

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 16. No. 17.

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper
Postage (home and abroad) 1d.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1946.

6d. Weekly.

From Week to Week

In case the fact may recede from the memory of our readers in the welter of detail, we recall that the primary object of this war was and is the destruction of the Free Pound, and with it the British Empire and Great Britain as a world factor. Anyone who will take the trouble to review the events of the past six years and the constant reiteration of the "fact" that only two Great Powers exist, must inevitably arrive at one conclusion and one conclusion only—that the Gold interests, and predominantly the German-American Jews of Wall Street and the New Deal, have compassed the ruin of Europe, and always meant to compass it. The British Empire, while it was potent, was a fatal obstacle. Of course Germany was a stooge—the German is a stupid, humorless ass, or worse, who makes the perfect stooge. But the genesis of the war was in the United States. Does anyone seriously believe that it is an accident that not one bomb has dropped on United States soil, that the standard of living is forty *per cent.* higher than in 1939, while the rest of the world is pinned down to an artificial famine, and that Baruch, Solly Bloom, Benjamin Cohen and the rest of the gang are issuing orders in a manner that no Mogul Emperor or Napoleon would have assumed?

The amazing success of the policy is due to the existence in this country of a dual Fifth Column largely, but not entirely, unconscious of the uses to which it has been put. The two components of it may not inaccurately be described as the cosmopolitanists and the internationalists. The former (roughly, the "Chatham House gang") are superior persons to whom patriotism is just a trick to delude the masses, and the latter can be described as political free-traders closely in touch with International Finance.

According to a Canadian Consulting Engineer, Mr. Huet Massue, The Tennessee Valley Authority spent more than eight times as much on its hydro-electric development as a private undertaking would have done, and the average cost per kilowatt installed over the whole project was more than double commercial costs. This is the undertaking which is being systematically "plugged" as a model for the totally dissimilar Scottish Hydro-electric Board. Naturally, contractors and manufacturers of hydro-electric plant are full of enthusiasm for State enterprise.

Mr. Emanuel (God with us) Shinwell, Minister of Fuel and Power, wishes to put 1,000 "Poles" to work in the Scottish mines. Considering the kind and amount of work done by Mr. Shinwell in the mines, and where it has got him, we should think his "Polish" co-racialists would jump at the vista thus opened.

The Scottish miners, however, are beginning to think a little.

One of the curious features of these curious times is the constant repetition of statements such as "all men are born equal", by which it is intended to convey the idea that race and heredity are mere superstitions—or "Fascism." This phantasy does not, of course, apply to animals—the buyer of the pedigree bull in Scotland, recently, for about £14,000, would not have agreed to take delivery of the same weight in beef-on-the-hoof from any of half a dozen dairy herds within a few miles of Perth, where the aristocrat was sold.

The only argument ever adduced in regard to human beings in this relation, which bears a superficial veneer of plausibility, is that marriage is purely haphazard, whereas cattle breeding is not. The premise, of course, is that all the subtle forces which, more particularly up to the nineteenth century, influenced human selection, are recognised and understood. Only a generation bemused with Darwin-on-a-postcard, neatly mixed with London School of Economics materialism, would have the assurance to believe that.

"How much famine is 'Policy made'?"—*Saturday Evening Post*, May 25.

You tell us, Ikey.

"Social Security" in U.S.A.

The following notes, which illustrate some aspects of the outlook of those medical men in the U.S.A., who favour the establishment of a State medical service in that country will come as no surprise to readers of *The Social Crediter*.

They afford further evidence, however, if it be needed, that the campaign for the suppression of the right of the individual to decide for himself the nature and objective of his personal relationships and the establishment in its place of the right of the State alone to determine the scope and duration of such relationships is by no means confined to the old world, and that the people of the U.S.A., favoured though their position at the moment appears to be, are likely to end up in a State undistinguishable from that of our own.

In the issue of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association published on April 20 last, there appears an article by Dr. Roy Lyman Wilbur, of Stanford University, Chairman of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, American Medical Association. This Council concerns itself with the grading or classification of the medical schools of the United States, and also prepares and maintains "a personal record of all premedical and medical students and physicians. By maintaining a record from his premedical days to the death of the physician and by the publication of

the Directory of the American Medical Association covering the profession and the achievements and interests of its members, a great service has been rendered. That record has become invaluable in the interests of medical men and the movements of patients from one part of the country to another, as well as essential to military and public health services. Innumerable relationships with the medical services have been created. All of them have been accomplished without national legislation."

In short the card-index machinery of bureaucracy has been set up without the public becoming aware of it.

