

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

Anyone who feels doubt as to the central source of inspiration of Leftist politics is now provided with an easy test. Observe the reaction of the champions of "the People" and in particular "the Workers" to the Bretton Woods proposals, which if carried through would enslave the under-privileged for a generation, or until the next war takes over from them.

To a man, and a newspaper, "Red" sentiment has been cautiously enlisted in their favour...

Mr. Emanuel (God with us) Shinwell, speaking at Newcastle on October 21 observed "WE cannot afford the coal muddle." It is kind of Mr. Shinwell to suggest that several people are concerned in it, because of late years an impression has got about that he had acquired the coal industry in fee simple. But he mustn't go to the other extreme, or some persons who are never satisfied will begin to ask whether the coal muddle can afford Mr. Shinwell.

Owing to the brilliant management of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, who don't make profits and therefore can't lose them, hundreds of thousands of tons of coal have caught fire in dumps, and are burning at a time when this Ministry of all the talents is warning us that we shall be very short of coal this winter, even if the Italians won't.

But, of course, it will all come right. The Ministry will engage a few thousand more bureaucrats, and they will devise new forms for the consumer to fill up. And the "B."B.C. will observe that Planning is simply marvellous.

The electoral prospects of Mr. Roosevelt are said largely to depend upon the C.I.O. the Labour cartel controlled by Sidney Hillman, the ex-Russian Jew. While Mr. Hillman, no doubt in deference to the violent unpopularity of Communism in native-born and Anglo-Saxon circles, disclaims adherence to it, there is little doubt that he can and will deliver the Communist vote *en bloc* to the Democrats, or perhaps we should say, to Mr. Roosevelt.

We are not very clear as to the present tenets of the I.L.P., but we have noticed on several occasions that Mr. McGovern (I.L.P., Shettleston) can be trusted to make an admirable and finely tempered speech on many questions which the Socialist-Labour members reduce to the status of orange box politics. His short comment on the Polish-Russian problem in the Debate of September 28 was more in the manner of the Salisbury-Gladstone tradition than much which the so-called Tory Reformers inflict upon us.

You have probably noticed that when it is desired to put over some particularly flagrant racket, such as the handing over of the mineral resources of these islands to international filibusters, it is referred to as a "muddle." The picture it is desired that you should see is of well-meaning but not very brainy administrators struggling against fearful odds, while clever, farseeing statesmen, such as Mr. Emanuel (God with us) Shinwell (who have done what they could to produce the odds) shout from the sidelines demanding monopoly. The woolly lambs murmur little bleating objections, heavily laced with remarks indicating that of course the will of the (chosen) people must prevail, and hand over the swag, shaking their little woolly heads. Of course they're not to blame—you asked for it, didn't you? Or did you? Anyway, it's d'markrazi.

Moral: There are not so many village idiots in high places as the march of events might lead you to suppose.

So far from "the restoration of the money system to the State" being desirable, it has become increasingly clear (it was never very difficult to see) that the whole future of mankind, if a money system is to remain part of that future, depends on wresting any control whatever over the money system, either by issue or taxation, from the State. It is quite extraordinary how the people of this country, to go no further afield, have allowed the basic principles of Parliamentary Government, of which the primary, and probably most important, was the *ad hoc* grant of money to the king, to be systematically perverted. As we have stated many times, the fundamental nature of money is simply that of a token carrying the agreement to deliver over, on demand, the article to which the token refers. To place the power of issuing or compulsorily collecting tokens in the hands of the state is simply to establish the omnipotent state which, more than anything else, is at the root of the situation which we find it convenient to call "Hitlerism," rarely National Socialism, what time our Plotters and Planners, aided by "refugees from Hitler's Tyranny" rivet the fetters of their infernal system on once-great Britain while its fighting men are away.

It is commonly believed that the financial policy of Mr. Mackenzie King's Government, and much of the other policy, if any, is provided by Mr. Louis Razminsky, a "Canadian" Jew, son of a "Russian" Jew, educated at the London School of Economics. Possibly as a result of this, the not inconsiderable, open and concealed, Communist vote in Canada is being marshalled behind the Liberal Mackenzie King, it evidently having been decided that it is too risky to swing it to the C.C.F., which is felt to be on the down-grade. The dangers inherent in the election of anything but

a Social Credit Federal Government at Ottawa are obvious; and while there is little doubt that such a Government is an ultimate probability, it is too much to expect much more than a largely increased representation as the result of the next election. Mr. King is evidently nervous, and is delaying his appeal to the country, no doubt for the purpose of capitalising the military situation.

