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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

The rumour that Dr. Hewlett Johnson has been invited to visit Canterbury is denied locally.

According to the Sydney, N.S.W., *Daily Mirror*, a British officer, General Martel, was primarily responsible for Russian strategy at the decisive Battle of Stalingrad. When shown the Russian plans, General Martel disagreed with them, and was successful in having his own implemented.

It is perhaps unnecessary to remark that this has not been allowed to leak out in this country, and the Russians naturally think they did it all themselves.

We also gather from Australian sources that the British have killed more Japanese in battle than all the American Forces put together. But the Americans don't think the the British are fighting, and as the "B."B.C. doesn't seem to know it either, why blame them?

The Economic Reform Club (London), which we take to be a Freemasonic mechanism for obstructing Social Credit, has opened a branch in New Zealand, with Mr. John Hogan as secretary. It may be a coincidence that an advertisement of this organisation appears opposite a notice and advertisement of that very curious concern, calling itself "The Rosicrucian Order" of San Jose, California, in Mr. Hogan's paper. If there is any body which avoids advertisement, it is the genuine Rosy Cross.

In the issue to which we refer, there is also a three-quarter column advertisement of Selznick-International Pictures. Our understanding is that this concern is controlled by Warner Bros. The Communist *Daily Worker* (U.S.A.) boasted that Warner Bros. spent more money on advertising *Mission to Moscow* than had previously been spent on publicity for any one film. It was stigmatised by the *New York Times* as "anti-British, anti-Congress, anti-democratic, and anti-truth."

A film entitled *Objective Burma* for which apparently Messrs. Warner take responsibility was described by an American officer, Lieut.-Colonel Taylor, in a letter to "Seac" the Service paper, as "a travesty of the truth." It suggested that the Americans freed Burma. We are not concerned with Mr. Hogan's paper beyond repudiation of its implied claim to represent Social Credit views or policy.

It is quite obvious that the policy of this country in regard to the release of consumers' goods to the "victorious British" is being dictated by what for brevity may be called the Chatham House gang, without the smallest concern for the comfort and convenience of the natives beyond the point

which will keep them reasonably fit to work and fight. The Scottish trawl fishermen have entered a vigorous protest against the gift to the Italians of motor trawlers which are urgently needed in Scotland. What are we getting in return? It is absolute nonsense to say that Italy has nothing to export. She has an immense surplus of excellent wine, for one thing, and if put on the consumers' market at a price not more than double cost (instead of fifty times cost) it would bring down prices of wholesome drinks.

Our greatest economic risk to the individual at the present time is debasement of the currency. Every politician mouths the word "inflation" which is debasement of the currency for the benefit of the debasers, and every Government Department devotes such energies as it has to preventing at least the fall, and raising, if possible, prices, by keeping goods off the market, so that its international friends may cash in on the inflation. The policy was all ready for use on the first day of the war and was initiated by a 60 per cent. rise in postal charges and an approximately equal rise in railway rates.

It, of course, represents a capital levy of the meanest and most fraudulent kind, without legislation, and everyone suffers except the money-forgers.

Bureaucratic insolence is well illustrated by the procedure which accompanies the issue of the so-called Basic Petrol Ration. The coupons for this are issued by the local Post Office and it appears that if the local Post Office thinks that the car Registration Book wants physically renewing after its many journeys to various other bureaucracies, even if completely in order otherwise, the ration can be withheld while the unfortunate owner sends his Registration Book for replacement, thus possibly denying him the use of his car for a week, and involving, in country districts, the waste of most of the ration in journeys to get it.

In itself, the matter is less important than many others, but it is a clear-cut instance of the cool assumption of arbitrary rule by Officialdom, and the indifference to individual convenience which always accompanies it. We suggest that every car-owner should write to the R.A.C. or the A.A. on the matter, *demanding the name of the official who promulgated the instruction*. Anonymity is the bureaucrats' main defence.

There is no more dangerous feature of the present situation than the carefully fostered contempt for Parliament. In ordinary circumstances, the cartoon in the current *Punch* of the three crocodiles, labelled Conservative, Liberal and Labour weeping copiously on each others' necks, as they part, besides being funny, as it is, might be salutary. But it cannot be too clearly recognised that *only one institution stands between this country and firstly, civil war and secondly, disappearance as a sovereign state, and that is*

Parliament. The Fabians and other plotters and Planners have become so accustomed to the *idea* that there are absolutely no limits to their powers that they do not realise that an *idea* is not the same thing as a fact. A Parliament "broad-based upon a people's (not a majority's) will," (not a cabal's ideas) if it is a genuine Parliament—no small proviso—can act as an effective lightning conductor. Let no one be under any misapprehension as to the gathering storm.

