

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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DEFENCE--OF WHAT?

Sir John Anderson, Lord Privy Seal, proposes that Great Britain shall in times of emergency and during war, be governed by twelve Regional Commissioners "exercising the full authority of His Majesties' Government." These twelve Commissioners are to be appointed immediately. They are to be endowed with powers designed to cover the complete severance of their Regions from the Central Government; the only limit stated is that these powers will not extend to military matters.

Powers of Regimentation of the civil population. Powers of Confiscation. Powers of imposing Taxation, of Press Censorship; these are not excluded.

The Times (February 3) suggests "that in the arrangements for the devolution of administrative functions there may also be experience of value for peace time." In effect this is merely the latest of

a series of adumbrations towards the removal and centralisation of the powers now held by Local Authorities.

For what are we arming? Defence? Defence of what? Democracy? **If this is democracy why defend it? What rags of freedom will remain to the individual citizen?**

These proposals constitute an attempt to abrogate the authority of the County and Borough Councils, over whose members the electorate exercises the function of selection and rejection. The appropriate development of an international complication—and much may be done by suitable publicity—will put these Commissioners in complete control of the destinies and details of the civil population within their areas. As the area is cut off from the Central Government the elector is at once severed from any vestige of control of his Commissioner through Parliament. And where is this to end? By what machinery will the elector make known his will to this Supreme Authority?

None. There is no machinery whereby the elector may select his Commissioner; none whereby he may control him; and none whereby he may reject him.

This scheme is being praised as "a measure of devolution." It is not. It is a device to make central control complete and absolute. An authentic devolution of self-government will result in closer and more intimate relations—and more adequate guidance as to policy—as between electors and those whom they choose as

representatives in the expression and fulfilment of their will.

The powers with which it is proposed to endow each Commissioner are not disclosed; and are not to be disclosed. The public may be bemused by distorted and hysterical accounts of crises and emergencies; may be taught to hang upon each empty and deceptive phrase uttered by men who are the flotsam and jetsam cast up by revolutions. We may be terrified by tales of horror and of woe; we may be enveloped in an atmosphere of dread foreboding; but we may not be told what, upon emergency, is definite and certain. **We may not be told what is our own fate at the hands of our own Dictators.**

This scheme of Regional Commissioners is nothing more nor less than the initiation of Communism by Whitehall Bolsheviks. It is a flat and studied insult to electors and to County and Borough Councils. Let any Councillor ask himself where he falls short of the capacities claimed for these Commissioners. Can they not grasp the needs and necessities of their County or their City, even though that should be in extremity? Can they not find the technical ability to fulfil these necessities? Can they not understand and uphold their own people, whatever the occasion?

What is the only barrier which stands between the Councillors and the solid conclusion of these objectives? It is *not* the capacity of the Councillors. What is it which makes of their Councils a long drawn argument, always

ON OTHER PAGES

A. R. P.

NEWS SUMMARY

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present to obstruct, to hinder and delay? It is Finance. Give our Councils such measure of financial control as will enable them to develop, freely and without stint, the powers which lie within their own people, the resources which are within their own areas, and nothing will overcome the defences they will set up; nothing will defeat the

spirit of the people so liberated.

Sir John Anderson has governed Bengal. He is the Lord Privy Seal, and of great authority. But he is not yet the Dictator of the British Electorate.

If Regional Commissioners are necessary it should have been possible to know this a long time

ago. What amounts to a complete revolution in the system of this country ought not to be imposed upon it by panic legislation. In any case, we are not at the moment at war, and since our determination is to preserve democracy, this seems a good place at which to begin.

NEWS SUMMARY

England

February 2—East Yorkshire farmers are to oppose the Government candidate in the by-election at Holderness.

Sir John Anderson announced that for purposes of peace-time war measures of defence and of the 'shadow' war organisation England has been divided into 10 regions; Wales makes an eleventh, and Scotland is a separate region. Each region would be in charge of a regional commissioner whose "degree of control . . . will vary with the extent to which communications have been cut."

February 3—Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, the new Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Colville, Secretary of State for Scotland, have invited the National Farmers' Unions of England and Wales and of Scotland to meet them to begin the discussions on the proposals put forward by the unions for the assistance of agriculture.

February 5—It was announced that the next general election will take place in October.

Mr. Anthony Eden has been asked to speak for the government in the campaign for 'gingering up' National Service Campaign.

February 6—Farming operations carried on by the Public Works Loan Commission are largely financed by bank overdraft, says Sir Gilbert Upcott, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, by costlessly created credit. The sad part is that they must pay back the *face value* of this *costless* credit in hard cash—our cash.

A bill which provides for the writing up of the Bank's gold reserve to market value has passed its second reading. As the effect of

this will be to increase its nominal amount by some £100 millions, it is proposed to reduce the Fiduciary Issue from £400 millions to £300 millions. The bill also provides that there should be a revaluation of the Issue department's assets every week.

The Prime Minister said in the House of Commons:—

"According to my information M. Bonnet stated in the Chamber of Deputies on January 26 that in the case of a war in which the two countries were involved all the forces of Great Britain would be at the disposal of France, just as all the forces of France would be at the disposal of Great Britain. This is in complete accordance with the views of his Majesty's Government . . ."

February 7—The Palestine Conference to further agreement between Jews and Arabs was opened by the Prime Minister.