To those whose perceptive faculties are not petrified by one or other of the current dogmata, it is clear that social systems are born, not made, and that the particular labels attached to their component parts are merely rubber-stamped. So far as any reliable information in regard to internal Russia is available, everything goes to show that a reversion to Czarist culture is in progress and developing with startling rapidity. The underlying truth is that economic, cultural and social *adequacy* are, and probably always have been, available everywhere; but any attempt to mould society on some pure abstraction, such as "equality," simply results in an exaggerated *inadequacy*. We are credibly informed that the best sellers in Russia at the present time are books on Etiquette of the type which provided wild amusement to the ribald of the mid-Victorian era.

At the moment of writing we are unable to say with certainty whether the Americans have completely annihilated the Japanese Navy with practically no loss, or whether MacArthur the Magnificent has captured the Philippines by deceiving the garrison into the belief that he intended to attack Australia. The position reminds us of the subaltern detailed with a platoon to occupy a village, whose inquiries as to its position, made at intervals of one hour's marching, always met the same reply—that it was eight miles away; to which he finally remarked, "Well, we've got the — place surrounded, anyway."

Strategy and Tactics

It may be true that the vast majority of factory workers are fervent trades unionists and believe that their 'capitalist' employers are their chief if not their only enemies; but even if there were twelve million (the figure given in Carlyle's day is most probably less now) and they were all prepared to vote solidly (which is very unlikely) it would make small difference to the outcome. Whichever Government undertakes the task of settling post-war England from the top on planning lines, whether it be Tory Reform or out-and-out Labour, is scheduled for failure. We may confidently expect to witness the most unholy muddles (short of war) in recorded history. There will be some grand manoeuvres on the part of the enemy, staged in order to impress these very trades unionists; and they have got to learn their lesson.

It is useful to think of the parallel of Wavell's campaign in Africa in 1940, when the enemy had overwhelming odds and immense self-confidence. A frontal attack would have been disastrous. But Wavell was not impressed by mere numbers. He knew there was always something he could do.

The trades unionists are the troops of big business, and it is perfectly true (as a somewhat pessimistic friend

pointed out to me), that in a month or two their opinions could be swung around to any point desired, and a 'frame-up' coupled with a clever press campaign could blacken Churchill or others past white-washing. We are not concerned with all this. If we think our task is either to convert trades unionists or cleanse the Press we are heading for failure. The first and at present the only basis for discussion between Social Crediters and trades unionists is the Mond-Turner agreement. Until this is clarified all else is a waste of time.

But there is somewhere in England a nucleus of age-old wisdom, half obliterated by poisonous growths, which has to be uncovered, and strengthened. How did these words get into the Tory Reform Committee's booklet, *Forward by the Right*? Someone must have written them:—"The consumer, and the consumer alone, knows what he wants, and must be free to express his choice by his purchases. This freedom is as fundamental to economic democracy as is the vote to political democracy."

Almost everything else in the booklet could be shown to invalidate these words, or to be unnecessary. Nevertheless the words are there. We shall be missing an opportunity if we allow them to be forgotten.

In *The Times* of September 11 last, there was an article on British War Production whose author seemed to grasp something of the difference between strategy and tactics—he is perhaps a soldier who knows that plans can only be made from day to day, and that the essence of a good plan is that it can be abandoned at short notice. The campaign should control the plan, not the plan the campaign. So he writes:—

"Since the beginning of re-armament in 1935, armament programmes had to be repeatedly revised—as a rule augmented—to suit the ever-changing kaleidoscope of Britain's strategic position."

And again:—"British armament production, like so many British things, grew more like a plant than like an architectural structure. It developed by successive steps, some forward, others backward, and its plans had constantly to be adjusted to the ever-widening scope of the war and to the ever-changing character of operations."

Why, when war becomes "peace," should a different method of developing our economic life be necessary—or possible?

It is with those people in England who understand these things that we are concerned, and some are trades unionists. Let us lose no time in seeking them out. Most of them are perplexed with problems which we may be privileged to help to solve. — B. M. P.

DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT MOVEMENT BELFAST GROUP

Public Address

in GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL

on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9 at 7-30 p.m.

Subject: Reparations.

Questions and Discussion.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: October 19, 1944.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE (BY-LAWS)

Mr. Lipson asked the Minister of Education whether the by-laws existing in certain areas, under which children must remain at school till they are 15 years of age, will continue valid after April, 1945, in view of the decision to postpone the raising of the school age.