Dr. Wilbur holds strong views on the evils of increasing leisure. "Our high-speed civilization is full of perils and penalties. One of our present peculiarities is to try to increase materially the unoccupied or idle time of our fellow citizens. This has always struck me as an unwise procedure. It is just as unwise to have too much time to waste as it is to have too many hours of work . . . Uninhibited human beings in the presence of the emotional stimulation of such things as the theatre, motion pictures and the races and with free access to alcohol and habit-forming drugs will provide many unhappy patients for the psychiatrist, who will need to guide them to an adequate social adjustment."

The medical student, of course, is one of those people who suffer from too much leisure—"As hospitals and clinics operate throughout the year there is no good reason why much of the clinical teaching cannot be given during the so-called summer vacation period. By the establishment of a four-quarter system, making full use of the summer quarter, it would be possible to cover practically the present four year medical curriculum in the course of the three calendar years."

The reason for this is perhaps apparent in the following paragraph—"The costs of medical education are heavy. It will be increasingly necessary for scholarships to be developed so that promising men or women students will not have to interrupt their medical training by outside work in the summer or other times in order to secure funds."

The State must be able to determine which students shall be permitted to enter the medical schools. Why? Dr. Wilbur tells us—"The embryo doctor entering the field of medicine needs a brain and body of good durable quality. He must also have a strong sense of duty . . . He must have a good social sense, reliable moral character and high ideals of service, *and he must believe in the human family as the unit of civilisation.*"

In other words he must hold the correct political opinions, those approved by the international planners.

The quality of the medical service rendered to the public cannot, of course, be too high— ". . . the practice of modern medicine becomes increasingly expensive. For instance, to adopt just what has been done recently for our soldiers and sailors as a regular procedure for the whole of our civilian population in the way of preventive medicine, or in the way of care when either disease or wounds are present, would bring the costs of medical care in the United States to fantastic amounts."

The ultimate degradation of the individual, the institutional life in place of the family life is the final goal—"Housing as it is developing in our larger centres is making the care of children and of the aged and infirm more and more

difficult within the shelter of the family. For their care we shall need additional institutions with trained administrators and staffs."

This is of a piece with the statement of a prominent biologist in the country which was reported some months ago in the London press—that he looked forward to the time when a woman would be able to make her own choice of a man to live with, but that the father of her children must be determined for her by the State, which had such a close concern with the quality of the progeny.

In the same issue of the journal there is a verbatim report of the hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Education and Labour of the advocates of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill—S. 1606—To provide for a National Health Programme. The following brief extracts may be of some interest. Mr. Arthur J. Altmeyer, Chairman of the Social Security Board is being questioned.

"*Senator Donnell*: Are there any medical or surgical journals that you know of that have expressed themselves favourably to compulsory health insurance in this country?

Mr. Altmeyer: Not that I know of.

Senator D.: Have a number of them expressed themselves in opposition to it?

Mr. A.: I think they have. There may be some that say a hard word.

Senator D.: Do you mind telling us, Mr. Altmeyer, who is the actual author of S. 1606. I mean to say who actually prepared it, if you know?

Mr. A.: I think it's a product of many minds that were put to work at the request of the authors of the bill.

Senator D.: Was Mr. Isadore Falk one of the gentlemen who participated in it?

Mr. A.: Yes, sir, he is director of our bureau of research and statistics.

Senator D.: Did he do the bulk of the work in the preparation of S. 1606?

Mr. A.: I would not say he did the bulk of the work; he did a major or considerable part of it in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Services . . .

Senator D.: In reference to Mr. Falk, he is not a physician is he?

Mr. A.: No, sir, he is a biologist and economist.

Senator D.: I think he holds a doctor's degree, doctor of philosophy, but he is not a physician.

Mr. A.: No, sir.

Senator D.: Or surgeon?

Mr. A.: That is right, and neither am I.

Bread Rationing?

It will not have escaped the attention of readers of this paper that the Bromley Housewives' League is an association which shows every indication of being right in its policy and methods. We understand that it will immediately direct its efforts to the prevention of the humiliation of Bread Rationing. Social Crediters who are willing to assist in attaining this *ad hoc* objective are invited to communicate with the Chairman at 35, Birchwood Avenue, Sidcup, Kent.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, June 18, 1946.

National Finance

Pound Sterling (Purchasing Power)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if, taking the purchasing power of the £ in 1900 as 100, he will state the corresponding figure in 1914 and at the latest available date, respectively; the figure calculated for the whole field of personal expenditure; and separate figures which will include the £335,000,000 cost-of-living subsidy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Dalton): The figure for 1st May last is 45 on the cost of living basis. For the rest, I would refer the hon. Member to my replies to him on the 3rd April and to the hon. and gallant Member for Paddington, South (Vice-Admiral Taylor) on the 30th May.