We are confident that the constitutional organisation of these islands is in urgent need of drastic revision. The Fabians, Peppers, and Planners know this as well as we do. Parliament, as an effective watch dog, is even more essential now, when it may be approaching the term of its existence, than it was in the heyday of its youth.

With the enthusiasm of Fido barking for a biscuit, Mr. Herbert Morrison celebrated his return to opposition by accusing the Government of "pandering to vested interests." Not, of course, to the £60,000,000 Labour Cartel which is the basis of Mr. Morrison's not inconsiderable emoluments.

From the "Looking Backward" column of the *Edmonton Bulletin*:

April 27, 1935.

London, Eng. Papers representing Labor, Liberal and Socialist views hotly condemn Prime Minister MacDonald for his outspoken criticism of German foreign policy.

The same people who "hotly condemned" MacDonald, who was an honest, if abysmally stupid man, are the people who arrogate to themselves the prescience to "Plan" our future and our "Controls" for us. A picture paper representing "Labor, Liberal, Socialist and Communist views" publishes an article by a person called Schumacher, described as a leading economist, who patronisingly castigates "superficial thinkers" who "may deserve our contempt" for not being impressed by the record of the Planners, and consequently not enthusiastic about allowing them to try again. It is nothing less than amazing that we are to be lectured on what is good for us by someone called Schumacher within a month of the collapse of National Socialism in Germany, and is only explicable by considering the Socialist love of Germany ten years ago. The standard of the article itself may be judged from the statement that "Only pathological anarchists refuse to submit to traffic control." It would seem therefore, that the twin *autobahnen* which minimise or obviate traffic controls and with which, from his name, our instructor must be familiar, are the outcome of "pathological anarchy." Well, that's a new explanation for Hitler, anyway.

Plus ça change, plus que c'est le même chose. The nineteenth century in England had as its dominating principle of foreign policy, the conception of a hostile Russia aided and abetted by an unfriendly France. Apart from the mysterious Crimean War, why Imperial Russia should be hostile, is not clear. The Indian Civil Service offered a handsome gratuity, together with two years leave on full pay, to any of its members who would qualify in colloquial Russian, in anticipation of a Russian invasion of India. French feeling was so anti-English and so pro-Boer

that, at the Paris Exhibition of 1900, an Englishman admiring an exhibit was likely to have a large plaque placed in front of him by a gendarme bearing the legend, *Vivent les Boers*. Suddenly, in 1904, everything changed. Edward VII visited Paris: *l'entente cordiale* blossomed in a night; and the threatened war against France and Russia turned into a war against Germany with France and Russia assisting. Germany is now out of the way. France has a Treaty with Russia. So what?

One of the many curious features of these very curious times is the emergence, just before the outbreak of hostilities, of a gaggle of lavishly illustrated periodicals, all vulgar in tone, all crypto-Commu-Socialist and all apparently regardless of either monetary or newsprint restrictions. In several cases they appeared to be well supplied with inside information, always presented with a "we are the champions of the mob" outlook.

If it be recalled that practically every reputable publication purporting to cater to British culture, whether in journalistic or book form, has been curtailed in size, and obstructed in its circulation, and that very large sums are required to produce a picture magazine, the matter seems to demand investigation.

Mr. Beverley Baxter, writing in a Canadian magazine of wide circulation, comments on the steady stream of subversive books proceeding from one Jewish publisher alone, and considers that they have inflicted serious damage on right-wing prospects.

Dr. Evatt, of Australia, P.E.P., "Labour" and San Francisco, appears to have shown less than his usual cunning in demanding that a pledge should be signed by all member nations "to maintain full employment." "Full employment," of course, is the euphemism for the Slave or Socialist State for which Dr. Evatt has clearly been the Australian agent, and includes the confiscation of all means of subsistence not granted by the totalitarian State in return for punching the time-clock. The Americans turned him down flat (we shall begin to like the Americans if they aren't careful) and the British (how British) preferred "a high and stable level of employment."

This food business gets curiouser and curiouser. Canada alone is supplying us with 87½ lbs of meat per family this year; we have huge contracts with the Argentine; the Danes (*vide The Times*, May 19) are ready and partly able to feed Europe; with the possible exception of Holland the general testimony is that there was little shortage except in the British home until we "liberated" the Continent. Norway had little or no war. Yet we are apparently pouring thousands of tons of food into Norway weekly. Can it be that someone wants this country to complete its ruin, as in 1919?