Mr. Butler: The Education Act, 1944, in effect, repeals all school attendance by-laws made under the Education Act, 1921, including by-laws raising the leaving age locally to 15.

Mr. Lipson: Is my right hon. Friend aware that this will be a retrograde step in areas which have had the 15 years leaving age by-law for 10 years or more; and cannot he take action to regularise the position? Will voluntary attendance be permissible?

Mr. Butler: Yes, Sir, voluntary attendance will be permissible, and I hope it will not be long before the school leaving age is raised to 15. I recognise that my hon. Friend's district has given a great lead in this direction.

Sir H. Williams: Is there a large number of children over 14 at school in any of these districts?

Mr. Butler: The proportion staying at school in these districts has been very small, with one or two exceptions, of which my hon. Friend's district is a notable example, and there is one other.

Excepted Districts

Mr. Bernard Taylor asked the Minister of Education if he can state the number of authorities who, by virtue of their population, will become excepted authorities under the Education Act, 1944; the number of boroughs and urban district councils who have made application to become excepted authorities; and when he will be in a position to give the answer to such applications.

Mr. Butler: The number of authorities who, by virtue of their population or school population, have a right to become excepted districts, is 47; of this number 41 lodged the necessary claim with my Department before the 1st October. The number of borough and urban district councils which cannot claim, as of right, that their areas should be excepted districts, and which have claimed that they should be excepted districts, is 67. Paragraph 4 of Part III of the First Schedule requires that I should consult the local education authorities concerned, and as soon as I have considered such views as they may express, I will be in a position to determine the claims.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BILL

Sir Richard Acland (Barnstaple): ... let us accept the principle that life is more important than property and let us see where we go from there.

Sir Edward Grigg (Altrincham): Is the hon. Baronet referring to national property?

Sir R. Acland: I am referring to any sort of property at all.

Sir E. Grigg: What are our young men laying down

their lives for in Holland at the present moment?

Sir R. Acland: They are laying down their lives that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Sir E. Grigg: They are laying down their lives for a heritage of culture and freedom which is our national property.

Sir R. Acland: ... The next stage in the argument is to assert, as if it were a matter which could not be challenged, that if some other individual owns an item of property 1,000 times or 10,000 times larger than the one with which they have been dealing, then the same rights must apply to that infinitely larger estate, but automatically multiplied by 1,000 or 10,000, as the case may be. It is that step in their argument that I challenge.

Mr. Henderson Stewart (Fife, East): Where would the hon. Baronet draw the line?

Sir R. Acland: Where is the line drawn when the means test is applied to a family?

Mr. Stewart: I ask the hon. Baronet where would he draw the line? [An HON. MEMBER: "On the scaffold."]

Sir R. Acland: ... When the community is acquiring property which is needed for the purposes of the community I suggest quite seriously that the subject of compensation has to be dealt with on the basis of hardship. And as we move forward, as I hope we shall, into an economic structure of society quite different from that under which we suffer now, I would like to drop the word "compensation" and put in its place the words "transitional hardship allowance." Then we should know a little better what we are dealing with...

Sir G. Schuster: ... So far as the interests of the community are concerned—and here I speak for hon. Members who sit with me—we desire to see a comprehensive measure. We agree with the principles of the Uthwatt Report which perhaps I may quote:

"If planning is a necessity and an advantage to the community, as is undoubtedly the case, a means must be found for removing the conflict between public and private interests."

I fully accept that. I also desire to see a comprehensive Measure which, once and for all, will prevent values created by the community accruing as profits to private individuals. I myself would have liked to see the Government take a very much bolder line—either adopt a comprehensive scheme like the Uthwatt proposal, or else be even more drastic and schedule defined urban areas throughout the country in which the whole of the property would be at once acquired by the State. I think the time has come when we ought to face that, and one of my reasons for being most unwilling to support a compromise now is that this Measure achieves nothing of the kind...

Mr. Petherick (Penryn and Falmouth): ... I believe that the rights of property, and the respect for them, lie deep down in the human heart, and that they respond to some curious primeval urge bound up with the instinct of self-preservation. A man used to have a stone hatchet to protect himself, and he built himself a small house or lived in a cave, which he looked upon as his own, in order to protect himself, it may be, from evilly-disposed neighbours. The acquisition of property of all kinds is a perfectly natural thing, and the whole of civilisation has been built

(Continued on page 7)

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Saturday, November 4, 1944.