France

February 2—The Government are refusing to pardon automatically all persons punished for having taken part in the General Strike, though they are ready to accept legislation which will permit discretionary legislation in each particular case.

United States

February 1—President Roosevelt was reported to have said, in secret conference with some members of the Military Affairs Committee, that the frontier of America was on the Rhine.

February 3—This statement was denied.

Germany

February 2—Tremendous indig-

nation was expressed in the press at Mr. Roosevelt's reported statement, and also at the sale of American military aircraft to France.

February 4—Herr Hitler dismissed three directors of the Reichsbank—Herren Karl Blessing, Karl Ehrhardt and Wilhelm Vocke. Their places are taken by Herren Friedrich Wilhelm, Kurt Lange and Walter Bayrhofer, followers of Herr Funk.

The dismissed directors opposed the inflation policy put into force by Herr Funk.

Spain

February 6—Gerona and Figueras have fallen. General Franco's forces are within 34 miles of the French border.

Dr. Negrin and other members of the Republican Government of Spain crossed the frontier into France.

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?

Voluntary Service with FAIR PAY

The earlier parts of the article of which this forms the conclusion appeared in The Social Crediter, numbers 19 to 21.

We have no right to assume that war is inevitable. Mr. Chamberlain says it isn't.

We have no right, therefore, to view the present drive to 'serve' through the highly emotional atmosphere of the inevitability of war.

Viewed in a colder and more natural light the problem might appear very different.

It does.

As soon as the citizen takes the view that we are talking about preparing and to some extent preparing for a war which will never come he begins to ask himself what his situation will be if the hysterical demands and equally hysterical actions of the present moment all bear fruit.

He has been told enough to fill in the more prominent features of the picture for himself.

'Everybody' (though not, of course, *all* the 'unemployed') will be very busy. The charwomen who have enrolled, after a hard day's work, may find useful (but not profitable) employment in the Women's Voluntary Services. "Older women who are prepared to do work with their hands are provided for in this section"; and the Women's Land Army will give opportunity "in any part of the country" or in the "home district"—for which, however, individual farmers *will pay!*

The schoolmaster will have A.R.P., Police, or Fire Brigade, or he may aspire to membership of the Civil Air Guard.

There is room for everybody.

The life of the nation, such as it is, will be subordinated to the requirements of an abnormal situation, the chief characteristic of which will be the shouldering of a vast extra burden of work. Business will be "as usual"; but on top of 'business as usual' will be the unusual business of employing the whole nation in national defence. Some of the features of this 'unusual' business, though apparent on the surface, may escape notice:—

(1) It embraces every able-bodied person over school age, who has not taken up 'defence' as a career.

(2) It provides no livelihood.

(3) Livelihood is provided for independently usually by the individual's own work, which need not differ essentially in character.

(4) It is officially 'documented' it is 'State' Service.

(5) It is inherently useless from every point of view but that of a deranged and abnormal society.

(6) It employs large quantities of material.

(7) And it is associated with the development simultaneously of two features not openly admitted to be associated with English life.

The first of these is wholesale registration of the individual's capacities.

The second is the appointment of a dozen officers with secret powers, the 'Defence Dictators' of the newspapers, not chosen by the citizens, already 'organising' their staffs and departments.

The limits of this organisation are all too easy to define. It is to suffice for the complete control and administration of all the twelve departments into which the country has been divided.

Presumably this is not the institution of some tribal system on the basis, of what remain of the British Constitution. But taken as a whole it is a complete working model of an order of society which is the opposite of that in which the Mother of Parliaments has a place.

All that will be necessary to launch in its entirety the Servile Work State will be to discharge all the paid workers, re-employ them under the National Service Scheme in 'requisitioned' factories and offices, and put employers and employed alike "on the dole."

The "change" will have been effected.

The twelve tribes of Britain will have been enslaved.

Mrs. Palmer's Page

THE QUEST GOES ON

One of the bye-products of the study of social credit truth is a deep dissatisfaction with most present-day books. I can amuse myself for a time with a good detective story because its interest does not depend on any particular attitude towards life, other than respect for the code of the common law. I am thrilled by the adventures experienced by the characters because these are almost the only possible adventures in urbanised English life to-day. I am in touch with one aspect of the real while following the brilliant reasoning of the hero-detective. But it is only a minute fraction of reality, and soon ceases to satisfy, and when I wish for adventures of the mind what has modern literature to offer?

Almost nothing beyond the small number of books inspired by the ideals which lie behind our movement, ideals which are the natural outcome of an ever-increasing apprehension of reality. Douglas wrote in the preface to the first number of *The Fig Tree* that idealism is just as inseparable from realism as one end of a stick is from the other. But many present day writers are suffering from hypnosis so that they cannot see the truth even when it is before their eyes. How can they hope to interpret life to others?

One day there will come a renaissance of literature.

Meanwhile I read biographies, when I have any time to spare; Cyrano de Bergerac, always a favourite of mine, Shelley, Beethoven, Charles James Fox, and, last week, *Madame Curie* by her daughter.

Eve Curie has written an exquisite book. I have not the qualifications to review this life of a great scientist, moreover the book was published last year and is already well known; but I feel it must be interesting to you because it might almost have been written to illustrate the passage from Will Dyson quoted recently in this paper.

"Compare the intellectual humility of that essentially art-

istic class, the research men of science, with the blatant vulgarity of Business Man's calmly reiterated belief in himself."

