that the introduction of child labour was not a result they elected him to obtain for them or for the people of Kenya.

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

Announcements & Meetings

All London Residents and Visitors are welcome at the Social Credit Rendezvous, 163A, Strand, W.C.2 (entrance in Strand Lane, close to Aldwych Station). Open meeting: Thursdays, at 8 p.m.

Bangor (Co. Down) Social Credit Group, 65b, Main Street, Bangor, open from 3 till 10 p.m. every day. Public Meetings: Every Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. Reading Room: Social Credit literature available. Whist Drives: Every Thursday at 7.45 p.m. Tickets 1s. Meetings in the afternoons. Refreshments. Bring your friends.

Belfast D.S.C. Group. The public meetings on Thursday evenings will be discontinued from June 23 until September 22. Monthly group meetings will be held as usual on the first Tuesday of each month. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., Belfast D.S.C. Group, 72, Ann Street, Belfast. S.C. holiday makers are warmly invited to look us up.

Birmingham and District. Social Crediters will find friends over tea and light refreshments at Princes Café, Temple Street, on Friday evenings, from 6 p.m. in the King's Room.

Blackburn Social Credit Study Group meets each Tuesday 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.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Hon. Secretary: Miss D. M. Roberts, "Greengates," Hillside, Drive, Woolton.

North Kensington Social Credit Association. Will all those willing to help in a Local Objective Campaign, please communicate with Hon. Sec., E. Liddell Armitage, 43, Blenheim Crescent, N. Kensington, W.11?

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Friday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome. SOCIAL CREDIT on Sale at W. H. Smith & Son, The Square, Bournemouth; Walker & Witterat, Post Office, Parade, Parkstone; and C. T. Snook & Son, Poole.

Portsmouth D.S.C. Group. Weekly meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m., 16, Ursula Grove, Elm Grove, Southsea.

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.

Tyneside Social Credit Society invite co-operation to establish a local centre for Social Credit action in all its aspects. Apply, W. L. Page, 74-6, High West Street, Gateshead.

United Ratepayers' Advisory Association. District Agent for S. Wales and Monmouthshire, Mr. P. Langmaid, 199, Heathwood Road, Cardiff.

Wallasey Social Credit Association. Enquiries welcomed by Hon. Sec., 2, Empress Road, Wallasey.

Wolverhampton D.S.C. Group. Fortnightly meetings in the Ante-Room, Central Library. Next meeting, Tuesday, June 21, at 8 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Derby and District D.S.C. Association. A gathering together of old and new members, Friday, June 10, Unity Hall, Room 14, Third Floor, at 7.30 p.m. Social Credit literature available.

Edinburgh and District. Will all Social Crediters attend an Emergency Meeting at 20 Northumberland Street, on Monday, June 13, at 7.30 p.m. to consider action re Rates? (Tel. 24524.)

LECTURES and STUDIES

Courses available at lecture centres or by correspondence. CALENDAR AND PROSPECTUS, 3d., obtainable from Headquarters, or from the Information Supervisor of the nearest Group. All applications to join Correspondence Course to Miss Brill, Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A, Strand, W.C.2.

WHO WON THE LAST WAR?

IN February, 1923, Mr. Baldwin pledged Britain over the next sixty-two years to pay America more than £2,700 millions—nearly three times the amount originally borrowed." — "Evening Standard," June 3, 1938.

The Americans think they won the war. The British people think they had something to do with it. But neither of the two peoples took a hand in the arrangements made by Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Montagu Norman with the Wall Street Government of the U.S. afterwards.

International financiers sport with the peoples of all nations, holding in pawn both sides when they are at war, and sowing seeds of further conflict by their policy during the so-called periods of peace between.

Politicians of Cabinet rank are all bankers' "yes-men," and will so remain until the PEOPLE learn to declare their will on matters of policy, and to exert pressure to ensure that their mandate is carried out.

For NEW READERS

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OVERSEAS SURVEY

By Miles Hyatt
Director of Overseas Relations

PICKPOCKET POLICY OF N.Z. PENSIONS BILL

BEFORE drafting their Pensions and Superannuation Bill, the New Zealand Government set up a committee to receive suggestions from various bodies.

Sir William Hunt, appearing for the firm of Wright, Stephenson & Co., pointed out the hardship that would be entailed by people at present contributing to company pension schemes, if they were not exempted from the national scheme.