"Feudalism"

The principle of perversion is clearly becoming a major weapon of Plotting and Planning—a weapon to which the intellectual laziness of the English renders them peculiarly vulnerable. Hardly any of the words used in political controversy are honestly employed, and many of them are attached to conceptions which are directly opposed to their labels.

It is the current fashion to suggest that Great Britain is just escaping from something called "feudalism," and in the United States there is a widely disseminated belief, doubtless consciously fostered, that the constitution of this country is officially feudal, and, consequently, reactionary and mediaeval. It is not too much to say that not a single component of this idea (and it is by no means unimportant as a political force) has any basis in fact.

In the first place, England never at any time had a feudal constitution. There was a fairly complete feudalism in the Lowlands of Scotland during the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, largely due to the intimate relationships existing between France and Scotland, and the Scottish "feu" system of land tenure, which has many wholly admirable features, and has preserved Scotland from the horrors of ribbon and bungalow building, is the direct descendant of that period. But it is quite clear that the Jewish forces behind Norman William had a definite plan to substitute finance for feudal service, and "Doomsday" Book was the first step to that end. The second was the Oath of Salisbury. This oath binds every freeholder directly in allegiance to the King—an arrangement which, so far from being feudal, cuts at the very root of feudality.

The central ideas of the organisation of feudal society were (1) that all land is ultimately held by grant from the King (2) that the grant is made on condition of service, military or otherwise, and the payment of dues and (3) that those who hold *directly* from the king are bound together by so doing, in a certain legal and social relationship. It was the privilege of the 'tenants-in-chief' to sublet, and to vary the terms, exactly as in the case of the Scottish feu.

It can be seen without difficulty that so far from "escaping" from feudalism, Socialism or Planning is feudalism of the worst and most soul-less description, with none of the attributes of personal responsibility which redeemed the worst features of the feudal barony. Neither has the modern Land Trust or Forestry Commission the severe restraint imposed by the sanctions inherent in the mediaeval church. While even a modified feudal system is inapplicable

to modern conditions which urgently demand a tri-partite organisation, we show every sign of allowing the worst features of it to be imposed upon us, with none of its virtues.

Great Britain

It is less than fifty years since the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria—the culmination of an epoch of Imperial influence far exceeding that of Ancient Rome. It has been the fashion to decry the Victorian Era, and there is little doubt that certain influences involving decay were at work, and were fostered in high places. Nevertheless, the evidence of genuine greatness remains—in music, in literature, in such pioneer structures as the Forth Bridge, in the memories of maritime pre-eminence and in many other forms.

It is the fashion to place the responsibility for the continuous decline in British affairs from that date upon the South African War—a conscious use of the principle of *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*. The South African War was a victory for the Gold Interests, and their opportunity came as a corollary, but not intrinsically as a consequence.

The really dangerous attack on the Empire, whose destruction or capture had undoubtedly been planned long before, came in the form of an "American" business invasion, primarily directed to the cornering of shipping through the agency of the International Mercantile Marine, an attack financed from Wall Street, but quite probably conceived in Hamburg. The refusal, with Government support, of the Cunard Line to sell its interests, largely defeated the project, and other attempts to corner key industries met at first with only modified success—a situation which the war of 1914-1918, and its subsequent boom period in the United States, converted into victory for the invader.

From 1900 onwards, British business, politics, and social life deteriorated. It is significant that the British theatre has produced little but "revivals" of Victorian and Edwardian music and plays with outstanding success during the past twenty-five years and the note of self-confidence so marked in, for instance, Gilbert and Sullivan has departed. The influence at work has been subtle and pervasive.

"B. W. M."

The many friends in this country of Dr. Bryan W. Monahan, "B.W.M." of *The Problem of the Medical Profession*, will be pleased to hear that he has reached Australia safely.

SECRET BANK RESERVES

"The whole ... field of monetary politics ... in the Dominion is one in which vehement polemics flourish ... The figures given [by Mr. Ilsley] in the appended table are self-explanatory, but they failed to convince the critics. Their criticism found expression in a demand that the Bank Act should require the banks to reveal their yearly appropriations to internal or secret reserves and that the books should show the total of such reserves. The proposed amendment was strenuously and, finally, successfully resisted by the Government spokesmen."—*The Economist*.

Our Cultural Disinheritance*

(Concluded)

IV.

