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THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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MODERN SCIENCE (IX)

Bunsen's letter, quoted in my last chapter, was written in 1844. The princely resolution to reform English education was three years later. By 1859, well in advance of Mr. Forster, "educational destitution" was on the way to that annihilation which now makes it possible for politicians to use it to the full while denying that there are visible the slightest traces of its existence. Even Oxford had succumbed to Chemistry and Modern Languages, if not to Psychology, so that "Bertie," fresh home from Italy in June, and packed off to Edinburgh University "for a couple of months until Oxford reassembled after that monstrous long vacation" might be visited at Frewin Hall, out of reach of "dissolute undergraduates," by the Professors of Chemistry, Modern Languages, Modern History and Ecclesiastical History. "Smoking was forbidden, memoranda flew to and fro between Windsor and Oxford, and the Prince Consort made surprise raids on the University to see there was no slackness."*

The Nineteenth Century was being made conscious of its Divine Right (by Law established), and England had a foretaste of 'living pictures.' Sudden inspiration struck Mr. Paxton (afterwards Sir Joseph), and a great monument of iron and glass arose on the green turf of Hyde Park to house the Great Exhibition which was to "give the world a true test, a living picture, of the point of industrial development at which the whole of mankind has arrived, and a new starting point from which all nations will be able to direct their further exertions." These words, delivered "with great clearness and grace" at the Mansion House, were the Prince Consort's own. The abolition of "educational destitution" was as popular as the Beveridge Plan, and nearly threequarters of a million of the educationally destitute lined the way between the Exhibition and Buckingham Palace on the opening day, exemplary in their behaviour, although it had been predicted that "the 'Reds' of all Continental nations--would be only too glad to coalesce with Chartism and discontent of all kinds, for the purpose of disturbing the peace of London"+ on the occasion. The King of Prussia, apparently unable to recognise the degree of destitution available in England, "took such alarm at the thought of the Red Republicans whom the Exhibition would draw together, that at first he positively prohibited his brother, then Prince of Prussia [afterwards German Emperor] from attending the opening ceremonial,"+

Suddenly not only East London but Liverpool, Man-

*E. F. BENSON: Queen Victoria.

+JUSTIN MCCARTHY: A Short History of Our Own Times.

chester, Leeds and Birmingham were discovered, by house to house visitation, to be subject to 'educational destitution.' Of 40,000 children in one square mile of East London, 29,000 were growing up "in almost if not complete ignorance."* 'Reformation in a flood' was about to descend upon us.

Now, at this point any reader might ask, and would be justified in asking why a series of articles dealing specially with modern science should be so lavishly concerned with details of the history of education; and I think the answer should be made as clear as it can be made.

Homo ingenuus liberaliterque educatus, wrote Cicero: a man free-born and reared accordingly (i.e., as a noble). This, which embodies the only notion of education which, I submit, can bear examination, has become the mere hot air of salesmanship in the mouths of those whose objective, measured by the results they obtain ever more copiously and precisely, is the rearing of slaves in a manner becoming to slaves. Science and education go hand in hand. If any man could enrich the culture of his time and succeeding times without being subjected to a process of education, a rearing process, there would be no need for the processes of education. Enrichment, not impoverishment, is the acceptable objective of a rearing process. There is no more meaning in the statement that a pup has been educated than in the statement that it has been reared. A pup which has been brought up to the water but flounders when out of its depth is either badly brought up or is a bad pup. Our planners are supplying an environment in which everyone excepting an insignificant minority is out of his depth, a rearing process which it is necessary to escape if you wish to swim, and while they are themselves both noticeably out of their depth and unable to swim, they are pretending that drowning is good for you. To struggle effectually may be a more or less invariable and necessary preliminary to success in anything. But our mentors, phrenetic before ' the Idols of their minds,' would have us drown in order to swim. It is possible to drown even when you can swim; but you cannot learn to swim after you are drowned. You can throw a pup into deep water and let him sink or swim, which is what they did at Glasgow University until after World War 1. You cannot run either a democracy or any other society successfully in the light of the conviction that drowned puppies are ideal living citizens, and that drowning fits them for life. "A bad workman does bad work with any tools; and, in addition spoils good tools."

(To be continued.)

TUDOR JONES.

^{*}W. E. FORSTER in the House of Commons, Annual Register, 1870. The phrase 'educational destitution' was used on this occasion by Forster.