Lewis Lets

The U.S. coalminers' leader, John L. Lewis, is opposed to the nationalisation of the mines, and, with 34,000 fewer men employed, and without nationalisation, coal output in the United States has been raised from 460,000,000 short tons in 1940 to 615,000,000 in 1944.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: May 29, 1945.

RUSSIA (TRANSFER OF BRITISH VESSELS)

Mr. Rhys Davies asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the war in Europe is ended, he is now able to give information as to the transfer of vessels of the Royal Navy to the Red Fleet.

The Prime Minister: I will ask the hon. Member to defer this Question, the answer to which would be somewhat lengthy, till next week.

Mr. Rhys Davies: Will the right hon. Gentleman, when he is dealing with British property in this prodigal fashion, remember the promise he made that he would not preside over the liquidation of the British Empire, as this is part of the British Empire?

The Prime Minister: This particular episode was part of the process by which the consolidation of the British Empire was achieved.

Mr. Gallacher: When the Prime Minister is preparing an answer to that question, will he also prepare an answer to the question, why he transferred the Secretary of State for Scotland from this House to another place?

Mr. Rhys Davies: Can the Prime Minister assure me that he will not also hand over the Welch Fusiliers to Marshal Tito in the process?

The Prime Minister: I think I can safely go as far as that.

COAL (CHARGES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 1) ORDER, 1945

Minister of Fuel and Power (Major Lloyd George): ... the Government are taking this early opportunity of outlining their general policy on the coalmining industry. The Government consider that the working, treatment, and disposal of coal should continue to be conducted by private enterprise—

Mr. James Griffiths (Llanelli): Mismanaged by it.

Major Lloyd George:—provided these are planned in accordance with the national need and conducted with the maximum efficiency. Coal is to-day owned by the State. It is, further, a wasting asset; some qualities are wasting far more rapidly than we like to think. Therefore, it is right that it should be conducted in accordance with the national need and with the maximum efficiency. War-time measures are not necessarily suited to peace-time conditions and a new practical start is needed. The position cannot be remedied by mere change of ownership. That offers no solution. The Government have, therefore, decided that a central authority, appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power and subject to his general direction, should be set up to insist that the necessary measures are taken and to provide such help and guidance as are useful. The measures to which I refer centre upon the proper development and efficient conduct of operations in each coalfield, according to the best modern practice. In so far as the grouping or amalgamating of collieries is necessary for this object, it will be carried through voluntarily if possible, but otherwise by compulsion. We do not propose amalgamation for amalgamation's sake, for in this diversified industry, where

conditions vary widely, there are often to be found highly efficient undertakings which are sometimes not large. In such cases amalgamation would only be proposed if there were clear advantages to the nation and to the industry. The making and the carrying out of these plans will be undertaken by the industry itself. The duty of the central authority will be to satisfy itself that the scope and the effect of the plans conform to the national requirements, and it will have powers of enforcement in reserve. The policy will preserve the incentives of free enterprise while safeguarding the industry from political interference in its day-to-day management. It will also provide the necessary sanctions for making sure that the essential improvements recommended in the Reid Report are carried through.

Mr. J. Griffiths: Are we to gather that the right hon. and gallant Gentleman is now putting before us the Government's policy? Will he explain how this differs from the coalowners' policy put forward by Mr. Foot?

Major Lloyd George: I am rather surprised at the hon. Gentleman asking what is the difference. If he studies what I have said, he will see that there is a great difference. In the first place, there is a central authority.

Mr. J. Griffiths: Mr. Foot proposed that in his supplementary report.

Major Lloyd George: This authority will also have power. I have said that amalgamations will be voluntary if possible, but otherwise there will be compulsion.

Mr. J. Griffiths: Mr. Foot said that.

Major Lloyd George: I am sorry to disagree with the hon. Gentleman.

Mr. Griffiths: It is the coalowners' policy.

Mr. Austin Hopkinson (Mossley): Is provision to be made for any appeal against the decisions of this central authority?

Major Lloyd George: I would not like to go into great detail at the moment. This is the first day of the new Government, and I have outlined the Government's policy to implement the findings of the Reid Report. I understand the Report finds great favour in the eyes of practically every hon. Member in all quarters of the House. Surely, that is not a thing to quarrel about. With regard to the very important detail to which the hon. Member referred, that matter will have to be gone into, but naturally one wants to avoid any appeals which might mean long delays. There is no doubt at all that the Government, in the statement I have just made, propose in fact to implement the main recommendations of the Reid Report.