The popular attitude to this process of human enrichment is indicated by the almost universal prejudice in favour of the belief that it implies an increase in the intelligence of some of the individuals, if not all, who inherit it. There is not a shred of evidence to support the claim that modern man is a whit cleverer than his prehistoric ancestors. The belief that he is so is by no means confined to untutored persons. Browning betrayed it when, poetically, he implied that God was still busily manufacturing fresh giants, and asked Him to make no more of them. The moralist deploring man's tardy attainment of wisdom, and the classicist the modern's lack of taste, both unconsciously assert their superior intelligence. Mention man on the threshold of civilisation, and the image conjured up by most people is that of some rude uncultivated savage, scarcely able to hold his head erect, breathless and inarticulate, scratching figures on the walls of caves. Members of the "aboriginal" races are still to be found to give an air of verisimilitude to this picture; but it is sheer ignorance to confound the less intelligent specimens of the so-called primitive races with the men and women whose immediate descendants were concerned with the establishment of the elements of civilisation. The pre-dynastic remains unearthed in Egypt provide conclusive evidence that there has been no such marked modification in the human brain-case during the growth of civilisation as to warrant the assumption that this growth has been accompanied by any increase in the natural powers of man.

The colossal power of modern man is an increment of association derived from his unconscious co-operation with the legions of the dead. It is not a measure of his own intellectual stature.

V.

W. H. R. Rivers, whose posthumous "Psychology and Ethnology" appeared in 1926, drew attention in that work to another important series of social phenomena, namely the frequency with which cultural elements have disappeared—completely in the event, yet incompletely in that the generated investment of magic might acquire fresh vigour in consequence of its severance from its material origin. (These overheads!) Only one aspect of this observation has been developed—its bearing upon the diffusion of culture—to which Rivers regarded it as being not only a kind of exception proving the rule, but explanatory of many of the obscurities of social psychology. I am sure that only his untimely death prevented the fruition of his observations, which were rich and penetrating, in a demonstration disconcerting to those who look upon our society as a product of a *natural* evolution. Since, in an objective sense, not necessarily involving recognition by the individuals concerned, the most vital *interest* of men in society lies in the nature and control of the dynamic forces working in society, this fact of cultural *disinheritance* which Rivers was beginning to illustrate is a major concern for us. Major Douglas has made clear the technical methods elaborated to secure it, pointing out at the same time their

artificiality and the arrogance and tyranny inseparable from the use of them.

The more we know about them the better.

Most of us understand that metaphors and similes, figures of speech, are unsafe things to use, however decorative; and many of us know that most of the terms of modern science are metaphors. The scientific metaphors are prevented from being the most dangerous metaphors only because fundamentally science has more to do with events than with the representation of events symbolically. Nevertheless when the danger of scientific metaphors does become apparent, it usually appears to us with a force transcending the force of the dangers inherent in mere verbal errors.

A common metaphor used in dealing with all matters of growth and development is the tree metaphor. No danger could possibly exceed the danger lurking in the misuse of this concept. The least dangerous use is that to which the tree is put by genealogists. The genealogists' tree, be it noted, has its roots waving in a pruned, disconnected, untidy, but nevertheless quite honestly unnatural fashion, *in the air*. How is it that the trees of racial descent and of cultural anthropology ever became upturned again and stuck like little rose trees in flowerpots? They pretend to be such trees of *descent* as the genealogists' trees; but have already shed a most important element of their truth: they grow up the page of time to the beginning, instead of down the page of time to us. And this is part of a colossal deception. Gratifying to our protean vanities as it may be to picture ourselves couched in lofty foliage, the standpoint of an insect clinging to the uttermost leaf is not a favourable standpoint for the study of the nature and growth of trees. The evidence available concerns at most a multiplicity of leaves, not a common trunk; and while twigs, branches and a trunk might be traversed in time, the natural destination of the most pertinacious insect pursuing his way from one to another is the ground from which the tree grows, not the concept "tree." The individual insect's account of such a descent might properly be: "I passed from the bright illumination of the upper surface of a leaf to the lower surface, thence to a stalk, green in colour, thence to the darker and rougher bark of a thicker stalk, to *accompany* which a similar stalk ran after a time, and so, after many additions to the thickness of my support, in like manner, I passed to an expanse of grass."