The story of genius in adversity has been told many times, but never so movingly as here. The daughter's love and understanding reveals more vividly than seems possible in words, the shy mysterious girl with ash blonde hair, dressed with poverty-stricken distinction, sometimes fainting with hunger, yet filled with a love of knowledge, of things and their laws. She lived in another world, detached from her own time, seeking always to pass beyond the sum of acquired knowledge.

To the French she was only a poor Polish exile, and a woman at that, struggling to pass her university examinations, with a scholarship of six hundred roubles that must last her fifteen months.

After her marriage to Pierre Curie she did most of the work of the house in addition to her research. No sooner had she recovered from child-birth than she was back in the wretched laboratory, which was all the School of Physics would provide her, working, sometimes in a temperature as low as 40 degrees, on the phenomenon of radioactivity.

It was not until after Marie had announced the probable

presence in pitch-blende of a new element endowed with powerful radioactivity that Pierre joined her in the brilliant collaboration which was to last eight years—till he was killed in a street accident.

I do not wish to repeat the story of their life together, and their discovery of radium. It has been told by Eve Curie in words so vivid and sincere that by comparison most characters in modern fiction become mere strutting marionettes. Read it for yourself. I found in it something which I shall never forget.

Once I heard some one say: "You know, Douglas didn't *invent* social credit—it was there all the time." The belief that in association you can get what you want, which is perhaps the shortest definition it is possible to give of this all-embracing philosophy, was perfectly exemplified in the partnership of the Curies.

I have written once before of the team spirit that is to be found in a body of sincere scientists working for a specified objective. The belief that they would get what they wanted amounted with the Curies to a conviction—perhaps this must always be so before there will be enough power generated to carry on through such years of strenuous effort as they endured. Think of the countless experiments they made, many of them with negative results; but the field of investigation was gradually narrowed. No personal or idealistic consideration must mar their partnership; there must be a complete and unflinching acceptance of the truth as it was made manifest; and then gradually, or perhaps quickly, who can tell, the consummation of all effort and striving in the result.

And does social credit mean such discipline, such a straight and narrow way? We shall find it must be so, in greater or lesser degree, in proportion to the magnitude of the task we undertake in free association.

That the Curies could complete their exacting, though self chosen

To Meet You

Mrs. Palmer will be glad to welcome friends on Wednesday afternoons from 3—5 p.m., and at other times by appointment at

4, Mecklenburgh Street,
London, W.C.1.
(first floor bell)

This is seven minutes from Russell Square Station, five minutes from King's Cross. It is hoped that visitors to London will make a point of calling at that time. Any alteration of this arrangement will be announced in this paper.

task was an achievement which makes us proud to think we are men and women too; but that they were compelled to work in the acute discomfort of poverty adds to the shame we must feel that our civilisation has departed from the canon, and, as Douglas says, "a financial standard rather than a realistic standard of rightness has become its guide."

Lavoisier was condemned to the guillotine with the words "The Republic has no need for scientists." The Curies had to spend their own meagre savings to buy a ton of pitch-blende residue. Marie worked at one time in a shed which was not considered good enough for a mortuary. She toiled as a day labourer among acrid fumes to obtain a decigram of radium from the masses of crude material, ruining her hands with the heat, and her health with the fatigue.

It was suggested that Pierre should be named for the Legion of Honour. He wrote, "Please be so kind as to thank the Minister and to inform him that I do not feel the slightest need of being decorated, but that I am in the greatest need of a laboratory."

When the possibilities of radium became generally known, plans for its exploitation were made in America, and technicians wrote for information.

"We can, of course," said Pierre, "consider ourselves to be the 'proprietors' or 'inventors' of radium and patent the technique throughout the world."

"That is impossible," she replied, "It would be contrary to the scientific spirit."

And so they were exploited by Business Man, who commercialised their discovery, and by the press, who pestered them with all the penalties of publicity.

Now see how the world of unreality presided over by Messieurs les Banquiers infringes on the world of organised knowledge in which our scientists live.

Radium, regularly put on sale, becomes one of the dearest substances in the world; during these first years it was estimated at a 750,000 gold francs a gramme. The press exploited the discovery to the utmost. The "Curies" even furnished a fashionable cabaret

with the subject for a sketch. There was not a moment of tranquility left; and their work suffered as a consequence.

When reporters pestered her for personal confidences, Marie had but one reply, "In science we must be interested in things, not in persons."

Since the discovery of radium the protagonists have been more clearly revealed.

There are those who believe that the means are more important than the end, that money is more important than the work it should do in giving us what we want. And there are those, ever growing in numbers, who know that all institutions must be subservient to human needs if civilisation is to survive.

That Marie partly understood the nature of the struggle we know from the words she wrote towards the end of her life.

"Humanity needs dreamers, for whom the disinterested development of an enterprise is so captivating that it becomes impossible for them to devote their care to their own material profit . . ."

"A well-organised society should assure to such workers the efficient means of accomplishing their task, in a life freed from material care and freely consecrated to research."

B. M. PALMER.

TOMATO RISsoles

- 1 breakfastcupful floury potatoes.
- 1 breakfastcupful bread-crumbs.
- ½ lb. tomatoes.
- 1 egg.
- Lemon juice, pepper and salt.

Method—Skin the tomatoes by dipping them in boiling water, and rub them through a sieve with the potato. Add the breadcrumbs with a good squeeze of lemon and pepper and salt to taste. Bind with beaten egg and form into flat round rissoles. Coat lightly with more breadcrumbs, and fry to a golden brown.