Sir W. Smithers: Is it the policy of the Government to take over all the real wealth of the country—

Mr. Kirkwood: Certainly.

Sir W. Smithers: And give in exchange pieces of paper, and then allow inflation to run riot and to wipe out—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is making a statement; not asking a question.

Petrol Imports

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore asked the Minister of Fuel and Power how many tankers loaded with petrol for Great Britain were in harbour or on the high seas during the month of May.

Mr. Shinwell: There were 28 tankers loaded with full cargoes of petrol for Great Britain, and 14 tankers with part cargoes, in harbour or on the high seas during the month of May.

Sir T. Moore: As it is estimated that one tanker holds enough petrol to run a 12-horse-power car for 80,000,000 miles, and in view of what the right hon. Gentleman has told us, is it not time that he revised his decision to increase the present miserable ration of petrol?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. and gallant Member is not asking for information, is he?

Sir T. Moore: No, Sir, I was justifying my appeal to the Minister to increase the present miserable ration of petrol by giving him the reasons.

Mr. Shinwell: The hon. and gallant Member's arithmetic may be unimpeachable, but, like "the flowers that bloom in the spring," it has "nothing to do with the case."

Sir T. Moore asked the Minister of Fuel and Power how many tons of petrol were imported into Great Britain during the first three months of 1945 and 1946, respectively; and how many tons of these quantities came from the dollar and sterling areas, respectively.

Mr. Shinwell: The tonnage of motor spirit imported into the United Kingdom during the first three months of 1946, according to the Trade and Navigation Accounts, was

1,489,000 tons. The corresponding figure for the first three months of 1945 was 1,493,000 tons. During the first three months of 1946 approximately 40 per cent. of these supplies were purchased with dollar exchange. A comparison with the first three months of 1945 would be misleading, owing to the existence of Lend-Lease and other wartime shipping arrangements.

Sir T. Moore: In view of that very full reply, how can the Minister justify the statement made by his late Parliamentary Secretary in this House only a short time ago to the effect that dollars were the chief reason why we should not have an increased petrol ration, and he himself has now stated that 60 per cent. of our petrol comes from a non-dollar area?

Mr. Shinwell: But obviously it would occur to the hon. and gallant Member that there must be other reasons.

Sir T. Moore: But, Mr. Speaker, the late Parliamentary Secretary gave this one reason.

Mr. Shinwell: As the hon. and gallant Member has pointed out, that was given as one of the reasons.

Sir T. Moore: No, as the one reason.

Mr. Shinwell: As one of the reasons. I give it as one of the reasons; it is not the only reason.

Food Production

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Thomas Williams): . . . to conserve wheat for human beings, in common with all other countries, we have had to adopt special measures. I need only mention one—the raising of the rate of extraction from 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. This has lost us 600,000 tons of offal a year, and every reduction in the consumption of bread, biscuits and flour means a further loss of offal. We have now reached a stage, which the right hon. Gentleman refuses to acknowledge, that whereas in the years preceding the war, we received 1,600,000 tons of miller's offal, at this moment, with a 90 per cent. rate of extraction for our flour, we are receiving only 484,000 tons. What the right hon. Gentleman thinks I ought to do in order to snatch back that million tons of offal, I have no means of telling. He did not even offer a suggestion this afternoon. The second major factor is the diversion to human beings of all coarse grains entering into international trade. It does not seem to matter whether one sends some one to South America or Timbuctoo—you may be able to buy, but you cannot ship because of the Combined Food Board allocations. It is all right for the right hon. Gentleman to shake his head, but he knows that is the case.

Mr. R. S. Hudson (Southport): It is an open market.

Mr. Williams: Let the right hon. Gentleman proceed to South America if he will. If he can both buy and ship large doses of maize, barley, or anything else, outside the allocations of the Combined Food Board, we shall be very happy to receive them. The right hon. Gentleman knows that that is a physical impossibility. Since he has referred to someone from Russia having been sent to South America to buy maize and barley, and something else, can he tell us of any shipments? Is he aware of any shipments that have

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This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *Home and abroad, post free:*
One year 30/-; Six months 15/-; Three months 7s. 6d.

Offices: (Business) 7, VICTORIA STREET, LIVERPOOL, 2, Telephone: Central 8509; (Editorial) 49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15, Telephone: Sefton Park 435.

Vol. 16. No. 17.

Saturday, June 29, 1946.