The "leaf" which the present writer may be said to rest upon at the present moment, is a white octagonal button with a concave upper surface marked by the signs

5
T (the typewriter key for the letter 't' completing the word *moment*). This key was an element in the cultural inheritance of his "present moment"; but he could not pass from this "leaf" to anything that is truly the cultural twig from which the key grew. Without pressing the physical incongruity (which is irrelevant), this item of the cultural inheritance, pictured only in its more massive features as an end-point in time of typewriter-metals-chemistry-of-gums-(the imitation ivory keys)-levers-springs-ink-printing-writing, leads not to a stalk of the cultural "tree" but into the whole of the cultural nexus of a past time. The biological concepts of descent and branching growth are totally in-

*Reprinted from *The Fig Tree*, September, 1936.

applicable to the processes underlying the expansion of human culture. The descent of the cultural inheritance is continuous but non-linear. Our knowledge of it is discontinuous.

Now while the biological concepts are inadequate, we should not leave them before suggesting another major error in the metaphor. Trees grow in an atmosphere more or less uniformly and abundantly illuminated from above, and this feature is unconsciously in the minds of those who use the tree metaphor. How different the cultural "tree," for it is "horizontally" illuminated by a "beam of light" by no means abundant, very much like that which would issue from a narrow slit between knife-edges in front of a lantern held in the hand of a policeman seated in Bergson's "ever becoming, ever present now"; and unfortunately the policeman can move about in that time plane: can determine the development or non-development of each leaf, and control each potential distribution of the increment of association of the cultural elements! Each deflection of his "beam" from a cultural "leaf" implies the abortion of a "tree" of human culture as vast and elaborate as our own. Thus human potentiality since civilisation began has been all the time its actual attainment at any given time, magnified by a complex function of all its abortions before that time. Our cultural disinheritance can be pictured as an Amazonian forest in which our cultural inheritance is a tiny atavistic weed.

Someone has said that all failure is a failure of imagination. If our generation could but see its disinheritance! The social environment constituted by past and present systems of control is in every respect as "selective," in an evolutionary sense, as the natural environment. It is incomparably more restricted, as may be inferred from comparing the impressive variety and perfection of forms in nature, with the narrow fertility of human life when, as now and throughout civilisation, all excellencies and aptitudes which do not "minister to the sacred flame" of control, are denied development.

If we are ever freed from this tyranny we shall look back upon its crimes against nature as measured in the real terms of deprivation (of disinheritance), as upon a phase of human history incomprehensible in respect of the motives which inspired it, and the failure of human will which made its evil conquests possible.

TUDOR JONES.

MRS. DODSON

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Dodson, of 6 Copthorne Road, Wolverhampton, on October 22.

Those of the Social Credit Movement who knew Mrs. Dodson personally and who worked with her in Wolverhampton through the Electoral and Lower Rates Campaigns will appreciate the loss Social Credit has suffered by her death. She never appeared in the limelight, but was always close at hand. In spite of failing health, for many years she was untiring in her efforts right up to the time of her death in helping forward and encouraging others in the cause she had at heart. Her unflinching kindness and selfless disposition have left among her friends a deep affection. She has not, as she believed she might, seen the fulfilment of her hopes; but she raised the hopes of many.

BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION AND JEWISH INTEREST

In view of reports we have received from Glasgow concerning anti-gentile activities among traders there, we publish the following extracts from an article in the *Jewish Chronicle* for October 27:—

Speaking at a meeting of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council during the previous week, Rabbi Kopul Rosen "expressed the view that while they should try legislation, it was his belief that it would not be any more effective here than it had been in Germany, where Streicher and other Nazis had been imprisoned for breaking the law, and as a result had become martyrs. Anti-Semitism, in his opinion, reached its height when certain economic factors were present. If such factors operated in this country after the war, then they could have legislation and yet they would not prevent anti-Semitism."

A Public Relations Committee "had had under consideration the case of Alexander Ratcliffe, who had been granted a licence to open a shop in Dundas Place, Glasgow, despite opposition from the Booksellers' Association and independent booksellers. The Committee had been in contact with Councillor Ernest Greenhill and a member of the local Price Regulation Committee, which was responsible for the granting of the licence, and also the Booksellers' Association and several independent booksellers in order to try and get the licence rescinded. However, they had not been successful. From the first they had advised the Board of Deputies and the Defence Committee of events, and at Mr. Brotman's request had sent photographs of the shop and comprehensive samples of its contents. They had suggested that the Board of Deputies should contact the Home Secretary with a view to action, and although Mr. Salomon had informed him that representations would be made to various Government Departments and officials, nothing appeared in the ensuing correspondence, to suggest that anything had been done. The Committee, continued Captain Barnett, then considered the question of approaching the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. Thomas Johnston, M.P....