House of Commons: May 30, 1945.

SYRIA AND LEBANON (SITUATION)

Major McCallum (Argyll): ... Even when Syria and the Levant were part of the Turkish Empire, French culture was the culture which was developed throughout those countries. After the last war when Syria and Lebanon were placed under the mandate of France as a result of the Peace Conference, the desire of the peoples of those countries for French culture continued. There was no question of them not wishing to retain their connection with France.

(Continued on page 6)

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Saturday, June 16, 1945.

Bureaucrats Make Scarcity

Probably few people require to be told that bureaucrats and scarcity are inseparable, but evidence is accruing from all parts of the Empire that the bureaucratic conspiracy is determined to maintain scarcity and consequent rationing as an integral part of the Brave New World. Control of food is control of life.

A Press report published in the *Edmonton (Alta) Bulletin* states:

"Canada's one experience with meat rationing was not very encouraging. In fact, official figures show that the average civilian consumption was slightly greater under rationing than in the period when rationing was suspended. The difficulty... is the small individual butcher..."

"Nevertheless, from the international standpoint (our emphasis) rationing of meat appears inevitable as soon as adequate machinery can be established to guard effectively against black marketing (our emphasis). This will probably require several months of further study to elaborate and set up the organisation."

Quite obviously, if meat can be sold in the black market, meat is available. The important point is that you must not have it except by permission of the bureaucrat.

Forty per cent. of last year's citrus (oranges, grapefruit, lemons) crop was wasted, while decayed and two year-old fruit was being "distributed" by the food control. The *Sydney New Era* remarks "An examination of the facts of food production in Australia reveals that the bunglings of the bureaucrats and the blighting ineptitude of the Federal Government have had far more effect in reducing the production of foodstuffs than the ravages of drought and the shortage of farm labour put together."

The real introducer of Socialism into this country was David Lloyd George, the Zionist solicitor, with his Land Taxes and Death Duties. Is there anyone alive outside the ranks of Trades Union Officials and their like who would not gladly, if they were able and had experience of the late nineteenth century with its admitted defects, deriving from the money system he adored, and the present Brave New World, choose the former?

Clerical Dabblers in Politics

Our esteemed contemporary, *The Patriot*, in commenting on the support of 16 vicars and officials of the

Church of England given to a Communist Parliamentary candidate in 1940 (who, whether *post hoc* or *propter hoc*, was defeated by 14,343 votes to 966) remarks "The clergy who dabble in politics in this way are doing an immense harm to the Christian way of life."

The operative word is "dabble." If religion means anything, it means a clean cut opinion on direction, and politics is the technique of direction.

Now it cannot be too frequently and emphatically emphasised that you may be perfectly right in your decision as to where you want to go, but you may be (and Church of England clergy appear to specialise in being) abysmally ignorant of the technique of getting there. In our opinion no clergyman of any denomination ought to be allowed to speak on matters of politics until he had satisfied the examiners that he understands the works of Gustave le Bon, and in particular *Psychologie des Peuples*; and, having read Machiavelli and *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, could give a reasoned commentary on the proposition that public and private morals, or as we should say more accurately, the directives of collectivism and the standards of the individual, are neither similar nor congruous. A clergyman so equipped would not fall into the elementary error of supposing that a collectivist directive could possibly be Christian since he would have learnt from le Bon that a group soul is invariably barbarian. He would then be able to understand that the so-called Old Testament relates to collectivist psychology, and directives, and the New Testament to the politics of the individual.

It is only necessary to compare the authentic ring of competence in the recent condemnation of the growing power of the State by the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, (and anyone can recognise the source of its directives) with the doubtless well-meant infantilisms addressed to a Co-operative Conference by an Anglican bishop, to recognise that *The Patriot's* choice of words is admirable.

There is the closest connection between this subject and the rapturous folly of the amateur moralist in connection with the money system. He generally leads off with an attack on usury, lumping profit, interest, and dividends all together in an indiscriminate condemnation. His trump card is that money does not breed—it is a dead thing. To which remark the banker and industrialist give enthusiastic assent, the banker reduces or abolishes interest on deposits and charges you for keeping your account, and the industrialist, with the competent assistance of the chartered accountant (to whom both he and the Inland Revenue are beginning to look as the heaven-sent eliminator of the shareholder) reduces his dividends and ploughs into concealed reserves money profits he would have had to distribute as purchasing power if the Church had not assisted the London School of Economics in providing an *alibi*.