These are nice served as a supper dish with chipped potatoes and braised carrots or peas.

— B. M. Palmer.

LETTER

To the Chairman of a Rural District Council:—

Dear Sir,

Billeting.

I have to acknowledge your circular letter of the 19th instant on this subject. I trust that it is superfluous to emphasise the sympathy universally felt with the objectives upon which you touch.

If billeting in private houses were the only method of achieving these objectives there would, I think, be general assent to it, as one of the evils of war, in spite of its revolutionary nature and the fact that it is expressly forbidden in compulsory form by the Petition of Right.

Not only is this not the case, but even from the practical side its disadvantages make it wholly undesirable. It has been employed only in Russia. The evasive answers given by the Central Authority concerned (at present the Lord Privy Seal)—to alternative practical suggestions are strengthening the widespread feeling that the billeting proposals are primarily a political step forced upon the Government by influences which regard the next war as a necessary step to a social upheaval.

I have personal knowledge that this matter is the subject of further questions by Members of both Houses of Parliament, and in view of all these considerations I must, with every courtesy, inform you of my inability to co-operate in this matter for the present.

Hammer this point in the Press

Why is the Government permitting ships like the Berengaria to be broken up, when they could be used to house as many as three thousand refugees, instead of billeting them on private households? The S.S. Spezia has, for instance, just been sold to Italy for scrap, and much of it might very easily find its way back to this country in the form of bombs dropped from Italian airplanes. It would house 300 evacuees in comfort and relative safety.

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12, Lord Street,
Liverpool, 2.

SACRIFICE BE HANGED!

Not the least significant of the moves towards centralisation discernible in all activities of this country to-day is the determined effort to grab, ensnare and entangle the younger people in the *status quo*. By nature, younger people are vivid with new ideas and high-spirited criticism or partisanship; they form a reservoir of new original ideas, workable or not, and of boundless enthusiasm to try them out. But to-day they are cowed by lack of security in the present and to come, and so subdued are given a choice of carefully selected opinions. If they fail to appreciate the orthodox there is always the (orthodox) unorthodox displayed with subtle and enticing publicity. And fuddled with a rosy-tinted and exhilarating set of ideals they are indignant that real things do not fit into their appropriate niches, but insist on straddling all over the place with no regard at all for the decencies of theory, Marxian or Mussolinian.

A fine example of this pseudo-idealism was given last week by Earl Baldwin in his speech on opening a 'Youth Conference on Democracy.' Over 20 organisations, including various youth movements, schools, universities and junior branches of political parties were present. It is a pity there were not junior social crediters present (only a social creditor is a social creditor and we don't seem to take much notice of age).

The purpose of the conference was to show what the under thirty generation consider should be the aim of democracy, and how far young people think education is helping them to take their place as

useful citizens.

(Useful to whom? To the community. Who is the community? You and I, the delegates and everyone. Hush.)

Lord Baldwin gave an historical sketch of the development of democracy in this country, and drew the conclusion that to make a perfect democracy they must have ordered freedom, discipline and *sacrifice*. There was not really the contrast that they might think between ordered freedom and discipline. Democracy could soon perish . . . Those who believed in democracy had got to keep it on as even a keel as they could, because enemies of democracy lay in wait for it on either hand. If freedom were not ordered, it might speedily travel to licence, and from licence the way was short—as history had shown them—to tyranny.

Keeping democracy on an even keel did not mean that there should be no progress. Anyone who gave the service of his heart and soul to democracy must make *sacrifice*. All unselfish work was *sacrifice* to an extent, and that was the service that democracy wanted . . .

(Sacrifice to whom? To the community. But that's you and I and everyone? Hush.)

Sacrifice be hanged! Isn't the very purpose of democracy to ensure the least sacrifice to the smallest number of people? Sacrifice of what, to whom, and for what? Of bread and jam and free time and liberty and money and a lot more things to ourselves for a wishy-washy, diaphanous and non-existent lady called Democracy? This is a complete denial of the

reality of democracy and it is to be hoped that the 'under thirty generation' will proceed to show Lord Baldwin so, and to demand what they want from their own institutions.

Why not sacrifice that uneasy fear for their future to the 'community' and set about *making* their future by *making* a democracy of policy?

A. R. P

At times such as the present many absurd rumours gain currency and we feel that the following example may serve to put the public on its guard.

The story goes that long before the so-useful "Crisis" of September it was felt that Democracy was seriously threatened and therefore, to demonstrate how formidable is Democracy at Bay, twelve Dictators (secretly to be known as Kommissars) were appointed democratically by the Governor of the Bank of England and a Director of a well-known firm of Pepper and Plant Dealers, famous for its motto "A Standardised Price for a Standardised People". Each Kommissar is furnished with a staff of private secretaries (privately to be known as Samovars) and Special Messengers (colloquially called Mose-vitches). The Samovars and Mose-vitches were imported from Germany at great expense by Lord Hairylose, every assistance being rendered by Herr Hitler, the Finance being publicly provided. After a period of training in the Pepper and Plant business all correspondence will be dealt with by the Samovars and Mose-vitches.

The scheme will then be submitted for the approval of the public and any part of the public not approving will have an appropriate number of Samovars and Mose-vitches billeted on it for life.