"The Church of Scotland had promised to use its influence to offset this menace, and the Rev. C. Macanna, Hon. Secretary of the Continuation Committee of the Conference of Scottish Churches and Scottish Jewry, had agreed to attend a meeting of the Public Relations Committee. Canon Daly, of the Roman Catholic Church, had stated that they could take no action that could be construed as political....

"The Committee had also had under consideration the exhibiting of an anti-Jewish notice in a shop in the Maryhill district of Glasgow, which referred to the Jews in the district who were trading under assumed names. This case had been reported to the Rev. C. Macanna, and as a result the notice had now been removed."

NOTE: The Booksellers' Association has been asked whether they opposed the granting of a licence to open the shop described above, (a) before the licence was granted, and/or (b) afterwards, and if so for what reasons; also whether they have participated in the alleged attempt to secure the rescinding of the licence.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

up upon it. It does not apply only to property in land, but to all forms of property. Even in the Soviet Union, by rigidly removing the right to own any property, they lost a very large part of the very valuable incentive without which no body or persons can be successful, and they had to re-introduce the right to own a certain amount of property, even on the collective farms, in order that that instinct might be encouraged for the benefit of the State in general.

It seems to me that, far from discouraging ownership of property by attacks upon it, we ought to do everything possible to encourage it. I should like to see the day when the head of every household would be in the position of owning his own house and the land upon which it stands. There is nothing which tends to greater stability than that. It has been quite rightly said that the broad public interest has got to over-ride, at any given moment, the rights of the individual. That is perfectly right, but what is the public interest? The public interest, in the opinion of a great many of us, lies in the collective rights of a collection of individuals who form themselves together for mutual protection and mutual benefit. The State is not, as some have it, a soulless machine fed on human fodder, as you feed a coal-burning machine. It is a collection of individuals, and it seems to me that, to strike at the roots of property or persons in any section of that body of individuals is to strike at the whole, because it is undermining the confidence without which no body of human beings gathered together can exist. I think we are doing it in this Bill, in certain respects.

Viscountess Astor: Are we striking at the roots in the town planning of blitzed areas?

Mr. Petherick: The Noble Lady has been very restless to-day. Since the destruction of the "Cliveden Clause" the other day, I do not think she has been quite herself. It seems to me that one of the public interests is the protection which the State affords to all parts of the community including those who own houses and land in one of the many different forms in which they can be held, and I believe that an offence, such as is being committed in this Bill, against one part of the citizens is an offence against the whole. It has been said by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that all property is subject to hazard. Of course it is, everybody knows that, and particularly in war time, when people may own investments which may be affected by the war, and some may go up and others go down. In passing a Bill which goes so much further than any previous Act of Parliament in infringing the rights of property, we are establishing a very dangerous precedent for the future, because there may be many similar Bills brought before Parliament...

House of Commons: October 20, 1944.

CABLE AND WIRELESS CO., LTD. (BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHARES)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how it arises that, as recorded on page 22 of the Finance Accounts, the Treasury receives each year a sum of £104,000 as dividend on shares of the Cable and Wireless Company, Limited, whereas no reference is made to the

holding of such shares among the assets listed on a later page of the Accounts; and whether he will state what number of Cable and Wireless shares are held and when and why they were acquired.

Sir J. Anderson: H.M. Government holds 2,600,000 £1 shares in the Cable and Wireless Company Limited, acquired by the Treasury under S.I (I) of the Imperial Telegraphs Act, 1938. The circumstances in which these shares were acquired are described in a White Paper dated April, 1938 (Cmd. 5716), a copy of which I am sending to my hon. Friend. Dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., namely, £104,000, has been received each year, and this is recorded under "Receipts from Sundry Loans, etc." in the Finance Accounts. I agree with my hon. Friend that the value of the holding should be included with the assets shown on page 57 of the Finance Accounts, and I am giving directions for this to be done in future.

PALESTINE (JEWISH IMMIGRATION)

Squadron-Leader Fleming asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has seen the pronouncement of the President of the U.S.A. in favour of the opening of Palestine for unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonisation; and whether His Majesty's Government is now prepared to establish there a Jewish national home.

Colonel Stanley: I have been asked to reply. The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I have nothing to add to previous statements.

SUPPLY COMMITTEE—CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. Colegate (The Wrekin): ... The way we should proceed in all these international things is not to start with some grand scheme at the top but to work up from realities from below. The assumption which underlies his argument, that peoples quarrel but Governments do not, is entirely contrary to my experience.