Mr. Davie, of the Douglas Social Credit Movement, said that taxation and contributions were both unnecessary. "A perfectly sound procedure," he added, "is to monetise the excess of production over consumption, and to pay superannuation from a fund to be established as a result of this procedure." He impressed upon the committee the fact that throughout New Zealand there was a deep-rooted conviction that taxation was far too high already and that "financial orthodoxy was largely, if not wholly, responsible for this."

Commenting earlier to the Press, Mr. Davie said that the basis of the pound for pound grant of the Government was, according to Mr. Savage, to be the increased production. He would like to think that this increased production was really going to be "monetised" to provide this grant, but unfortunately the Movement had learned that Mr. Savage was not going to pass on any benefits in this way. Instead, the Prime Minister regarded all increase in national wealth as a basis for heavier taxations and more debt—and the pound for pound grant would be just another raised on somebody's pocket.

"The Labour Party," he concluded, "and especially Mr. Savage, have insisted again and again that we are living in an age of plenty. The inability of the Government to distribute this plenty without increasing taxation or debt must be regarded as a major failure."

The Southland Provincial Executive of the Farmers' Union also condemned the scheme. Mr. W. H. Ward said it would break down of its own weight. Mr. A. R. Johnston thought it unfair on those who had saved money, as they would now have to contribute, getting nothing in return, whereas "those who have spent their substance in riotous living will be able to participate."

The moral of this seems to be, when in New Zealand with a Labour Government spend your money in riotous living. This is the kind of remark, though, that defeats its own end. If Mr. Johnston will reflect, he will see that he is himself creating a division of forces (between thrifty and thriftless) when what is needed is unity to compel the Government so to operate their scheme that all are benefited and none suffer loss.

The Great Reformer

WE have not forgotten Mr. Nash's indignant letter to *The Economist* of January 1. An issue in October referred to him as financing largely from Post Office Bank reserves — which operation, said *The Economist*, was known in New Zealand as "costless credit." (By whom?)

Mr. Nash wrote that he was astounded at such loose remarks. He said it was because of the standing of *The Economist* that he wished to make it clear that his financial practice was "in every respect similar to the practice of past Governments in New Zealand; furthermore, it is exactly the same practice as obtains in the United Kingdom."

The Economist, very properly, apologised, but reminded Mr. Nash that his Budget, though balanced, was 10 per cent. higher than ever before.

SOCIAL CREDIT DECLINE

PRESS and radio agencies have become ridiculous in their treatment of Social Credit. Everybody is beginning to smile at the absurd hotch-potch of calamity-reports and hush-hush which passes for information on the subject.

An exception, and a shining one, is the *Ottawa Citizen*, one of the few really reputable newspapers left. In a humorous editorial of the evening edition for May 4, this kind of thing is cleverly parodied under the title "Further Decline of Social Credit" (reproduced below, by kind permission).

"With Social Credit leagues in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, a Western Social Credit Association has been set up at an organisation meeting in Edmonton. Further evidence of the steady decline of Social Credit will thus be noted by the political interpreters.

"Ever since the first articles on the subject were written by Major C. H. Douglas in the *English Review*, immediately after the armistice in 1918, it has been apparent to leaders of opinion in politics and economic experts that Social Credit could never become popular or be regarded as worthy of serious consideration. In the early years the ruling authorities simply ignored it. They dismissed the name of Douglas with the comment that nobody had ever heard of the man. He had never been employed to lecture to students at London University on political economy, nor to write in financial columns on the immutability of the gold standard.

"When he appeared before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the Canadian Parliament in 1923, Liberal and Conservative members alike knew so much more about

sound money, they were so sure that increased production would bring Canada back to normal, they found it a sore trial to listen to the bucolic British engineer. He actually dared to venture the opinion that the financial policy of deflation in Austria imposed by the League of Nations contained the seeds of disruption!

"Douglas expressed the opinion that failure on the part of the nations to reform the monetary system would lead along the path of economic nationalism. When he spoke of the probability of a severe economic crash before 1929, the complacent authorities merely scoffed. The possibility of another revival of the competition in international armaments, the highest authorities were wont to dismiss until recent years as a bad dream. The founder of the Social Credit movement has been consistently right, however, in warning statements year after year since Canadian Members of Parliament knew so much better than he did before the Banking and Commerce Committee in 1923.