Levels

The Social Credit paper with the largest circulation is written in French, but the fact that it is not possible in this country to produce a newspaper even remotely resembling *Vers Demain* does not depend on lack of journalistic ability among those who might wish to do so. Too many of us forget that the art of writing presupposes an art of reading. *Vers Demain* depends as much on its readers as on its writers. To produce such a paper there would need to be a group of writers genuinely rooted in our culture sufficiently to create a literary efflorescence on the most exacting level of all—the popular level; and a group of readers with a heritage in common with theirs.

The circulation of any popular newspaper taken at random is governed by the greatest common factor of the culture of its readers. Just as it is impossible for the general conversation in any gathering to rise above this factor without grave discourtesy being shown to some of those present, so a popular newspaper falling into such an indiscretion quickly drops in circulation.

In contemplating an English *Vers Demain* it would first be necessary to establish an estimate of the level of the culture to which it is intended to appeal. We are at once faced with the fact that the cultural state of the population in this country is so largely perverted, indeed so *increasingly* perverted, that it is not possible to write a Social Credit article that can have more than a very limited appeal. Even the simplest melodies mean nothing to those who are tone-deaf. Who would urge that this is the fault of the musician?

The people who read *Vers Demain* have a properly formulated philosophy in the form of a simple faith in Roman Catholicism. As a result, they take certain things for granted, and the expression of their faith gives them a profound belief in the sacredness of private property, the overwhelming importance of chastity in personal life, the value of the family unit in society, and the Trinitarian aspect of all being. Most of them would agree that the limitation of the family, in the usual sense of the word, is a sin. These beliefs at once give a wonderful starting point for anyone who wishes to write for them. Whereas in this country it could not possibly be asserted that the general body of readers of any of the popular papers comes anywhere near to such beliefs. Yet before any Social Crediter could write an article for the general population of these islands he would have to find some starting point. Where is it to be found?

There seems to me to be very little *conscious* belief held which is compatible with Social Credit. Everyone believes that rather than allow invaders to overrun this country, we

must "fight on the beaches, in the meadows and in the streets." They believe in the importance of Parliament, and that there is some sort of a God, and that "decent" behaviour is desirable, but what else do they believe? Compared with the happy people of Quebec, they are a nation of agnostics, and even those who are supposed to have a religion are in the main not very sure of themselves. They are, in fact, deafened and blinded, and not even the Archangel Gabriel himself could write anything for them to read.

This disposes of the argument that if only you get down low enough you can write a popular paper on Social Credit. It is an entire misconception that, because the members of the community are not equally endowed with either intellect or good taste, therefore unintelligent action in bad taste can somehow make good the deficiency. Social Credit cannot exist below a certain level.

What then is to be done? I think "the people" in this country cannot be directly approached until there are enough individuals of a certain competency and deeply convinced of the truth of Social Credit to live their lives with absolute integrity and so set an example to everyone they meet. They would, in fact, set the fashion, for "the people" are more influenced by example than by everything else. They have not the power, nor is it in the course of nature that they should have, to delve down into the depths of philosophy and find their own creed. This was the mistake made by the Puritans, that each of us had to start from scratch, and there must be no creed learned by heart. Exactly the reverse is the case. There must be a creed safeguarded by a hierarchy, and handed down from generation to generation. In other words, we *must find* (not make) some effective religion.

We do not know yet what form it will take, but that it must enshrine "enough" of the broad principles of Social Credit to be in harmony with traditional Christianity seems certain. Hilaire Belloc says that the religion of the English is patriotism. To that might be added that English patriotism was always a gauntlet flung in defence of sovereignty. Can it be so again?

Until that day comes there must be a number of little papers, each appealing to relatively small groups: one might add, the more of them the better, provided only that they are written for their own readers, avoiding the mistake of preaching to the unconverted. Missionary zeal will always defeat its own ends.

B. M. PALMER.

"Pleasant Ways . . ."

Writing of great vintages in the *Sunday Times* recently, Mr. Charles Morgan said that if a miracle were to allow him to choose between a personal hoard of these rare treasures and a knowledge that there was abundance of sound, even of ordinary wine, he would choose the simple abundance. "Think what it would mean to be able to leave for France or Italy with no passport but a few sovereigns! Or to say to a wine merchant, 'No thank you; at the moment I have enough wine, but I may ask you for some next year.' To be able to take the great natural amenities for granted . . ."