Not one in a thousand of the dabblers to whom *The Patriot* refers appears to grasp the pure accountancy nature of money; that while "money does not breed" production does, and money ought to be a reflection of production. In consequence, they attack the very soundest component of "capitalism," the dividend, and justify by their enthusiastic nonsense the installation of the Banker-State in an impregnable situation.

The Comic Strip

By B. M. PALMER

The Economist of March 17 published an article on the "Comics" from a correspondent in New York, valuable so far as it went. There is a point up to which the truth is acceptable, and those writers who cannot see beyond that point—they are frequently artists whose 'principles' may be sound but who have little experience of reality—may speak their minds within this frame of reference.

"Comics" is the generic name for the coloured picture serial story. They appeared first on the children's page of Sunday newspapers. From there they passed to the daily press, a strip of four to six units strung across the top of a page. Their "latest incarnation is in the form of books—cheaply printed and brilliant in raw colour—which sell literally by the million. Most of the comics are not very funny. Some of them were funny in the beginning, a few depend, like a fire-cracker, on a long fuse and a snapper ending. . .

"The comics supply wonder, fantasy, thrills and chills to to-day's rushing slaves of the time-clock, as did the folk tales of the Old Testament and the miracles of the New to an older agricultural generation."

This article should be read, if possible. There are doubtless many pitfalls in the way of the foreigner who tries to "read" the picture books, but the writer points out that these conclusions are plain to all:—that mechanical science is God in the popular American mind, Deus is always *ex machina*—anything can happen, and rescue from the most hair-raising situations is sure to come if you are virtuous and wait long enough. And there is no evidence of any class-feeling between rich and poor, privileged and under-privileged. The world is divided between the good and the bad, with no subtle graduations of colour. It is a contest between out-and-out villains and brave, virtuous heroes, in which chance and coincidence, the permitted unknowns, will save the good provided that they invoke the correct scientific antidote.

There is, of course, just enough in the above point of view to strengthen the popular appeal of the comics. The "ordeal by fire" is rightly discredited in the popular mind, and if "good" is to win, it has simply got to learn how to use its weapons and tools more cleverly than wrong does. In the present state of the world, "a manufacturer of rolled steel rails, who laid out his factory on the assumption that it would be possible to hire enough saints to handle his white-hot product without apparatus other than saintliness, would undoubtedly experience labour-trouble." (*Social Credit*.)

There are no mass movements in the comics—everything rests on the reader's ability to identify himself with the hero, but where the writer goes astray, I think, is in his assumption that, as substitutes for the daily Bible story these comics carry no religious implications, while adding in the same breath that they embody traditional behaviour which *binds together* [sic] a whole population, however different its racial background.

What is religion but a binding back of policy to philosophy? To my mind, the writer has convincingly demonstrated that the comic is the religion of many of the present-day American public, though its hero may be only "the everyday human being chained to a machine civilisation,

and solving his problems only by material means, his only conceivable heaven the possession of an unlimited supply of those means, his hell the existence of a superior supply of those means in the hands of human devils."

All this is depressing enough; but beyond this depressing materialism is the disquieting fact that most of the comics are not very funny now; for a sense of humour is a sense of proportion, and there is always a good deal of hope for a people in which it is strong. The material development of the United States has been so amazingly rapid that it was only on the frontiers in prospecting and railway development that there was any possibility of producing a folk-poetry comparable in any sense to the light poetry in which mediæval English is so rich. Those conditions have gone for ever. There is little enough left us with the racy humour of the anonymous ballad of *Casey Jones*:—

Put in your water, and shovel in your coal,
Put your head out the window, watch the drivers roll,
I'll run her till she leaves the rail,
Cause we're eight hours late with the Western Mail!"

Casey said, just before he died,
'There's two more roads I'd like to ride.'

Fire boy said, 'What can they be?'

'The Rio Grande and the Old S.P.'

It is becoming increasingly plain that the ethical and humorous tradition which is still strong in England, and on the preservation of which the future of civilisation depends, dates not from Puritan times, or from 1689, that date so beloved by Whig historians, but from at least the mediæval period if not earlier, so far as any date can be given to any trait which is so much bone of our bone. And the ethic which we have inherited, the true occidental ethic, is as far removed from the oriental as light from darkness. There is no need to lament the decay of the influence of those oriental morality-tales, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Joseph and Potiphar's wife, Jacob and Esau. No doubt a good deal of this sort of "morality" has been taught in American homes, but just as Cromwell's Soldier's Bible (in which only *two* passages from the New Testament appear) is by no means the foundation of this country's greatness, rather the reverse, so it is beyond a shadow of doubt that the real American ethic and tradition lie in those elements of the population which draw their inspiration from pre-puritan days, and can be traced back to the earliest settlers, beyond the Elizabethans, to the memories of Chaucer's England.