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PARLIAMENT

The Old Age Pensioners' Petition

The Petition, signed by 4,090,000 electors, for bigger and unconditional old age pensions which was presented to the House of Commons on November 2, "was found, when examined," said Mr. Attlee, "not to comply with the Rules of the House." He only explained this when questioned as to the Petition's non-appearance before the House Committee on Public Petitions, and if interested members had not enquired for it the document might (officially speaking) have relapsed into oblivion. Mr. Attlee did not answer when asked if the petitioners had been informed of the defects referred to.

As members pointed out, it is a very serious matter for the Government to disregard the wishes of 4,000,000 of its electors in this fashion. The refusal to allow the old age pensioners to be heard at the Bar of the House in support of their Petition, combined with its jettisoning at this later stage seems to show a definite intention to avoid dealing with it, a conclusion confirmed by the recent announcement of increased supplementary (conditional) pensions, which must be branded as face-saving.

Mr. Attlee said that the defects of the petition were, "First, it was not addressed to the House; and second, it prayed for public money which was not recommended by the Crown." Now those may be lapses from the Rules of the House, but, as they stand, they are certainly not comprehensible to the man-in-the-street. How has the approach to the organ of our own government become such a complicated and technical matter that the common man is not by himself able to compass it? And how comes it that Ministers of his Majesty's government are content to allow such a technical impediment to stand in the way of their paying due attention to the wishes of the people to whom they minister?

Mr. Hogg's Principle

Mr. Quintin Hogg raised the question of another petition on December 8, this time addressed to the Ministry of War Transport: 327 Oxford residents submitted 'allegations' (of a nature not revealed!) against the laundry imposed on them by force under the zoning scheme. While the Government promised a conference to discuss the problems involved, Mr. Hogg preferred to raise the underlying principle that, "having forced a particular retailer on a particular client he, [the Minister] becomes responsible if the retailer is incompetent or dishonest." He said that 'his principle' had been accepted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food. Mr. Noel-Baker evaded it.

The Price of Insulin

Mr. Edwards pointed out by a recent question in Parliament that before insulin was discovered offal (pancreas glands are used in making insulin) was sold at 30s. per ton; now its price is \pounds 30 per ton.

Miss Horsburgh, in reply, said that the price of the raw material had only a slight effect on the price of insulin itself, "which has fallen very much since insulin was introduced in 1923, and is not now much higher than just before the war."

Small Indian States' Future

The Times of December 10 has the following: ---

"The Crown Representative's notification of April 16 attaching the smaller States of Kathiawar to the bigger States was declared illegal and *ultra vires* by a special Bench in their judgment in the Bhadwa Taluqa case. The Bench, which consisted of Mr. R. W. H. Davies, judicial commissioner, Mr. M. E. Kaveeshwar, and Rai Bahadur Verma, also held that the notification transferring cases in abeyance from this and other agency courts to courts of the attached States was also illegal and *ultra vires*.

"The judicial commissioner held that Bhadwa Taluqa was admittedly an Indian State within the meaning of section 311 of the Government of India Act. The statutes had asseverated the suzerainty of the Paramount Power over the Indian States, but hitherto it had never been asserted that the Paramount Power had authority over their officers. That being so, the orders regarding the attachment of Indian States made by the Crown Representative (the Viceroy) were a startling reversal of the purpose and policy set out in the Government of India Act. They were not in accordance with the strict letter of the law and were also in essence *ultra vires* of the powers of the Crown Representative until the necessary Parliamentary sanction had been obtained.

"After the announcement of the attachment of States of third and fourth class jurisdiction to several of the larger States in Kathiawar and Gujarat the smaller States have unanimously decided to reject the instrument of attachment, alleging that it is *ultra vires* and contravenes the solemn assurances and guarantees given to them.

"A deadlock is thus caused by the judicial commissioner's court decision. The recalcitrant attitude of the small States has created a situation which will require the special attention of the Government of India.

"Under the Viceroy's scheme several hundreds of small estates, or *talukas*, were to be merged with their latger neighbours in order to improve their public services and to simplify their administration."

A Letter from New York

A reader sends us the following extract from a letter from a correspondent of his in New York: —

The bureaucrats are developing a new technique. Each of the 48 States has a separate government and within certain limits can make its own laws. Some border on the stupid and ridiculous, prohibition for example, but on the whole it has worked out fairly well. But now the process of centralising the control in Washington is in full swing and has been for some time.