If we had not departed so far from the Christian religion we should not think of wine without bread. For they are

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CORRUPTING POWER

A really intelligent biography inevitably opens up a whole epoch, and presents the reviewer with an acute problem as to which of so many aspects to emphasise. Dr. Mathew's book* is of that kind; intelligent to a degree, subtle and understanding; laying open a great part of 19th-century Europe in touching on the varied influences that pressed upon the developing mind of Sir John, afterwards Lord, Acton. Among these influences were the revolution of 1848; the writings of the great French sociologist, de Tocqueville, who was a friend of his mother's; his aristocratic German maternity (Lady Acton was a daughter of the Duke Dalberg, of a great Rhineland family); Gladstonian Liberalism and above all, perhaps, Edmund Burke, the great Irishman, who remained Acton's philosophical guide throughout his life. His own position as a member of the old landed Roman Catholic squirearchy of England must not be forgotten.

But for our purposes the most immediately significant thing about Acton is that he is renescent in this present age, or rather that he is in a way to achieve an almost popular reputation such as he certainly never did in his life-time, on account of his understanding of the danger latent in the growth of arbitrary power, and the opportunities and temptations to its employment inherent in the peculiar circumstances of 19th-century Europe, with its increasing productive centralization super-imposed on the political theories of Rousseau and the French Encyclopaedists.

That the English-speaking world possesses in Acton a first-class, possibly a unique historian is not generally known. Macaulay, Froude, Green, Motley, Gibbon (who, incidentally, was a cousin of the elder Acton generation) are accepted names. But how many outside the circles of historical specialists was familiar with the name of Acton until his statement regarding the corrupting tendency of arbitrary and political power began to be quoted in Social Credit writings? Now his name crops up repeatedly, and that particular quotation is more frequently to be met with at "higher literary levels" than any other single quotation today, and is always correctly attributed. It behoves us therefore to learn something about this 19th-century historian, who died at Tagernsee in Bavaria in 1902, having established a new approach to history, and the co-operative method of historical research exemplified in the Cambridge Modern History.

In Dr. Mathew's scholarly biography, which traps one's attention by the very illusiveness of its penetrating and delightful style, of one whom the author describes without qualification as "the most learned of all English historians," is to be found an enlightening account of his early years and the influences that bore upon them. These influences were extraordinarily wide—at the first glance they might appear almost incompatible—ranging from a cosmopolitan childhood in Naples and Paris, an English schooling at Roman Catholic Oscott under Dr., afterwards Cardinal Wiseman, followed by Munich and the whole field of German philosophical thought. Superimposed on all this was the influence of his mother's second marriage to the Earl of Granville, and the almost Olympian atmosphere of the higher circles of Whig aristocracy. Acton at one and the same time surveyed 19th-century Europe from a pinnacle and close at hand; from the angle of a pragmatist English grandee, and from that of a

philosophic German student of affairs. And then, at the correct moment, he came to settle down as an English Roman Catholic squire in his ancestral home at Aldenham Park in Shropshire. Later came the enlightening excursion into politics,—as a member for Carlisle!—when the influence of Cardinals Wiseman and Newman was largely and unexpectedly replaced by that of evangelical William Ewart Gladstone. This was an influence that was to remain active to the end of Acton's life and second only to that of his first and last philosophic master, Burke.

Being what he was, and in spite of his continental upbringing, it was impossible that Acton should be what is called a Democrat. It may, indeed, be this fact and his acutely conscious attitude in the matter, which is accountable for bringing him forward again in these "democratic" times. For Great Britain is not, and never was democratic in the sense of the French Revolution. What she will become under the influence of an alien motion picture industry and a press unduly biased from outside her national boundaries is a matter for speculation as well as apprehension. But the national temper of Anglo-Saxondom is Conservative, Preservative; and not in essence at all arbitrary. It is part rather of a tenacious continuity, which it would seem to be the present object of some rival and equally tenacious world force to interrupt and break up. She evolved the idea of Representative Government, which her experience proved to be not incompatible with oligarchy, even with two pseudo-rival oligarchies, such as used to lend a sporting flavour and the stimulus of "party" choice to the uninterrupted ascendancy of the landowner during the last two centuries. But it is now becoming plain that the promoters of the French Revolution appropriated the Representative idea—just as the Leninists and Hitlerites have done in our day as a gift straight from heaven to those who have studied Mass-Psychology and Behaviourism. "The Voice of the People is the Voice of God;" so turn the people into un-thinking robots, and give them amplified instructions as to what to say and choose, and it follows that the Voice of the People becomes what you will, and God is in your pocket.