... I very much doubt whether the hon. Member for Nuneaton has any idea of the nationalistic feeling that prevails to-day, not merely in individualistic countries but most of all in countries like Russia, who have an entirely different mentality to ours. To suppose that Russia is internationally-minded over these matters is, in my opinion, totally to misconceive the whole situation. The difficulty which we found in the experience we had between the two wars is that whereas nations will not object to private individuals supplying them with particular services or particular classes of goods, immediately Government trading or Government interests come in then immediately it arouses nationalistic opposition which creates very great difficulty.

Now we had no difficulty whatever in buying goods from Russia before all matters were in the hands of the Russian Government, but the moment the Russian Government started trading as a Government—I am not offering any opinion on its merits or on the desirability of the 1917 revolution—immediately political considerations were brought in. I was one of those in favour of trading with Russia and I was attacked on all sides—

... we should ask that when the British Government go to this conference, they should see that ample opportunity is given for the British genius—British private enterprise—to

make its contribution to these services. There can be no question that British genius in aviation is the foremost in the world to-day. . . if British genius is left untrammelled it will work on very different lines from British genius in harness, in which it is somewhat uncomfortable. I would only add that if we had had international transport 50 years ago the hansom cab and the omnibus industries would be the biggest industries in the world to-day. . .

Lady Apsley: I will not pursue the controversy of Government control versus private enterprise, except to say, as an air pilot, that I know we need the best in the air and I do not think we can get the best without trial and error. No Government can afford to make mistakes. Therefore, the Government, if they are wise, do nothing. In my opinion that has been our trouble as regards Civil Aviation in past years. I will not however enter into that controversy. The question I want to ask is this. Our representatives will go to the United States to carry out the points in the White Paper; can we have any assurance with regard to the machines which it is proposed we should use to carry out what is in the White Paper? There, I think, is the whole crux of our future in the air in the immediate post-war years. Are we going to be allowed to build suitable aircraft in this country or must we rely on what can be obtained from elsewhere? There is a rumour going round my constituency. My right hon. and gallant Friend will know the private enterprise to which I refer when I say that it is situated on the edge of the constituency of my hon. and gallant Friend the Member for Thornbury (Sir D. Gunston). There is a strong rumour in my constituency that they have had ready for a year the designs of a magnificent post-war civil air transport plane. The rumour is very strong that we cannot build that plane because the Americans tell us that they do not like it and that it is too far ahead of any design that they have. I would like to hear from my right hon. and gallant Friend that we have more freedom to go ahead on our own. I would therefore like to ask my right hon. and gallant Friend either to contradict that rumour or to make quite certain that the plane which is being built with the enterprise, skill and integrity of my constituents will have a chance very shortly to show what it can do.

Captain Balfour: . . . I assure the Noble Lady that there is no truth in her suggestion. That aircraft is being constructed so far as our policy of the first importance of military effort will allow. . .

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES (EXTENSION) BILL

[Lords]

Considered in Committee.

CLAUSE I.—(Privileges, immunities and capacities of certain international organisations and their staffs.)

Mr. Douglas (Battersea, North): The Amendment proposes that these organisations shall have the legal capacity of a body corporate. Will that entitle them to take legal proceedings in this country against British citizens?

Mr. Law: Yes, Sir, it will have that effect.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Geoffrey Hutchinson (Ilford): . . . This Bill curtails in very drastic fashion the rights of a very large number

of British citizens to make claims for personal injuries, for workmen's compensation and for a number of matters of that nature. As I understood what was said by my right hon. Friend on the adjourned Second Reading, his answer was: "Well, this, in practice, will not matter very much, because arrangements will be made behind the scenes with the ambassadors or the heads of these organisations who are quite willing to waive their rights in appropriate cases and with the insurance companies who are also sometimes interested in these matters. All these arrangements will be made and, in fact, nobody will lose any advantage which they would enjoy if they were entitled to pursue their normal legal remedy."

That, to my mind, falls far short of the way in which we ought to deal with the rights of individuals in this House.

. . . I feel there is a tendency growing on the part of Governments to expect the House of Commons to agree to these informal arrangements, and to regard an informal arrangement of this kind as a satisfactory substitute for the legal rights which the law of England vests in every British citizen. I cannot take that view, and I must say, as a matter of principle, that I should prefer to leave persons who have legal claims to their right to establish those claims, if they can, in the usual way in the courts and not to make the success or otherwise of their claims depend upon arrangements which are made, no doubt with the best will in the world, between different classes of officials or functionaries.

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