On the average the Government employees in each State number $6\frac{1}{2}$ to every 1 state employee. From these figures you can see how the Government policies can be supported in each State irrespective of the attitude of the particular State government.

Take the bonus to the farmers which has been in existence for the past 10 years. For the past six months or more

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I have been trying to find out the details of the plan of payment. I have talked to farmers, to politicians, and to business men. All I have been able to find out is that the farmers are, and were, being paid money for something but none can tell me what that something is.

As I have been able to piece it together there never has been any one comprehensive scheme except to find some method to pay money to the farmer. The obvious implication is that the farmer would thus be inclined to continue the party, the sugar daddy, in power.

The first plan was based on the principle of the economy of scarcity. Farmers were paid to plow under crops, and kill off cattle and hogs in order that prices would be raised through decreased production. Then they worked up a soil conservation and soil building plan to subsidise the planting of soil building crops like alfalfa, clover, *etc*.

Then they prepared a planting schedule each year for each of the 6,000,000 or so farms and paid a bonus to those who conformed to it. (I have seen some schedules 31.7 acres, 39.9 acres, 19.7 acres, *etc.* worked out so minutely). This involved a photograph of each farm from the air, and also inspection from the air to check its operation.

During the summer of 1942 (3 years after war was declared in Europe) those farmers who had not conformed to the plan were actually fined—49 cents per bushel of wheat, *etc.* Every county had, and has, its own staff and supervisors to work out the schedules, supervise the operations, check the planting, and pay out the money.

The cost of operation including bonus payments totalled nearly \$1,000,000,000 per annum and they have succeeded in getting over 48,000,000 acres out of cultivation, the number of cattle so reduced that all hotels and restaurants have two meatless days per week, the number of dairy cows killed off sufficient to necessitate the rationing of butter (it has been reduced by 50 per cent. since war started) few restaurants serve butter with meals and the sale of cream is prohibited.

Now they are to shift over in 1943 to paying the same farmers a bonus to increase production, under government supervision of course. Those bureaucrats are so firmly established that the so-called block buster bombs could not shift them.

Down in Washington there is one single building housing over 40,000 clerks, *etc.* Three roadways run under the building with loading and unloading stations, one roadway for taxis and two for buses complete with traffic lights *etc.* A lot of Government departments have overflowed to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and even to New York. It is estimated that there could be 3,000,000 clerks *etc.* eliminated without difficulty.

On top of all this we have the labour leaders running amuck without any legal restraint, actually encouraged to do so by the politicians. One gramaphone company has just signed an agreement to pay the Musicians Union a certain sum for each record made to serve as unemployment pay for idle musicians. It is estimated that about \$4,000,000 per year will be paid to the Union.

The prize story is the surplus tomato crop over in New Jersey. It was a bumper crop and pickers were scarce having gone into the munition plants. With food scarce and the tomatoes in danger of rotting the soldiers in the nearby training camps were ordered into the fields to save the tomatoes. But the Pickers' Union chaps stepped in and each soldier had to join the Union and pay his dues before any picking could be done.

One prominent Labour leader has stated publicly that winning the war against Hitler *etc.* was of secondary importance to that of Labour retaining the gains they had. And what are these gains?

(1) the closed shop—no one to be employed except through the Union.

(2) Union maintenance—the employer agrees to deduct the Union dues from the pay of each worker and hand it to the Union *en bloc*. Also to discharge any employee who leaves, or gets fired from the Union.

(3) management participation—the Union has to pass on all questions of operating policy.

You people over there do not know what a real live labour union is. And they are quite without the law. The Supreme Court has ruled that all their actions are legal Union practices.

Talk about freedoms, four, five, or a dozen; the individual member has no freedom of choice whatever. If he wants a job he has to join the Union. If he incurs the displeasure of the leaders he is fired out of the Union. As soon as he is out of the Union his employer is bound by contract to discharge him. Was any form of slavery so complete?

Small wonder that the individual members will kick over the traces if and when they get the chance. One company employing about 550,000 had their employees vote on three items recently. The results are very educative: "80 *per cent* voted against the closed shop, 85 *per cent*. against Union maintenance, 90 *per cent*. against labour participation in the management. In spite of all the bureaucrats catering for votes, *etc.* the rank and file is sound fundamentally.