But that side of the historian must be left for consideration later, if at all. To get at the Acton of immediate significance it would be wise, if we can, to take the famous dictum that "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," and attempt to trace his approach to it by "those undeviating steel tracks of his system along which his thought went forward so remorselessly," as Dr. Mathew puts it. Here follows a quotation from Acton's *Essay on Modern History*—"The inflexible authority of the moral code is to me the secret of the authority, dignity, and utility of history,"—which should help us. One supposes that by the term "moral code" Acton meant what Professor Hayek calls "the Rule of Law"; not so much a code or convention which society, through habit or fashion, has made operative, as the impersonal operation of the law of Cause and Effect. Acton's somewhat sweeping denunciation of almost all histories prior to his day was "that they tended to be written to prove a particular point of the author's; to be a narrative written to show the triumph of right, or what he conceives to be so, and viewing all events from the moral elevation of a strongly antecedent bias." Carlyle and Froude represented for him this error at its worst. It would be strange if he did not add Cousin Gibbon to the list of offenders.

"Progress in ethics" he continues, "means a constant turning of white into black, a burning of what one has

*Acton, *The Formative Years*, by David Mathew. Eyre & Spottiswoode 10/6.

adored." In short, the search for truth is in a sense the discovery of falsehood, and no sooner is our immediate and longed-for objective in space-time attained, than it becomes ethically the next thing we must abandon. In the same sense, and judged by the code of decency of the average civilized individual, most collective and Governmental activity, being of its nature so qualified and compromised in its origin, represents error; if not lapses from strict international morality, at least faulty judgments. Logically, the smaller the sphere of collective influence, the less the harm done. That, however, may be going rather too far, because, as there is for everything at any one time an optimum size of organisation, for efficient operation, there is a minimum size—as even a child will discover in the case of a see-saw. "No public character," Acton goes on, (there appear to be no catch-points on his mental railway!) "has ever stood the test of private utterance or correspondence . . . Be prepared to find that the best gives way under closer scrutiny."

Acton was an anti-hero-worshipper, an anti-Messianic—hence his peculiar dislike for Carlyle. The above quotations represent—to one reviewer at least—the spirit of sincere Christian humility working itself out in a great mind, dispelling the Satanic poison, ridding itself of its own mental intoxication. His aim, as a man and as an historian, was to see the world—and himself as an integral part of it—as it really was: to see its worst, so that he might judge truly of its best. The historic past is, in fact, one's own individual past *in extension*, and the scientific and the ethical approaches to it are identical. So that when Acton adds, "Historic responsibility has to make up for the want of legal responsibility," one may assume his meaning to be that the only sense in which past errors or mistakes of judgment or behaviour, collective or individual, can be expiated, is in assessing them at their real and true value, and not through a glow of partisanship: seeing them scientifically, to use a much-abused term; and, as an historian, preferring the truth about one's self and one's activities to any fancy picture; the facts about one's *extension* in the nation or the race or the species, even when those facts do not appear to support one's particular ideological bias.

And then he concludes: "*Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.* Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority. Still more when you superadd the tendency or certainty of corruption by authority." That is a statement of natural fact—an indirect observation really on the practical problem presented to the camel by the needle's eye—and at the same time, a generality made some eighty years ago by a student of history who is allowed to be the most widely read and best equipped on his particular historical epoch, that of post-medieval Western Christendom. The precise subject of Lord Acton's judgment is man—unregenerate man—in control of almost unlimited physical energy, and it so happens that the post-Baconian, Western world supplies opportunities for that particular study far in excess of any epoch preceding it. Obviously these must be profoundly shocking statements to the sentimentalist; all those—and there are a great many—who dare not look into the shadowy recesses of their own minds. Such writing surely shocked the Victorian world with its much-publicised ideas of inevitable Progress, in the wake of slums and slag-heaps. They repudiated it—Acton's lack of comparative popularity is proof of that—as we all do more or less; for we tend to be

sentimental (insincere) where we ourselves are concerned, and therefore towards history, our own extension into the collective. But Acton's clear survey and timely warning, and that of many others—Edmund Burke, de Tocqueville, Gobineau, Douglas, to name a few—is, alas, getting such striking confirmation in these latter days of dictatorship, forced labour, concentration camps and rampant Bureaucracy, that thoughtful individuals are being forced to take heed.

—NORMAN WEBB.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

been made from the Argentine, South America or Russia. [HON. MEMBERS: "Answer."] I think that the right hon. Gentleman has got to admit that all coarse grains at present entering into international trade are diverted for human consumption. At this moment we are receiving less than one-twelfth of our pre-war quantities of maize and other coarse grains, and only one-third the quantity of oil cake or oil cake equivalent. The third factor is the loss of ground nuts from India, which amounted to 200,000 or 300,000 tons for animal feeding. The supplies have been entirely cut off for this year, and no one can say what is going to happen next year with regard to India.