And at the present period of time, as Douglas has pointed out in *This American Business*, "a rapprochement between the pre-Civil War spirit of both England and America, which, if care is taken to avoid too narrow an application of the word, is Catholic, is the most urgent need."

The Baruch Plan

According to *The Economist*, Mr. Truman is studying "probably the first reparations plan that bluntly and unashamedly suggests that policy should be governed by the elimination" of the "subsidised, sweated competition of 170 to 200 million Germans and Japanese." Bernard Baruch is the author of the plan, and *The Economist's* American Notes writer, who describes it as 'immoral,' hints that Baruch came to England last April to discuss it with Mr. Churchill.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

Sir E. Spears (Carlisle): My hon. and gallant Friend is perhaps doing the United States an injustice. The university in Beirut has perhaps played a greater part in the educational life and public enlightenment in the Levant than any other institution, and when my hon. and gallant Friend says the country was in favour of the French mandate, he is mistaken because the Levant wanted the United States mandate to be No. 1, ourselves No. 2, and the French were absolutely nowhere.

Major McCallum: It is not quite as simple as that. French culture and influence go back long before there was any American university in Beirut. I know the university very well, and I have had the greatest admiration for the work done by it but let me ask my hon. and gallant Friend one question. Where did the professional classes, the engineers and the lawyers of Syria and the Lebanon go for their education? Not to the American university in Bierut. They went to Paris. French culture is engrained in those people. The tragic events which have happened since the last war are part and parcel of the settlement—unsettlement it was—arrived at after the last war.

Mr. Stokes (Ipswich): Is the hon. and gallant Member suggesting that because these people have had the advantage of a certain French educational background, they have surrendered their sovereignty? Does he mean to suggest that the mandate given to France after the last war is abrogated by the fact that French influence was there before the mandate was granted?

Major McCallum: I mean to say that when we are judging the terrible events which we are discussing to-night, we have to do what my hon. Friend suggested earlier on, look at the background of all this. Let me take my hon. Friend back a little, to the period between the wars. I can remember the time when General Gouraud and General Weygand were High Commissioners in Syria and an attempt was made to murder General Gouraud. The assassins murdered the people in his car and they escaped over the Transjordan frontier, into country which is still under British mandate. The French authorities, through Paris and London, asked us for the extradition of those assassins so as to bring them to trial. What did we reply? We replied through our High Commissioner in Jerusalem that the assassins were political offenders, and not offenders against the criminal law. That stuck in the French mind and has stuck there ever since...

House of Commons: May 31, 1945.

CONTROL OF ENGAGEMENT ORDER

Mr. Rostron Duckworth asked the Minister of Labour whether, under the new Control of Engagement Order, men and women will be subject to direction to any part of the country and for any form of industrial activity.

Mr. Butler: The new Control of Engagement Order requires in general that engagements be made through the Ministry of Labour and National Service and does not in itself relate to the power of direction under Regulation 58A. Whilst the power of direction is being retained, the new Order enables its use to be dispensed with as far as possible and its use will be limited to directing persons to essential work of the highest urgency. Directions to

work away from home will be used only where there is no alternative.

Mr. Austin Hopkinson: Has the right hon. Gentleman any hope that with a change of Government, an end will be put to this business, which reduces the workers to a state of serfdom?

POUND STERLING (DOMESTIC PURCHASING POWER)

Mr. Craven-Ellis asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the price level for 1938 and 1944 taking 1913 at 100; and what was the real value of the £ for the same two years taking 1913 at 20s.

Sir J. Anderson: I would refer my hon. Friend to the answer which I gave on December 12, 1944, to my hon. Friend the Member for Chislehurst (Sir W. Smithers). As I then stated, comparisons with 1913 are not available. On the basis of the Official Cost of Living Index for 1914 and 1938, and of the price changes between 1938 and 1944, which were used in compiling the latest issue of the National Income White Paper (Cmd. 6623), the price level, taking 1914 as 100, was 156 in 1938 and 239 in 1944. On that basis the domestic purchasing power of the £, taking 1914 as 20s., was 12s. 10d. in 1938 and 8s. 4d. in 1944.