So when you read of our Vice President talking about the rights of the common man and so on, you can rest assured that he is as far out on that as he was on his farmers' bonus plan. His special target is what he terms "big business." All I know is that big business has saved the situation for the United Nations.

You have to get around the country to really appreciate how the big fellows have tackled the munition problem not on account of, but in spite of, the bureaucrats. One firm is now manufacturing for \$890.00 at a profit what the first contracts were placed at over \$7,500.00. Another firm is turning out as many guns of a certain type in one month as were produced in the whole of the British Isles during the first three years of the war.

It is the volume of production of the factories that is essential to winning the war. Remove political influence which includes labour leaders and production can be increased at least 40 *per cent*. with the same number of people. And yet our friend Wallace continues to repeat all that condemnation of big business.

But with all that I am not at all certain that there will be no fourth term. The fact is that so many are dependent entirely upon the continuation of this New Deal (?) that they may find it necessary to re-elect F.D.R. whether he wishes it or not.

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THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

It must be clear to anyone who will give the matter unprejudiced consideration, that the outstanding danger of the post-war period is genuine and widespread ignorance of the reality which can be attached to political words and phrases. It is not so much, for instance, a question whether "public ownership" of this, that or the other, is desirable. The real problem resides in the unquestionable fact that large numbers of people, in the face of overwhelming evidence on every side, and in every country, cannot grasp the simple idea that there is no such thing as public ownership there is either ownership, or there isn't. The very words themselves are incompatible.

When there isn't, as, for instance, in the army, you devastate the countryside almost as much, on manoeuvres and for practice, as though you were a hostile invader. "Public" authorities are doing it now. It is quite a mistake to suppose that this is sheer vice and wastefulness. It is simply that the agelong instinct for preservation which goes with the personal attachment of a human individual for things both animate and inanimate, which is the essence of the property idea, has been lost.

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It is precisely this essential unreality which makes it as certain as anything mundane can be certain, that these grandiose Conferences which punctuate this still phony war must fail. The chief actors do not dispose of the matters which, perhaps, they imagine that they control. The constantly recurring atmosphere of catastrophe is the political counterpart of the geysers which are excited to activity by rolling stones down their craters. No one in their senses can suppose that the human individuals who compose the British armed forces will sit down calmly, after doing by far the greater part of the fighting and suffering the greatest losses outside Russia, and allow themselves to be disposed of by three or four men, much as though they were a herd of prize cattle.

. . .

No doubt as the outcome of the predominantly abstract nature of our so-called educational system, social and political values are reversed. There is no more reactionary and atavistic animal on earth than the Fabian Socialist, but he is convinced that he is the vanguard of progress rather than a nuisance with an urge to push people about without being well kicked. His ideas are ages old, but dressed up in new names, just at Stalin is a Russian Czar of the period before Catherine, but with the tools of Western mechanism to help him. The Socialist-bureaucratic state has a more -pro-

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nounced class bias than any so-called bourgeois community, for the simple and all sufficing reason that, in contrast to a bureaucracy, success in a genuine capitalist society depends less on functional popularity than on neighbourly relationship. Our first socialist exhibit, the Post-Office, is a sufficient demonstration. Your average post-office clerk doesn't care two straws whether you like his way of giving you a book of stamps, or not—if you don't, it's just too bad, isn't it? But observe his manner when a First Division Inspector from King Edward Building drops in. You don't encourage your grocer to tell you that he's only serving you because he isn't sure whether you've a pull somewhere.

We are rapidly descending into a more rigid power organisation than has existed in Western countries in historic times, and the sinister feature of the situation is that reactionary and predatory tyrannies are represented as peaceloving torch-bearers of progress.

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"I am not sure that the failure of the United States to honour her treaty was not responsible for the present war." —D. LLOYD GEORGE.

Possibly. But who was responsible for the Isaacs Mission to Washington, and the dominance of General Smuts in Imperial Councils? The Solicitor to the Zionist Committee, Mr. David Lloyd George.

"Octavia gave Lady Waring and Noel a short but informative lecture on Social Credit, not one word of which, as they found afterwards on comparing notes, had they understood or wished to understand."—From the best seller by ANGELA THIRKELL: Growing Up, p. 205.