Mr. Hudson: The right hon. Gentleman has his own sources of information; I am dependent on the Press for mine. I will quote from *The Times*—the most expensive Labour paper nowadays—a report from Buenos Aires stating that two ships with 7,000 tons of linseed oil left on 11th June. Not a bad start.

Mr. Hurd (Newbury): . . . I am personally more concerned about the poultry. The Minister has said that the poultry rations will be going back to the hardest days of 1943. I say that they are going back to worse than that. Take my own farm as an instance. In the past 12 months, my flock, totalling 1,600 birds, has produced 15,000 dozen eggs. All those eggs have—I hope the Minister will just be good enough to listen to this example of mine, because it gives point to what I am trying to say. My own mixed farm of 500 acres has carried that flock of 1,600 birds, and produced those 15,000 dozen eggs. All the eggs have gone to a Ministry of Food packing station to help to provide consumers' egg rations. That was done on 34 tons of official feeding-stuffs rations, backed by tail corn and some concentrated kitchen waste. This last is what we call Bristol pudding, because it comes from Bristol. It is a rather expensive food which sometimes contains inedible matter like razor blades and the metal tops of milk bottles, but on the whole it is a food that the hens pick over and from which they are able to obtain some sustenance.

So far as I can work it out, I shall get no official rations next winter for my hens at all, because of the acreage reduction which is coming into effect. It will take all the ingenuity of my poultryman to keep 500 birds in production, instead of 1,600. He will be a very clever manager indeed if he is able to do it. That will mean 10,000 dozen fewer eggs from one farm alone next year and will set us back in production for several years to come. That will be quite a heavy loss to me. I shall have to ring the necks of many of my birds, at a loss of about 10s. apiece. I am honest enough not to sell them in the black market. I am sure that hon. Members will be glad to give me credit for that. It means the loss of a good deal of food production which was just beginning to take shape for the forthcoming winter. The

Minister of Food will be very hard pressed to give eggs to the housewives during the coming winter.

I wonder whether the Government realise what they are doing by this haphazard handling of home food production. I am a simple farmer. I had planned to extend my poultry operations. I have told the Committee what my position is now. Not only are the Government losing on the short run but they are losing the prospect of getting agriculture on to a proper, balanced economic basis on which it could have gone ahead step by step and year after year. This serious setback is putting us back not only for the coming winter but for three or four years to come. It is also likely to have its effect upon the fortunes of the Labour Party. Many people, like the farmers, are rather simpleminded. I put down upon the Order Paper a Motion, which I do not suppose will come up for consideration, but which has certainly brought me a large number of letters, including some from townspeople who have read the Motion in their local newspapers. I would like to read to the Committee a letter which has come to me from Birmingham. It is signed on behalf of 250 wives, husbands, mothers and fathers. Happily, they have not put all their names. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Sir,

As Labour voters who have been let down and who have been deceived, we write to thank you for tabling your Motion on our food and to express to you the fact that millions of Labour voters are sick of this our food being given to the Germans and all the sentiment. Why are we being taxed reparations at the rate of £2 million to £3 million per week to keep the Germans and then, on top of that, having our food taken from us and our livestock feeding cut down, which means our feeding cut lower and lower? We are clammed now, and people are thin, losing weight and tired, and this after all our war weariness. They talk about better health, but any honest doctor will tell you there is more T.B., heart trouble, kidney trouble, liver trouble, chest trouble and nervous diseases than ever there were. People's faces look white and doughy. All the good healthy colour of our people has gone. You can take it from me the working people are fed up, and the mood of the people and the temper of the people is all against the way this Government have worked. Out of hundreds of Labour voters and party, I know only of two who remain or still favour their Labour Government."

I am pointing out to the Minister how haphazard handling and lack of foresight are whittling down the credit of the party he represents.

Mr. Boothby (Aberdeen and Kincardine): . . . In my view the Government have given way far too much in Washington during recent months, and in all the negotiations that they have conducted with the great food producing countries. In my submission, they have not fought hard enough for Britain; they have not represented the British cause forcibly enough, either in Washington or at Buenos Aires. When the Government asked for cereals, they were told that Europe had a prior claim, and they at once admitted it. When they asked for fats they were told to go whaling to see if they could catch some fats in the Arctic Ocean; and unfortunately they did not succeed in catching the fats which they set out to catch. I want to know what the food situation really is in Europe today. We ought to know a great deal more about it. Admittedly, there are some bad spots—some very bad spots—in the towns, particularly in Austria and the Rhineland; but in most of the country districts in Western Europe I believe people are better fed than they are here.