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. Derrville asked the Minister of Labour if he is aware that the workers in Newcastle-upon-Tyne refuse to work with Germans; and, as there are sufficient unemployed to cover the situation, if he will give instructions that no German prisoners of the late war will be drafted into that city.

Mr. Butler: According to my information no German prisoners of war are at present employed in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There will be no deviation from the principle that prisoners of war are employed on work of urgent national importance only when British labour is not available.

ALIENS (REGULATION 12 (5A))

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the annulment of Regulation 12 (5A), the purpose of which is no longer material now that the war in Europe is over.

Sir D. Somervell: There is no intention of retaining this Regulation longer than is necessary, but the time has not yet arrived for its revocation, since there are certain aliens detained thereunder whom it is still impracticable to deport and whom it would be unjustifiable to leave at large in this country.

The "Land for the (Chosen) People" Racket

By C. H. DOUGLAS

Price 2s. (Postage extra).

K.R.P. Publications Ltd., 7, Victoria Street, Liverpool, 2.

Two Years in Moscow

(From Our Correspondent.)

Canberra, May 18.

The plotters keep things as they want them by minor changes in strategy. Whether Russia represents a real military threat or not I cannot decide. She certainly represents a general factor of uncertainty. The lads here feel that there will be trouble before long, and don't seem distressed by the thought. I recently met a man who has not long returned from two years in Moscow. I had a long talk with him. He left me with no doubt that Russia is genuinely a police-State, and that the effect is very oppressive. But even more interesting was what he had to say about the status of women. Their 'equality' is such that railway-lines are laid by women, seventy of them being able to lift and place the rails. Certain work, such as street-sweeping, is looked on as woman's work. A man driving a truck will have a woman with him to load and unload it, and while she does this, will lie and smoke in the sun. On the other hand, although theoretically women have equal rights with men everywhere, the diplomatic service seems to have no women. But there are plenty of women doctors. The standard of surgery is high enough in places; but hospital attention is very bad, so that it is unwise to have major work done there if it is possible to get out. Penicillin is being claimed as a Russian discovery. "now being made by the Allies too." Joseph Davies's book is a complete misrepresentation. My friend says he thinks this is due to the astuteness of Molotov, who saw possibilities in the situation, and fêted Davies. My informant does not think Russia is interested in going into Europe, but that she will insist on dominating the border States.

It has clearly been decided that the Labour Government is to go; consequently the situation is dominated by the usual political sharp-shooting. Lacking finesse and urbanity, many of the Ministers are trapped into crudities quite easily. The Cabinet is stated by the Press to have changed its policy from one of 'maximum' employment to one of 'full' employment, and is said to be about to issue a White Paper on the subject. There is much criticism of the continuance of high taxation. The Press is attacking it—while admitting that it must remain at 'high' levels for many years. Chifley's justification is the cost of social services, which will be considerably more than the amount of the whole pre-war budget. The Labour Party stands for 'non-contributory' benefits; the Press for a contributory system.

The Commercial Broadcasting Services, which since the entry of Japan have been taking the A.B.C. news-service, have decided to revert to their own services. The Minister for Information, however, has decided that the trunk-lines are too busy for this, and can only be leased if the C.B.S. wish to use the National News Service.

A supplement to the *Sunday Telegraph* some weeks ago revealed that Curtin is suffering from heart disease. Recently he has been in hospital, the bulletins saying that he has congestion of the lungs. Chifley, Forde, and Evatt are angling for succession. Forde is at present deputy; but as he and Evatt are in America, Chifley is having his fling. The Press says he is revealing great capacity.

There is, apparently, a great deal of muddle in general: no policy for transition, no beginning, no clear-cut use of

the Services. Tobacco is very short, beer expected to fail. Strikes are chronic. A curious strike, however, is one by the Balmain Iron Workers, who have struck as a protest against the arbitrary actions of the Executive, which, according to a special article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, is Communist controlled.

Political Research Ltd. has been formed within the last week or so to thoroughly investigate Communist activity in Australia. Members and information are appealed for. Cassidy, K.C., seems to be the leading light.