Miss Thirkell, who has a reputation for social insight, justifies it by spotting exactly why the squirearchy of England, which furnished a high percentage of our minor leaders, is disappearing. It will die for the country, and does. But think? God forbid, Clarence. I leave that to my man of bithness. Loyal little fellow, Isaacs.

Perhaps the shortest reply to the funny bunnies who write on Social Credit to the *Economist* (the journal for the refined home) is to point to the appearance of a long leaderpage article by L. D. Byrne in the *Edmonton Bulletin* of November 11, 1943. The *Bulletin* is perhaps the most honest daily paper we know, but it is run by journalists with a properly trained eye on circulation, and it does not devote valuable space to lost causes.

COLLABORATION

The December bulletin of the Economic Reform Club informs its readers that "Sir William Beveridge's office has been in communication with us asking for several copies of A 20th Century Economic System which he is using for his further investigations into the question of unemployment." Sir William's object is full employment.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The office of K.R.P. Publications Limited will be closed for the Christmas Holiday from December 24 to December 28 inclusive. *The Social Crediter* will appear as usual on December 25, 1943, and January 1, 1944.

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"What do these Men and Women Really Want?"

A passage from a speech by MR. LIONEL BERRY in the Debate on the Address in the House of Commons on December 8, 1943.

Mr. Lionel Berry (Buckingham)*: ... The Gracious Speech refers to post-war reconstruction on broad lines and we are not yet in a position to know the full extent of the Government's plans. Measures to tide over the difficult problems of the transition from war to peace are promised. We all know the real anxiety that exists among men and women at sea, in the air, on land and on the home front as to what their position will be when they return to normal peacetime conditions.

What do these men and women really want? I believe, from my own Army experience and contact with my constituents, that they have a pretty shrewd idea of the kind of world they expect to come back to. I do not believe that they are looking for a modern Utopia or even for what was picturesquely described as "a land fit for heroes to live in." What they desire and what they have a right to demand are conditions in which they are well housed, well fed and given ample opportunities to earn a living. I do not think that they want to come back to the type of existence which is promised them by hon. Members supporting the Amendment. They want, above all, a chance to justify themselves and a country which will give them every opportunity, encouraging their efforts and enabling them to play their part as conscientious citizens. To suggest that common ownership is the only solution to our problems and that by its application wars and poverty are to be eliminated is to put forward an argument that belittles the dignity of man. Man has a natural right to own property, and to seek to reduce his status to one common level is to create an evil even worse than that which hon. Members opposite are trying to remedy.

In this war Parliament of its own free will gave the-Executive complete control over all persons and property, to use them as they thought fit in the national emergency. People submitted to the hardships and difficulties which this meant, and they were prepared to endure them because of the obvious danger which faced the country. There is no intention in their minds, however, that it should be a permanent state of affairs. The very exercise of these powers at the present moment will complicate the transition from war to peace conditions. Obviously some of the powers must be retained for a short time after the end of hostilities if we are to avoid a state of chaos at home, but they should be removed at the first possible moment. Hon. Gentlemen opposite do not share that view. They think that these powers should be continued for all time and that to have a regimented people is to approach nearer to human brotherhood. The ideal of human brotherhod is a noble one, but I do not think the mover and seconder of the Amendment would

*Mr. Berry's was a maiden speech in reply to an Amendment, moved by Sir Richard Acland, and seconded by Mr. Maxton, which declared that, "private ownership of all substantial resources must now be supplanted by common ownership if future wars and poverty are to be eliminated and human brotherhood more nearly approached." The Amendment was taken to a division and defeated by 246 votes to 10. As the Amendment was intended as a Vote of Censure on the Government, the National Labour Party voted against it. seriously challenge the desire, for example, of the Catholic Church to attain that ideal. The principle that guides the Catholic Church in this context is that famous Encyclical of Leo XIII: —

"Every man has by nature the right to possess property as his own. It is impossible to reduce human society to one level."