"So it would appear that while the people in high places were hiving off to Geneva to hold disarmament conferences, and planning the Bank of International Settlements to make the world safe for foreign loans, only people of no importance were giving any heed to 'this weird thing that is called Social Credit.' When the province of Alberta elected a majority of Social Credit members to the legislature, it became more than ever apparent that Social Credit had no considerable following anywhere. It had never been tried. It had obviously been defeated.

"The end came finally when Conservatives and Liberals united to defeat a Social Credit candidate in the Lethbridge by-election last fall. The movement received still another final death blow, of course, in the federal by-election at East Edmonton when Liberal and Conservative candidates were left at home, to make way for a comparatively unknown young man on the Social Credit platform.

"So' this steady decline and conclusive defeat and repeated death of Social Credit goes on as it has been for nearly twenty years. After the Edmonton conference, it is proposed that there should be a federation of Social Credit leagues in Canada, including groups also in the Eastern provinces. The Canadian people have been told so many times in the newspapers that Social Credit is dead, defeated and on the decline, some readers may have failed to notice this latest mortal blow of the meeting at Edmonton. Doubtless word will soon be heard, too, that Social Credit is dying out in the province of Quebec."

CANADA NEWS SNAPS

BANKS SHOULD LOOSEN CREDIT

AT its Toronto sittings the Rowell Commission on Dominion-provincial relations was informed quite bluntly that banks should be made to exercise their credit issuing functions to promote the security of the people and "to eliminate disastrous booms and depressions." We agree about the depressions and we congratulate Mr. Gladstone Evans, chairman of the Toronto Economic Reform Association, for hitting out from the shoulder.

In his opinion, "The political and constitutional aspects of Dominion-provincial relations can only be viewed in their proper perspective when they have been freed of the complications and distortions set up by economic factors." It appears to us that the Rowell Commission is being told in a very few words to run back home to Ottawa for another think—which should include some cogitation about putting first things first.

DEMOCRACY MUST DELIVER THE GOODS

Speaking in the "Whither Democracy?" series over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's national network, W. D. Herridge, former Canadian Minister at Washington, claimed that democracy's new job was to achieve prosperity for the Dominion. Prosperity was natural to the new social order and democracy would have to win it or die, "because prosperity is much more than an economic achievement. It is the only foundation for freedom; it is the proof of the rule of justice."

In a talk in the same series, Professor C. A. Curtis, associate in economics at Queen's University, took the opposite view. He declared scarcity to be inevitable "because mankind has relatively scarce economic resources from which goods and services to meet the insatiable wants must be produced." He claimed that while productive capacity had increased rapidly, the capacity to consume had forged ahead even faster.

O, greedy, shameless human race! O, bravo, Professor! But why, indeed, why, do we burn the standing wheat crops and kill off the "redundant" cattle?

Mr. Herridge holds the searchlight of truth, but we marvel why he does not focus it upon the men and women of Canada, who alone (but in association) can make democracy deliver the goods by demanding them insistently.

EASTERN S.C. PLANS RALLY

It is hoped that the organisation of an Eastern Social Credit Association will take place later this month when groups will be represented at a convention to be held at Montreal.

The committee arranging the details of the convention include such personalities as E. S. Dixon, of Halifax, R. J. Zanettin, of Montreal, and Lloyd Jaeger, President of the Ontario S.C. Association. In wishing the delegates the utmost success in their deliberations we would express the hope that the new Association when formed will be able to co-operate with its sister organisation, the Western S.C. Association, to further strengthen that great "brotherhood" of Social Credit which will end poverty in Canada by following the Douglas policy of pressure politics for RESULTS.

CANADA

Alberta Board Select Candidates

THE Social Credit Party of Saskatchewan have asked Mr. Aberhart and the Social Credit Board of Alberta to pick the candidates for the Saskatchewan elections on June 8. *The Times* of June 4 states that 40 have already been chosen.

This is excellent news, as it must mean that Saskatchewan will have candidates pledged to get the results their electors demand. If this is the case, the election will go down in history as the first in which real democracy was offered in every constituency.

Bankster Babble Again

"BANK deposits are the money of certain people—not 'The People.' There is the substance of Canadian banking as plain as a pikestaff. You have known it for a long time; you can let others know just whose money it is they speak of, when they talk about the community's claim to bank deposits."—From an advertisement in newspapers. Issued by the Chartered Banks of Canada.