As it is not felt that this concerns the House of Commons, this institution will be left free to deal with the critical situation of the church in Wales.

Since the word "sacrifice" does not appear in this story even once, the idea that it has any connection with the Government is clearly ridiculous.

PARLIAMENT AND US

Parliamentary Government in England—a Commentary by Professor Harold J. Laski (London: George Allen & Unwin, 12/6.)

As one would expect from Professor Laski this is a work full of information and interest. One is shown the workings of the House of Lords, House of Commons, the Civil Service and the Monarchy.

The author shows how for 250 years all the changes of representative government have been effected by peaceful compromise. He quotes Lord Balfour: "Our whole political machinery presupposes a people so fundamentally at one that they can safely afford to bicker and so sure of their own moderation that they are not dangerously disturbed by the never ending din of political conflict." This unity has been born of success—in war and empire building and has produced an expanding volume of wealth which has permitted from time to time the policy of concessions, conferring material benefit on the masses, giving rise to the view of the state-power as "a neutral force which responded objectively to the will of an electoral majority." This, the author claims, has been the predominant view in this country, notwithstanding some rude shocks in recent years; and it is built on assumptions that have never been tested, for instance, the relationship between economic and political powers has never been seriously examined "the degree, that is, to which the authority of the State is subordinated to the logic of the economic foundations upon which it rests."

Apprehension is expressed concerning the growing power of the Cabinet. "The House of Commons has largely been transformed into an organ of registration for the will of the Cabinet" and the author further states that "no system is likely long to survive which produces the spectacle for the masses of a poverty which is not their own fault, suffered in the midst of a potential plenty to which access is not possible under the system" but is alive to the difficulties of change. "For the parties of the Right such a change implies not merely a

surrender of great privileges. It implies also the acceptance of a transformation which they have been taught for two and a half centuries of power to be fatal to the national welfare. They regard the good of the nation bound up with their own good . . . the owners of economic power are the permanent masters of the Constitution . . . The State is their State; and its supreme coercive power can only be directed to those objects of which they are willing to approve." The question of the difficulty of change is further aggravated by the constitution of the House of Lords, "the modern House of Lords reads like a summary of the Directory of Directors" and the difficulties of any reformation on democratic lines appear almost insurmountable. We are shown that we have the appearance of democracy; beneath is a social and economic system it is intended to uphold at all costs and that "the real source of privilege lies in the private ownership of the means of production." There is interesting matter on the "Conventions of the Constitution" which are shown to be fragile things, and instances are given of the tendency to ignore these in defiance of Parliament when it suits the Cabinet to do so.

Regarding the Judiciary, there is a lack of confidence in the administration of Justice. We think as we live and the Judiciary is composed of a class whose tendency is to accept economic doctrines and substitute for the will of Parliament those social and economic doctrines of which they happen to approve and which generally speaking are the outcome of a long outgrown philosophy. Laws at times should be deliberately altered to suit new needs.

In view of events of late years, the chapter on Monarchy has a special interest. It, like the Judiciary, is allied with those forces which make for the preservation of the present system. The whole environment of the throne also, would make difficult any other point of view. "It may be taken as certain that whatever is thought for example in circles round the Bank

of England will find its way to the Palace. The special relation too of the Archbishop of Canterbury makes him a medium for the communication of opinion of exceptional importance. What weight, of course, attaches to what is said and heard we do not know; we dwell here in a twilight world which prevents anything from assuming clarity of outline" . . .

"The King will know directly what the great landowner thinks, the great banker, the leaders of the Conservative Party, the heads of the fighting services; the great ecclesiastics of the Church of England. He lives as it were with them and among them; his personal circle is built from their numbers. He will have no such direct knowledge of or contact with the other elements in the nation." Many interesting points, if space permitted, could be quoted of the value of the Crown from an Imperial point of view, but the author sums up with the remark that "The rise and fall of empires depend on causes which a constitutional monarch can do little to influence, much less control."

The general argument of the book is expressed as follows "a political democracy seeks by its inner impulses to become a social or economic democracy. It finds the road thereto barred by the capitalistic foundations upon which the political democracy is built. The validity of these foundations therefore becomes the central issue in politics."

. . . "The power of the conquerors to confine the debate has ended, they are now compelled to discuss the framework they had assumed to be unalterable." Later the author states that "the remedy is the transformation of capitalism into socialism."

The author, of course, is an ardent Leftwinger and though, as social crediters, we do not believe in the concentration of power whether of the Right or the Left there is much in this book in which we are in agreement. At the same time, however, we are left wondering what is exactly meant by the capitalist system? We are led to

believe that all the evils proceed from the private ownership of property—the landowners and the factory owners appear to be largely responsible, but little mention is made of the owner of the owners; for surely the greatest power rests with those who, possessing the monopoly of credit, can control the *value* of the products of the land and the factory. Mere ownership may or may not represent power

and wealth. Do we owe the National debt of England to the land and factory owners as such? We know that the bulk of it and the interest thereon is due to the Banking and financial institutions.

Social crediters will not be in agreement with Professor Laski in his defence of delegated legislation, and I think are more likely to agree with the Lord Chief Justice of

England than with him on the dangers of bureaucracy.

When he speaks of capitalism and economic nationalism being the cause of the fall in the export trade which has resulted in the creation of special areas of distress, one realises that the influence of "sound finance" still produces its blind spots in writers considered to have very advanced views.