It may well be retorted that there exists no wish to deprive the ordinary man or woman of property but that the State, which is after all another name for common ownership, should own "all substantial resources." That is a vague definition, and I do not think the mover made it quite clear. Although he talked about excluding the small trader, he did not make clear where the line was to be drawn. What guarantee is there that common ownership would eliminate the possibility of wars in the future? Is there any evidence that if Britain had had a socialised economy before this war the war could have been averted? Would the Germans have held their hands or could they have been forced to hold their hands just by the mere fact that common ownership had displaced private ownership in this country? The trouble surely is that a Socialist economy would be much more likely to land the country in war than to keep it out of war, because if any sort of trade dispute arose it would at once involve the State. We must look to a different means to eliminate warfare as an instrument of national policy. One such means is to show all mankind the absolute futility of war from the universal point of view, and the second is to raise, if it can be done, the moral altitude of all peoples until they come to regard war as a crime against God and their fellow men.

Taking the third point, would poverty be eliminated by common ownership in a highly industrialised community such as ours, which depends, after all, so largely on foreign trade to maintain its standard of living? Supposing we had common ownership and in many or all of the countries to which we had to sell our goods there were tariff barriers and quotas raised against us, how could we prevent poverty affecting us? It seems to me that to say that common ownership would eliminate poverty is merely a generalisation founded on a pious hope, whereas private enterprise can point to concrete achievements of no insignificant order in that direction.

I should like, for a moment, to take the question of agriculture. In the last war this, our greatest industry, saved the country from famine. But what happened immediately afterwards? The sudden repeal of the Corn Production Acts and the subsequent collapse of the industry merely led to its being neglected by Government after Government until a state of poverty and distress existed throughout the conntry. The three partners in that industry, the landowner, the farmer and the agricultural worker—to my mind probably the most highly skilled man in the country—all suffered. Would common ownership have done anything to avoid that state of affairs? I doubt it. Now take the position to-day. Once more that great partnership came to the rescue of this country, and if we owed them a debt at the end of the last war, how much greater is our indebtedness to them to-day. But what do they want, what do they expect? I do not think they are looking for some would-be panacea as proposed by hon. Members opposite. I think what they want is definite assurances about the future. Security of tenure is absolutely essential. This alone can ensure the stability of the landowner, fair prices for the farmer and an equitable wage for the agricultural worker. By this means the landowner

can fulfil his obligations to the farmers and tenants, obligations not enforced by law, but inescapable from true ownership, obligations which are very often conveniently forgotten by their critics but conscientiously honoured by all who possess and love the land. Now is surely the time for the Government to give them a definite promise about the future. Now is the time to bring forward proposals to create a prosperous and well-balanced agriculture, which is vital for the well-being of the country. The farming community has had its experience of control and restrictions during this war, and I think, as all these people are anxious to prove, that once given their place in the national economy they can by their own unhampered efforts prove their ever-present and ever-increasing value to the community. . . .

House of Commons: December 2, 1943.

ALIENS (NATURALISATION)

Viscount Hinchingbrooke asked the Home Secretary how many aliens have become naturalised British citizens since 3rd September, 1939; whether facilities are granted to aliens serving in His Majesty's Forces more readily than to civilians; and whether the Government's naturalisation policy is in accord with that of the Government of the United States as regards aliens serving in the armed forces of their respective countries?

Mr. H. Morrison: Between 1st September, 1939, and 31st October, 1943, there have been 3,633 certificates granted to British born women who had lost British nationality by marriage. In addition 1,327 certificates were granted in other cases in the early months of the war before the policy of restricting naturalisation work was adopted. Since 1st September, 1940, the certificates granted to persons other than British born women have numbered only 354. The answer to the second and third part is in the negative. There are many aliens besides those serving in the Forces who are rendering valuable service to the Allied cause. Furthermore, persons admitted as immigrants into the U.S.A. were so admitted after proper selection with a view to their becoming permanent citizens in due course, whereas in this country many have been admitted for temporary refuge with a view to going elsewhere.

House of Commons: December 7, 1943.

FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS' SPEECH

[In answer to a question as to whether General Smuts's speech to the Empire Parliamentary Association represented the views of the War Cabinet, Mr. Attlee emphasised that General Smuts was speaking in his private capacity. Mr. Lewis asked a supplementary question:—]

Mr. Lewis: Would my right hon. Friend tell the House who is responsible for the publication of this speech, which was made to a private meeting and which, from its form, was evidently not originally intended for publication?

[Interruptions from Sir Alfred Beit and Mr. Shinwell intervened.]

Mr. Attlee: May I add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Colchester (Mr. Lewis) that I understand the speech was printed at the desire of Field Marshal Smuts himself.