Question 1. Who are the "others" who talk about the "community's" claim to "deposits"?

Question 2. If "every bank loan creates a deposit," as the Chairman of the Midland Bank states, who are the certain people who own it—(a) the borrowers or (b) the bank manager who created it? If (a), why do they pay it back? If (b), why doesn't he float a big loan and retire?

Don't all of you Chartered Banks answer at once, please.

FRANCE

They See The Joke

THE Poincaré franc was a four-fifths devaluation of the pre-war franc. Worth 20 centimes.

"The Auriol franc was a devaluation of the Poincaré franc. Its value was 15 centimes.

"The Bonnet franc represented only 13 centimes.

"Now the Daladier-Marchandean franc is a devaluation of the Bonnet franc. It is worth 8½ centimes.

"Yet it is still the franc. We still call it the franc, though it isn't one any longer.

"Suppose they messed about like that with some other measure—a gallon, for instance? What an outcry there would be!

"A gallon which contained only seven pints, then six, then four, then two, then half a pint—and which went on being called a gallon!

"Would they be able to pass off half a pint as a gallon by claiming that it was 'a masterly stroke' or 'a strategical move'?

"Or perhaps it really would be a gallon containing half a pint of milk and seven and a half pints of water."

(Adapted from "La Grande Relève," May 18.)

WEST INDIES

Starving in Paradise

BAD as conditions are in Canada and other British Dominions and in the British Isles, at least we, the People, are Sovereign when we at last choose to exercise

our right and compel Governments to serve our purposes rather than those of foreign clearing-houses and fraudulent money-changers.

But in Jamaica, in Guiana and in Trinidad, the people are not legally sovereign. Besides, they are for the most part ignorant, child-like. Their lands are among the richest in the world. In those Caribbean tropical islands every fruit and most other food commodities grow in a profusion that we in England can only imagine. They are the happy climes, islands of the blest—where men need work not at all, yet nature feeds them.

Here desperate men riot and are shot. They are desperate with—hunger!

Taxes are the reverse of National Dividends

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Professor Pshaw Defends The Government

IT is quite extraordinary how many otherwise quite sound people, even those belonging to the best Clubs and Trade Unions, are misunderstanding and condemning the Government's programme with regard to the Next War.



They are saying, for instance, that to spend over £1,500 million on bombers and the like, while fining farmers heavily for growing too many potatoes, etc., is sheer madness. They are saying that we came near enough to starvation in the last war, and that to insist on the scrapping of two tramp steamers for every one built is just blithering lunacy. Furthermore, they are saying that if the Government involve us in a war at this time, when the fertility of the soil has been reduced to about half what it was in 1914, and the merchant fleet by about 1,000 ships, all by deliberate restrictive action, they ought to be locked up for the Duration in a deep Air Raid Shelter with nothing but some juicy bombs to eat and maybe a special cup of nice stored whale oil for Sir Thomas Inskip.

All this, of course, is quite mistaken. As so often happens in matters pertaining to economics, the vulgar judgment of the man-in-the-street is the precise opposite of the truth. He is quite right when he says that to build up a large air fleet and boast about our terrible might in the air, while cutting down shipping and food production, is the best way to get involved in a war and lose it. What he does not realise is that the only way to win a war nowadays, in the economic sense, is to lose it.

Perhaps the following extract from the *Evening Standard* (leader, May 30) will make my meaning clearer:

"The nations who won the Great War are still paying for it . . . The punishments inflicted upon the victor are more severe than the burdens which must be borne by the vanquished."

Obviously, the side which bears the severer punishment is the loser, so that, as I said, the only way to win a war is to lose it.—Q.E.D.

It will be remembered, no doubt, that Germany, after the last war, got rid of the whole of her enormous internal Debt by the simple device of inflation, and that since then her currency has been based upon gold in the soundest way possible. Also it was found quite impossible to permit her to pay the reparations demanded by the Allies, since that would have ruined them by throwing their citizens out of work, so that she has been able, recently, to spend her money upon National Regeneration, National Concentration (in jolly open-air camps), Smart Uniforms, Strength through Joy, and other splendid things which we cannot afford here.