F. D. U.

LONDON LETTER

Hitler spoke on January 30; now here is a small collection of retorts courteous from members of (evidently) the "other side".

Roosevelt: "Our frontier is in France." (Later denied).

B.B.C.: "Certainly we are not discontinuing the broadcasts to Germany."

Mr. Bellenger (M.P. for Bassetlaw): "When I listened to Hitler's speech, I could feel the hatred and contempt exuding from his soul—if he has a soul."

Sir Archibald Sinclair: "I do not suggest that Mr. Chamberlain will be cowed by such an attack (Herr Hitler's accusation of war-mongering) and afraid to bring into the Cabinet any of these members, but if he thought fit in the national interest to bring Mr. Churchill into the Government——"

The newspapers, of course, make as much of these comments as possible; articles by H. G. Wells, Duff Cooper and other writers of similar thinking receive enormous prominence. Items of news are everywhere items of opinion too. Consider this example "I feel sure that Soviet circles are altogether too convinced of Herr Hitler's aggressive intentions to believe that any real understanding is possible with him." This is a 'news' item from the *Daily Telegraph* of February 1. Who is the "I" who feels so sure? Our own correspondent in Moscow. Well, why not give his name and address?

The farmers began their campaign on lines of thoroughly effective action, so effective that they killed the Milk Bill and forced W. S. Morrison to resign.

On one front they even put up their own candidate, the wisdom of which was doubtful, perhaps, but at least it showed a resolve to try every means to gain their end.

Mr. Wright was persuaded to stand down too late for any substitute to be put in his place. Mr. Morrison was quietly replaced by Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith ("one of us") and this kindly concession moved the farmers to a generous withdrawal of the word 'protest' from their programme for their march in London on February 1, and the substitution of 'support for our Minister.'

The papers are now allowing themselves to be mildly funny about the whole affair. "They march with ears of wheat in hats," announces the *Evening News*—and straws in hair, the implication seems to be. "They looked a jolly crowd. They seemed to enjoy the attention they got from mounted policemen and police cars." Dear simple guileless grown-up babies!

Whatever the character and good faith of Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, it should be obvious to the farmers by now that supporting either persons or parties does not get them what they want. Let them stick to their own demand against all comers, and press Sir Reginald to implement it. Only thus will they mobilise sufficient power to arm the hand of any Minister who is prepared to act in their interests.

The annual avalanche from the lips of bank chairmen has brought down, amid the tons of half-thawed slush, one precious stone:

"The great achievement of monetary progress since 1931 is

from Miles Hyatt

the discovery that our domestic business can be protected against extraneous developments with which it has nothing to do and for which it is not responsible, and that we can expand or contract credit according to internal needs. To this extent at least we have become masters in our own house."—*Mr. McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, on January 26.*

This disposes for all time of the contention that we cannot do anything about the money-system unless we make it a world-problem. It does not dispose, however, of the question, why, if we can 'expand or contract credit according to internal needs,' we have not done so according to internal needs, and show no signs of beginning to do so.

Perhaps another question is involved. Who are "we" who are "masters in our own house"? The people of Britain? They could be if they resolved upon it. It is a case of "People of Britain, Unite! You have nothing to lose but your Income-Tax and the humiliations of pauper-existence."

A good friend of mine in Egypt, an Egyptian, sends me a picture postcard of the Sphinx by moonlight. On the back of it he has written bitterly, "This week civilisation came to Egypt—the first Income Tax Law was passed."

READERS — WRITERS

Readers with the realist point of view who have special knowledge of any subject—science or art, trade, profession or industry, etc.,—and would submit articles on this subject to THE SOCIAL CREDITER when called on to do so, are asked to write to Miles Hyatt, 4, Mecklenburgh St., London, W.C.1.

Space reserved by

Secretary: John Mitchell

THE UNITED RATEPAYERS' ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

NATIONAL SERVICE WITH PAY

The campaign for National Service With Pay is the fourth to be launched by U.R.A.A., within the past eleven months. Like the others it has been successfully launched and will, as the weeks and months go by, find its own particular public to form a crew of active campaigners, whose function is to mobilise that mass support without which none of them can succeed.

It is the special responsibility of those who support the *general* policy of U.R.A.A., to act as the General Staff for all these campaigns. The function of the General Staff is to take such action as will secure an adequate and competent Field Staff for each campaign and to give it all necessary guidance.

The basic factor in any of these campaigns is a durable emotion in regard to the objective, extending to a sufficiently large public as will engender action.

Morale is so weak in this

country at the present time that it is an observed fact that emotion of a sufficient quality to ensure success in any campaign is only engendered negatively—by taking away from people something they possess not by offering them something attractive which they do not possess. The Rates and No-Billeting Campaigns are clear instances of this. The Old Age Pensions Campaign is of a different character; the "steam" in this being generated by the appalling inadequacy of what is already possessed.

"Steam" arises from a negative factor.

The "steam" in the National Service With Pay Campaign will start rising when the liberties of the public are threatened by imminent proposals for compulsory service. These proposals may be expected in the quite near future. The time for action when they are put forward will probably be very short. It is, therefore, necessary

to prepare in advance; and that preparation takes the form of making the U.R.A.A., General Staff thoroughly *au fait* with facts and primed for what they may expect, having the campaign instruments ready, and if possible some first steps in organisation planned.