Sir H. Williams: As this was a private meeting of 118

Members of Parliament convened by an organisation of which you, Sir, are one of the Joint Presidents, surely a speech delivered on a private occasion, which it was understood was confidential, should not have been published without the sanction of the body that convened the meeting? I address that to you, Sir, as a point of Order as you are a Joint President.

Mr. Speaker: I assume that if the author of the speech asked that it might be published the body concerned naturally gave their consent.

Sir W. Davison: Is it not the usual practice for addresses to the Empire Parliamentary Association to be published?

Hon. Members: No.

KING'S SPEECH: DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

Mr. Kirkwood (Dumbarton Burghs): ... The next question I wish to raise is housing. . This Government, with colleagues of my own in it, stopped housebuilding by a Cabinet decision. Before the war we had a shortage of houses, and then as the war goes on we have blitzes and houses are being wiped out and yet it has not dawned upon this allwise Cabinet, headed by one who is supposed to be one of the greatest men in the universe at the moment, that the time has arisen now; now is the day and now is the hour to reverse that decision. Houses ought to be built now. Since the war, we have had 2,500,000 marriages and there are no homes for the new couples. Even supposing they have the money to buy a house, there are none. Here we are at the turn of the year, when every animal in the world will be getting a home.

"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

That can be said truly about this country of ours, and I never belittle my country, because our country is capable of meeting all these demands. If the Government have the will, there is a way, and if they have not the will, they will have to be removed.

It is too funny for words. Here are millions of our people crying for a home in our native land, with all the swagger about their ability that made the greatest shipbuilders in the world and the greatest engineers. We have the greatest soldiers, nobody denies that. What is the use of all this greatness unless we see some result for it? What is the use

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From K. R. P. PUBLICATIONS LIMITED, 49 PRINCE ALRFED ROAD, LIVERPOOL 15. of all these sacrifices? Here I am, at the moment faced with I do not know how many men coming back from North Africa blind, without legs, without arms, and with no home to come to. What was the use of their going and sacrificing everything? The wife comes to me and asks me, "Do something." "He is coming home," she says. "He has lost his right arm and his left leg, and I have not had a home yet. I have stayed with my mother for six years." Surely it is time that the Government reversed their decision. The idea of the House of Commons is that we should come and reason together. I will not go to my people and explain or apologise for the Government. I do not give a button who they are, unless they try to meet us here. Do you think our folk are going to allow this sort of thing to go on? Look at the misery, look at the degradation. I have boasted that it is the home life of our people that is the backbone of the British Empire. Yet they cannot have home life. I have come here and pleaded for any kind of house. My folk have said to me, "Get me a wee corner of my ain, a hut." Talk about prefabrication. All we have got from a benevolent Government is 200 houses, and we are desperate for 4,000. . .

[Mr. Kirkwood then made a vigorous attack on the Government for establishing factories in England and transporting Scots girls to work in them rather than putting more factories in Scotland.]

Challenge to Taxation Authorities in Australia

A few determined people in Australia have taken advantage of the legal system of that country to challenge the Taxation Authority as to their right and power to collect Taxation. A correspondent writes: "... Such challenges have so far succeeded and the appeals to various courts (by the Tax Commissioner) dismissed on the grounds of 'no jurisdiction', the argument being that the High Court is the only one that has authority to deal with money questions. Yet the Commissioners refuse to take the cases to the High Court and the challengers have been blocked from taking their side to the Court although they still (as far as I know) to not pay taxes. Briefly the case is that Taxation is a levy primarily used to repay bank overdrafts or alternatively to pay interest on them, and as such created money is illegal, it is illegal to use Taxation for that purpose. The same applies to local rates."

Apart from the admirable results on their own bank accounts gained by these stalwarts, the critical test of their contribution to the solution of the problem of taxation will be whether they can raise the power to prevent the quiet amendment of the Taxation Commissioners' authority, perhaps even before the case reaches the High Court.

THE BEVERIDGE PLOT

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RECONSTRUCTION POWERS IN AUSTRALIA

The Times reports that as the most practicable method of procuring adequate reconstruction powers for the Commonwealth, the Australian Federal Cabinet has decided to recommend to the Federal labour caucus that the Government should take an early referendum on the Bill giving effect to the terms of the agreement reached by the Canberra Constitutional Convention of December, 1942. This is the agreement to which the Premiers and Opposition leaders of all the States agreed, but which only the New South Wales and Queensland Parliaments passed unamended,* which provided for the transfer to the Federal Government of powers at present held by the State governments.