Government Policy

"Where we venture for our part to criticise the Prime Minister is in the inconsiderate abruptness of his change of tone. His chief supporter and adviser, Lord Beaverbrook, hailed the speech as a repudiation of the false and servile philosophy which would teach men to look to the State to watch over them, in return for obedience, from the cradle to the grave. Yet that was the very phrase which the Prime Minister himself was using a little while ago, acclaiming the Government's extensions of social insurance. Our criticism of the Churchill Government's policy on the home front is basically the same criticism that we have had to make about its policy to Russia and its policy to Yugoslavia: that for immediate convenience things were said and done which could only cause the gravest embarrassments a little later on; which has happened. It is the nemesis of the policy of saying anything at the time. Lord Beaverbrook treats the public mind like a slate on which anything can be written one day and dusted off the next. We could wish the Prime Minister had other intimate counsellors.

"...it is perhaps the most probable of all results that this will be the beginning of a series of elections, for the Conservatives will only have to lose fewer than a hundred seats for a most unstable position to be created. How the election goes will depend very much on what people think they are voting about..." — *The Tablet*, June 9.

[We repeat *The Tablet's* criticisms, fully sympathising with the note of apprehension which they convey, and only commenting to the extent of saying that they leave the issue before political democracy still on that plane of historical interpretation which regards 'convenience' as a highly personal idiosyncrasy and short-lived, a view we not only do not share but deem profoundly dangerous. — Editor, *The Social Crediter*.]

"These two charges [that Socialist policy would require a Gestapo and that it would endanger the people's savings] are, of course, complete nonsense. They are pernicious nonsense, and if their author were anyone less respected than the Prime Minister still stronger language would be appropriate." — *The Economist*.

"Ariadne Florentina"

"A manufacturer wrote to me the other day, 'We don't want to make smoke!' Who said they did?—a hired murderer does not want to commit murder, but does it for sufficient motive. (Even our shipowners don't want to drown sailors; they will only do it for sufficient motive.) If the dirty creatures *did* want to make smoke, there would be more excuse for them: and that they are not clever enough to consume it, is no praise to them. A man who can't help his hiccough leaves the room: why do they not leave the England they pollute?"

— John Ruskin, (footnote to *Ariadne Florentina*.)

Question for M.P.s

The Editor, *The Social Crediter*,

Sir,

I have been repeatedly surprised at the curious failure of M.P.s to follow through their questions which result in "the Minister" disclosing information to a partial extent.

For example, Mr. Higgs's question and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's disclosure about staff reductions reported in *The Social Crediter* of May 25.

Eleven Ministers had staffs aggregating, at one time, 242,257 officials. They were reduced to 226,798. Mr. Higgs did not apparently ask what has been done with the 15,459 seemingly discarded persons. Have they merely been transferred to some other Government Departments, outside the eleven departments named in the answer?

I notice that Government offices with staffs of 2,000 or less are excluded from the Chancellor's review. How many of such offices are in existence? A private firm or public company with a staff of 2,000 would be regarded as having a large establishment. Why was information not asked for and obtained about such "small" Departmental Establishments? The number of officials in them may be large in the aggregate.

M.P.s appear to be easily satisfied by a Minister and one wonders why, and why they do not press home points which stick out a mile.

They remind one of Mr. Ernest Benn, who leads his field up to the fence but never over it.

Who in Parliament would ask for and obtain an answer to the following question? The Ministry of Fuel and Power will not answer me.

What is the weekly allowance of coal in the case of a Government office room with a coal-fire grate?

My belief is that *one* such room is allowed per week the same quantity of coal as is "allowed" to a whole dwelling house such as mine. If so, what a scandal it is.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. LAURENCE.

London: June 4,

'Public' Knowledge

First Woman at tram-stop: Yes, it's nice the war's over.

Second Woman at tram-stop: Have you lost anyone in the war?

First Woman: No. But I had only a nephew in this war. I remember the South African War. My husband was in the South African War. My baby was born while he was away, and I got twopence a day for him.

Second Woman: How dreadful!

First Woman: It wasn't so bad as it sounds. I got two bags of coal a week for twopence a day. You can't get two bags of coal a week now.

Gold

"... At one moment consignments of well over £150,000,000 of gold were on the high seas. In a single fortnight British liners, cruisers, and tramps took to the new world more gold than three generations of stately Spanish galleons once brought from the new world to the old....

"The Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth went to sea

with amounts of gold which would have made the world's insurance markets tremble in peace-time; small tramps... sailed unescorted from Durban to San Francisco with shipments appropriate to a trans-atlantic liner... Out of shipments of more than £1,000,000,000... losses were only some £500,000..." — *The Times*, June 11.

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The Issue: Electoral Canvass for an Anti-Bureaucratic Representation.....	1d. each; 3/6 a hundred.
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