In addition to this it is possible to take preliminary action through such channels as exist, **which do not entail the expenditure of much energy**, to acquaint the public **at once** of the sensible alternative to compulsion.

It is hoped that the foregoing remarks will provide a satisfactory explanation of the appearance of the National Service With Pay Campaign on the stage, and assist every reader of this paper in relating his own initiative and responsibility to each campaign. Every campaign commenced will be carried through to a successful conclusion.

J. M.

Progressive Tactics in Rates Campaign

The latest report from Mr. G. Baxter, the Campaign Manager at Bradford, says:

"I have been getting into touch with all councillors I can, both by personal approach and on the 'phone, and in every case but one we had a very good reception."

Among those who have agreed to support a resolution is the leader of the Labour section in the Council, and also a former Cabinet Minister, who is now head of the I.L.P., in Bradford.

Reports coming in from other towns where the interviewing of councillors is in process also state that most of those interviewed are friendly and willing to act

All Rates Campaigners whether they have obtained a majority of signatures in any ward or not are

advised to "get after" their councillors at once, and induce as many as possible to support resolutions in Council on the lines of that passed at Ballymena, which was reported in this journal on January 21st. There is good reason to think that many councillors only need priming and goading by methods of personal contact in order to induce them to take useful action.

No Rates Campaign Manager can claim to be managing his campaign efficiently unless he has one or more councillors ready to support his campaign on every suitable occasion in council. We are quite confident that during the next few months council after council will be passing important resolutions or even taking more radical action and it is, of course, very important that there should be one or more persons on as many

other councils as possible ready instantly to bring these actions to the notice of their own council and urge similar action. Campaign Managers should also, of course, devise arrangements so that simultaneous supporting action is taken outside the council, among the ratepayers.

J. M.

National Defence means Self Defence

This broadsheet has been modified and can be obtained at—

50 for 2/-. 100 for 3/-.
500 for 12/6. 1,000 for £1.

From—

The United Ratepayers' Advisory Association, Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W.C.2.

'Branch Banking' Again

The editor of "Branch Banking" is still interested in the Lower Rates Campaign, and is evidently rather upset that his comments on the creation of credit by banks in the July issue received such unexpected and wide publicity. Under the title "Lower Rates Again" in the December issue he writes:

"In July I had a go at this curious Lower Rates Demand movement rearing its head in various parts of the country. Some of my more pungent remarks were later lifted from their context and printed by various groups in their circulars. Within the last few weeks the same crowd have broken out in the columns of "The Accountant

He then proceeds *without actually denying it*, to throw cold water on the assertion of lower rates campaigners that at least 85 per cent of Local Government Debt is held by financial institutions, but at the same time states:—

"It cannot be difficult to find small authorities which have borrowed 100 per cent of their requirements from banks in this

way."

He continues by saying that he knows of one urban district whose total debt is held by banks.

Well, well, we are getting it straight from the horse's mouth! It seems rather strange that the editor of "Branch Banking" should criticise the assertion that at least 85 per cent. of the debt of Local Authorities is held by banks and other financial institutions, whilst at the same time adding to the evidence that it is so. It is also rather odd, if the assertion is not true, that out of a total of seven Local Authorities' Debt Registers chosen at random which lower rates campaigners have been able to inspect every one of them should reveal that less than 10 per cent. is held by private individuals, the balance being held by banks, other financial institutions, Public Works Loan Commissioners and in two cases a certain amount by other Local Authorities.

Lower rates campaigners thank "Branch Banking" for this other admission which will be very useful.

J. M.

IN THE NEWS

The No-Billeting Campaign and the U.R.A.A., have stepped prominently into the news. On January 29 they were in the *Evening Standard*. On January 30 and 31 they were in the Northern issues of the *Daily Express*. On February 1 readers of the *News Chronicle* opened their paper to read:—

"In a top room in Sentinel House, Southampton Row, Holborn, sit two men with a small staff of typists conducting a campaign against the Government billeting plans."

There followed other particulars and a lengthy quotation from the broadsheet "Your Home is Threatened."

On February 2 the Secretary of the U.R.A.A., (who seemed to have spent rather a lot of his time

interviewing reporters) learnt from a batch of cuttings on his desk that he had been interviewed by a large number of provincial daily newspapers, all of which contained extremely good surveys of the activities of U.R.A.A.

Those who have read the broadsheet "Your Home is Threatened" must have been struck by the size of two words on the front of them "DEMAND, DEMAND." As all the newspaper reports contained quotations from this broadsheet it seemed not a little strange that all of them referred to this demand as a "petition." Are journalists so conscious of tyranny in this country that they cannot conceive of any action by the electorate except by "petition", or do they write an English all their own?

Gateshead Experiment

The following is an account of a publicity campaign carried out by Mr. G. R. Christian, U.R.A.A. District Agent at Gateshead:—

With regard to the poster campaign in shops, I have managed to get approximately 200 shops showing one large and one small bill. The large one, 15 x 20 ins. was fixed by means of drawing pins inside the shop and the small one on a door or window by means of "Gripfix." Only about 5 per cent. of the shopkeepers approached refused to display bills and in those cases it was mostly due to lack of room. I found that the bills must be put up at the time of the call or else they are never put up and, in order to effect this, I carried a haversack with July-August Rates Journals with a "War" sheet and "Bankers Admit . . ." leaflet in each for giving out to shopkeepers, and carried for fixing the bills drawing pins and "Gripfix" paste. Great care was taken to "sell" the idea about the fraudulent money system to each shopkeeper and I believe the time was well spent. It was also contrived where possible to put these bills out at the same time as Automatic Canvassers were delivered in the streets concerned.