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT CANCELS RELIEF DEBT

In 1931, due to the depression, unemployment and agricultural distress caused widespread need for unemployment relief and agricultural assistance. Municipalities had demands from residents for direct relief in amounts greater than the districts' financial ability to pay. To relieve municipalities, the dominion and province entered into an agreement and undertook to pay a municipality two-thirds of the cost of the relief given within the municipality, when such relief was issued by them and according to the terms of the agreement.

The municipality had to pay the remaining one-third share of the gross relief costs. The dominion and the province also agreed that sparsely settled and frontier unorganised districts that had only a limited income from direct taxation and no reserve of assets were not in a financial position to pay any portion of direct relief costs.

The senior governments arranged that they pay the municipality's share and distribute the costs equally. The portion of gross relief costs that the municipality should have paid but was financed by the senior governments became a charge against the unorganised district and a contingent liability was set up showing each local improvement district's indebtedness to the senior government.

It was further agreed that when an organised municipality was unable to pay its municipal share of direct relief it should apply to the province to be declared an insolvent municipality and paid its share of direct relief, recording a charge against the district for such municipality's share, as if it had been an unorganised district.

The province with the approval of the dominion government is cancelling the contingent liability incurred in the years 1931-42 inclusive, that was charged against improvement districts and insolvent municipalities as a municipality's share of direct relief. The gross amount of the indebtedness to be written off is one million, two hundred and twenty thousand, four hundred and ninety-four dollars and ninetysix cents (1,220,494.96).

The improvement districts and insolvent municipalities that have been relieved of outstanding direct relief indebtedness will be required to write off the indebtedness charged

^{*}See The Social Grediter, January 2, 1943.

against a resident for relief obtained during the years 1931-42.

• Any resident that had given security by the way of chattel or land mortgage or against whose land a caveat had been registered as security for direct relief received may make application and will have this security released providing the debtor or his dependents directly benefit. A caveat will not be removed when its withdrawal only benefits a person other than the debtor.

(A statement issued by Mr. Manning on November 7, 1943.)

ALBERTA PRODUCE

Official figures issued recently show that wheat loadings in the province of Alberta for the first seven months of 1943 were 4,892,115 bushels, 401 per cent. higher than for the same period last year.

From January to the end of the July last year only 975,000 bushels of wheat were loaded. The increase is said to be due to earlier harvesting operations this year.

Loadings of other grains show even greater increases than the wheat, with 22 times last year's bushelage of grains loaded this year.

Cattle, hogs and sheep marketings increased this year, but calf marketing showed a slight decrease. Total cattle marketing for the seven-month period this year was 158,297 head valued at almost \$13,500,000 (about £2,700,000).

Sale of hogs reached 1,320,000 head, a slight increase over the 1942 figure. Market value of the hogs was 19 per cent. higher. Sheep and lamb marketings showed a 25 per cent. increase in market value, with transactions amounting to \$1,457,000 (about £291,400).

Flour milling in the 1943 period increased 64 per cent., with a production valued at 6,785,931 (about £1,357,186). Decrease of 10 per cent. in the production of concentrated milk was noted, and a 40 per cent. reduction in cheese manufacture.

Up to the end of July, 4,484,644 tons of coal were mined this year in the province, 250,000 tons more than in the same period last year. Petroleum production in the same period decreased 5.9 per cent., with a production of 5,684,000 barrels.

Salt mining produced nearly 11,000 tons, and the amount of cement sold was 358,871 barrels. Sale of clay products amounted to \$676,000 (about £135,200), a four per cent. increase. Lime production dropped 41 per cent. valued at \$17,420 (about £3,484).

ORDERS IN COUNCIL

In reply to a recent question in Parliament as to the total number of Orders in Council that the Government have introduced in the period 3rd September, 1939, and 1st November, 1943 the Prime Minister said that the total number was 2,757.

Mr. De la Bère: Will the Prime Minister endeavour in the future to limit their number, and will he also review the very large numbers which have been made, as some of them are rather indigestible and require further thought?

The Prime Minister: I certainly do not desire to take such a laborious task upon myself.

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