In contrast, Britain's National Debt grew during the last war from about £650 millions to about £8,000 millions, and is growing still at a rate which is reflected in the steep rise in local and national taxation. Although the burden of this debt is, of course, a splendid thing in developing to the full "the dogged determination and the dauntless courage of the British race," to which the Chancellor referred in his Budget speech, it is unfortunately very bad for Industry and Trade, and has the most intolerable effects upon Index Figures and Commodity

Barometers. The most serious danger, however, is that it encourages in certain quarters the spread of the deeply shocking and, indeed, fantastic idea that it would be possible to improve upon the time-honoured method of issuing all purchasing power as debt, which has been our sure shield and buckler for generations.

It is not generally enough realised that the merest whisper of the possibility of such an insane scheme's being put into operation would bring our magnificent financial system, which for soundness and solid security is the admiration of the World, crashing to the ground, with the most terrible consequences for everyone concerned. The danger cannot be exaggerated—and yet, at the same time, while the growth of Debt continues it is very difficult for the Government to prevent such ideas from contaminating the Population.

On the other hand, any attempt to check the growth of Debt by rigid economy would, of course, result in a slump far worse than the last one. Confidence would collapse, Credit would freeze, the Index Figures would congeal, the Bottom would drop out of the Commodity Barometer, Trade and Industry would starve, and the Population, being out of work, would have nothing to do but listen to subversive propaganda.

It is clear, therefore, that if we are to escape the imminent danger of an organised attack upon our splendid financial system we can neither allow the Debt to grow, nor attempt to check it by economy. The only safe course, therefore, is to have a war at once—the sooner the better. It must be realised, however, that it would be utterly disastrous to win the war. If that happened

the Debt would be at least multiplied by ten. Income tax would be about 50s. in the £, rates probably several times the assessed value of the property, and in fact the whole income of the community would be quite insufficient to meet more than a small fraction of the loan charges on the National Debt. Such a state of affairs would, of course, be quite unfair to the Banks and Insurance Companies, and any suggestion that we should attempt to win such a war should therefore be regarded as grossly unreasonable.

The only alternative, therefore, is to lose it, and emerge as a Purified and Regenerated Race, without any National Debt at all, leaving the Enemy to pay for the whole thing.

Other advantages of such a war may be enumerated as follow:

(1) It would solve the Unemployment Problem at one blow.

(2) It would give a tremendous fillip to the Export Trade.

(3) It would protect our gold holdings. In 1918 the Cunliffe Committee reported that "after the war our gold holdings will no longer be protected by the submarine danger." This would be rectified.

(4) It would provide even more opportunity for the display of "dogged determination" and "dauntless courage" than the rearmament Budget.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that all patriotic citizens will loyally assist the Government in taking a course which, although doubtless unpopular with the unthinking Masses, is certain to be the Wisest and Best for All in the long run.

WASTE NOT!

THE old proverb very wisely tells us to waste not, want not. Germany, in her great drive for national self-sufficiency, is learning that nothing is useless. A national campaign is now under way for the conversion of that which was once waste or useless into products of every-day utility:

Albumen ("white of egg") is obtained from fish for the making of biscuits and cakes. Soap and synthetic rubber come from German coal. Waste wood yields sugar for chocolates (3lbs. of wood gives 2lbs. of sugar and 1lb. of charcoal; gas from this drives Berlin's buses). Straw is converted into cellulose for stockings. The casein of milk is converted into "wool" for jumpers, etc. Even human hair from the hairdressers can be utilised for the making of carpets and felt.

The *Daily Express* gave Germany's No Waste Campaign a front page splash, together with illustrations.

Germany is also very advanced in the technique of the new plant culture known as "Farming in Cabinets," which due to rapid growth, within a season's time a small area of drawer space can yield as much as 25 to 50 acres planted in outdoor crops.

Now just what are we doing in this country to increase our food supply in case of emergency? A number of autocratic Boards control and restrict production. Farmers are still fined if they grow and plant too many potatoes. Surplus fruit and vegetables which cannot find a market owing to lack of buying power (money)—are taken away and destroyed.

We, the people of this country — Shareholders in Great Britain — must stop this waste and desecration. We must instruct our servants in Parliament what we want done, otherwise there is a tragic day of reckoning in store for us.

Here is what Major Douglas had to say on this question of Policy in his address at Liverpool in October, 1936, on: "The Tragedy of Human Effort":

"As shareholders we have an absolute right, and a right which by proper organisation we can enforce, to say what we desire and to see that our wishes as to policy are carried out, if those wishes are reasonable, that is to say, if they are practical.