We have no means of judging results accurately, but we are all convinced that it has made a considerable difference in livening up the campaign generally. It is, no doubt, the cheapest and most effective form of publicity and has the advantage of securing the shopkeeper as a sort of agent for the campaign and often promotes discussion in the shops with customers. It also has the effect of preparing the shopkeepers for display of bills advertising ward meetings, etc., and a list of the names of shopkeepers would be most useful. In the poorer districts the fish and chip and off-licence beer shops are probably the best agents. The posters are printed in a lively scarlet, and inform ratepayers of the campaign, its progress and how they may help it.

ECONOMICS RIDDEN TO PIECES

A "Conference on the Economic Road to Peace," was held in London, at the Friends House, Euston Road, London, from January 26th to 28th, with a final evening session on the last day at the Central Hall, Westminster.

Mr. T. V. Holmes, writes:—

"The Conference itself was perhaps no better and no worse than the usual run of such conferences. Speakers of all shades of conviction, from orthodox finance to social credit, expressed the faith which was in them. 'No stone was left unturned', and 'no avenue was left unexplored', and if the Economic Road to Peace, at the end of it all, had rather the appearance of a Hampton Court Maze, perhaps that was no more than was inevitable, for 'in the multitude of counsellors there is safety'.

"The Central Hall meeting was to be the *pièce de résistance*. Archibald Crawford, K.C., Ben Greene, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were the billed 'vedettes', and the Conference speakers were to appear on the platform *en masse*. The work of the conference and the agreements reached were to be summarised, and the audience were to be asked to agree to a resolution, that the Conference:

recognises that many of the ultimate causes of war are inherent in the present financial system . . . and calls for a reversal in the direction of economic policy so as to ensure that the available abundance can be distributed . . .

"During the actual holding of the Conference, a new Conference Programme announced a new 'vedette' for the Central Hall session, in the person of Dr. Emil Ludwig, the much advertised German-Jew biographer. No one attached any undue importance to this additional 'star' as it was generally understood that Dr. Ludwig's great publicity-value was the primary reason for his presence. Dr. Maude Royden was also included, in the place of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who could not attend.

"Whatever may have been the purpose of his invitation, Dr.

Ludwig had a purpose of his own, as was very soon apparent when he rose to read his address. This was no less than a bitter attack upon Germany—an attack which brought many in the audience to their feet, demanding if the Conference was really a search for that "Economic Road to Peace." Pandemonium reigned for some minutes, but Dr. Ludwig succeeded in finishing his speech. Ben Greene then rose from the platform to dissociate himself completely from the statements made by Dr. Ludwig, and to assert that had he known the nature of Dr. Ludwig's address before the meeting, he would never have appeared on that platform. A. K. Chesterton, another conference speaker, then rose and publicly rebuked Dr. Ludwig for the abuse of his privilege as a guest at their Conference, and a stranger in their country, and for his war-mongering incitements—a rebuke which earned for Mr. Chesterton a display of fisticuffs from a Jewish section of the audience on his leaving the hall.

"It is interesting to note that *The Times*, in its three inch report of the meeting in the issue of January 30, made no reference whatever to the "Economic Road to Peace" Conference, and gave the whole of its space to a report of Dr. Ludwig's speech and his proposed League of Democracies to replace the moribund League of Nations."

It remains to add that the only significant speeches of the Conference were made by Mr. T. V. Holmes himself, concerning the effect of foreign investment and "city" finance on agriculture and industry at home, by Mr. C. Howard Jones, who explained the Farmers' Manifesto, and by Dr. E. Purves.

Miss Maude Royden asked for more understanding of Germany's internal problems, and suggested that peace and war depended upon an equitable distribution of the world's raw materials. Mr. Ben Greene made a vigorous attack upon orthodox finance. Lord Northbourne, on the question of

malnutrition in the face of restriction of foodstuffs, was followed by Sir Evelyn Wrench, whose main thesis was the steady impoverishment of the land by unscientific and wasteful methods of production due to our unsound financial system. Sir Evelyn mentioned Major Douglas merely to remark that "his poverty and plenty ideas were wrong," since very soon there would be no plenty. Sir Evelyn should be well aware that Major Douglas has no illusions concerning the continual wastage and deliberate destruction of our assets by finance.

It is difficult to discover why this Conference was held. Clearly its effect could only be to create confusion worse confounded in the minds of the fifty or sixty people who attended at the Friends' House, to say nothing of the three or four hundred in the Central Hall for the final pyrotechnics.

The purpose of this gathering—which, by the way, was voted into a permanent organisation at its last meeting—must come under review by *The Social Crediter*, since clearly there can be nothing "converging" about a Conference which "leaps upon its horse and gallops madly in all directions," to use Leacock's phrase. In this connection it is interesting to note that every participant received beforehand 'as a subject for discussion' a book by a certain Mr. Lester, called "The True National Dividend—Pros and Cons of Social Credit," which begins by denying that banks create credit and finishes up on the 'increase production' note.

Whatever the organisers intended and whoever their backers were, the Conference provided almost invaluable publicity for two things only, for Mr. Emil Ludwig's "Germania est delenda" and for Mr. Lester's bright little publication.

M. H.

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