"Let me go further. We have an absolute responsibility to express our wishes; and the catastrophes, crises, and miseries with which the population is faced and is experiencing, and the stultification of all the magnificent work which is done in the various departments of industry and national activity, are directly due to the fact that we do not express a common policy as to the use and distribution of the fruits of progress, and do not recognise our responsibility to see that it is carried out through our political (not administrative) representatives."

Fined For Giving Cheap Rides

PEOPLE may like cheap 'bus fares, but the Government—THEIR Government!—don't think they ought to have them! Last week the Aldershot Traction Company was fined 10s. under the Road Traffic Act on each of eleven counts, for charging only 1d. instead of the 1½d. laid down by the Traffic Commissioners.

The case affords a typical example of the civil war going on at home all the time owing to the shortage of purchasing power in people's pockets. The evidence for the prosecution was given by an employee of a rival 'bus company, which was itself convicted on similar charges a month ago. If the money shortage leads to such incidents as this between two 'bus companies, can we wonder that in the similar struggle for foreign markets it leads to war?

The best form of A.R.P. is N.D.

The Latest Crime

LAST week a Reading barber was prosecuted for carrying on his trade. To "oblige" a customer who, being a farmer, was too busy all the week to go into town to get his hair cut, he cycled out one Sunday morning and did it for him on the farm. He was caught in the act by a "Sunday trading inspector," prosecuted and, we are glad to say, let off under the Probation of Offenders Act.

There are still some people who believe Mr. Chamberlain when he says "I am no Fascist"!

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YOUR WEEKLY: IMPORTANT!

SOCIAL CREDIT is to be raised in price from 2d. to 3d. Let us explain why. Nowhere else in the world can you get for 2d. what you get every week in our little paper.

You get the **FACTS** about matters which elsewhere are ignored or misrepresented.

You get the most searching criticism of all the sham ideas and policies of our time.

You get the constructive thinking of the most remarkable mind of our time, perhaps of our era. We know what that mind has done for most of us; it has cut incisively through all the strangling network of false theory and practice, down to the fundamentals of life in association, and revealed them as clean, true and natural. For millions that revelation has meant the transformation of apathetic despair into resolute and assured faith.

You get the translation of that thinking into the realm of practical policy. But **SOCIAL CREDIT** is no longer able in its present form to do the work adequately. With the struggle in Canada, the local objectives campaign, the growing importance of overseas contacts, and now the rising understanding among the ratepayers of the swindle of loan charges, the problem of giving all this a "news" display in the present form is becoming insoluble.

Moreover,—we have to face the facts—the subsidy on **SOCIAL CREDIT**, which has never paid for itself, has been far too heavy, due to the increased cost of paper, printing, etc., during "prosperity." At the price of 3d. the paper will be nearer paying its way, which will help to relieve the strain a little. Extending activities make this very necessary, if we are to play the part which the Movement should play in the present conditions of opportunity.

So we have decided that we need a different format—more of a magazine layout, with a straight-ahead style to enable us to make better use of our space inch by inch. For this we are charging 1d. more, and we think that the increased value will more than justify the dearer price.

The decision will come into effect with the issue dated June 17. Subscription rates on and after that date will be 15s. for one year; 7s. 6d. for six months, and 3s. 9d. for three months.

Existing subscriptions which extend beyond the date of change will continue at the original rates for the period contracted for, but we hope that subscribers, wherever possible, will make up the difference in rates at once, rather than wait for their respective renewal dates.

We Will Abolish Poverty

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

This is the form for Parliamentary electors to sign. It should be sent to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Signatures will be treated confidentially.

- 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

British Potatoes for Spain

THE Potato Marketing Board recently sold 5,000 tons of potatoes for export to Spain, the Minister of Agriculture states in a written Parliamentary answer to-day.

"It is believed that the potatoes were bought for delivery in Catalonia, the greater part of which is held by the Republicans."—*Evening Standard*.

In a recent issue of the *Daily Express* it was reported that we had 750,000 tons of potatoes unsaleable on the ordinary market in this country. So why not distribute this surplus to our own people first, who are fighting a losing battle against malnutrition?

National Dividends would enable us to buy the goods that are now unsaleable. Ginger up your Member of Parliament by signing the Elector's Demand on this page.