The Chairman: The hon. Gentleman is not in Order in discussing the food situation in Europe. We are discussing food production in this country.

House of Commons, June 19, 1946.

Colonial Service (Monthly Journal)

Mr. Thomas Reid asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if, in addition to the education schemes for officials contained *inter alia* in the Devonshire Committee's Report, he will consider the publication by his Department of a monthly journal for the use of officials at home and overseas which would be a continuous educative, political and administrative record of important developments in public life at home and in the Empire of great comparative and suggestive value to all concerned.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. George Hall*): I am grateful to my hon. Friend for his suggestion with which I am entirely in sympathy. Similar ideas have been under my consideration; and I hope that before long it will be possible to give effect to them.

Malta (Governorship)

Mr. Martin Lindsay asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on what grounds he recommended the appointment of the hon. Member for North Battersea (*Mr. Douglas*) as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta.

Mr. George Hall: I recommended the appointment of the then hon. Member for Battersea as Governor of Malta because in all the circumstances I hold him to be the most suitable man for the post.

Mr. Lindsay: Without in any way wanting to make a personal attack on that hon. Gentleman, are not the facts of the matter that the only outstanding qualification he has for this appointment was that he is a Socialist; and is it not a fact that if the Government wish to go out of their way to give the impression that they are not to be trusted in matters of Empire, they cannot do better than make appointments of this nature?

Mr. Hall: No, Sir. The fact that he was a Socialist was one of his many qualifications.

Mr. Harold Macmillan: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to tell us that after five years of war there are no officers of sufficient distinction of the Army, Navy or the Air Force—[HON. MEMBERS: "Why officers?"]—to occupy the position of Commander-in-Chief and Governor of this island fortress?

Mr. Hall: I am not casting any disparaging reflections upon any members of the three Services, but there are many problems with which Malta is confronted at the present time to deal with which it was regarded as necessary to have a civilian Governor.

National Finance Surtax Payers (Income)

Mr. Keeling asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the average gross income of Surtax payers in the last year for which figures are available.

Mr. Dalton: £4,536 for 1943-44.

Dominions and U.S.A. Taxation

Mr. Baker White asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give in sterling to the nearest £ of the latest available figures for direct and indirect taxation per head of the population in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa and the U.S.A.—on the lines of the answer given on 22nd June, 1943.

(Mr. Dalton supplied a statement, printed in the Official Report, on direct and indirect taxation per head in Great Britain, Australia, Canada, South Africa and U.S.A. The table will be published in next week's *The Social Crediter*.)

"Pleasant Ways . . ."—(continued from page 4)

the two great symbols of the life of man, the meeting place of the material with the spiritual, which cannot exist unless it is founded on ample, wholesome abundance. "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples . . . And he took the cup, and gave thanks . . ."

There is no wine except for the more successful members of the Party. There is no bread for the people but a grim pretence of chaffy sponge.

It is the fatal mixture of corruptible puritanism in the sound English stock which has filled the wine glasses with water, and made it necessary for Mr. Morgan to point out that a simple abundance of good wine is far preferable to a private hoard of rare vintages. Owing to the atmosphere so skilfully created millions cannot think of wine, or even of beer, except as slightly wicked luxuries. Yet "the private hoard" of wine is not the only price to pay. We might paraphrase Mr. Morgan's view point thus: "Is it better that the nation should have wholesome loaves of natural flour, simply baked with brewer's barm, or that a few should be enabled to sample the world's choicest dainties, as they fly from continent to continent consolidating their power to adulterate or sterilise the flour used by millions to an agreed standard of debasement, having at the same time the power to raise its price?"

Every natural region must be based on its natural products, if the life of man is not to wither away. Food, drink and clothing: in the North: bread, beer, leather and wool; in the South: wine, bread, oil and silk. Anything which is done to disrupt this natural balance of farming economy will be paid for. But every flourmill of any size now has its staff of analytical chemists. What effect has calcium, taken over long periods?

One of the greatest services that any woman can now give is to aid in the extension of the knowledge and practice of home bakery, this to include a knowledge of flours and yeasts. Some are doing so, all praise to them.

Amenities — "pleasant ways . . ."

A blackbird is singing near at hand. So familiar is he, owing to the amenities of his home, that his song is recognised and remembered from year to year. But thousands of animals are at this moment being prepared for atomic bomb tests. The scapegoat's hair will be cut to resemble human hair—and afterwards, afterwards, he will be taken to chemical laboratories for special tests.

So the modern ark is being prepared, but not for salvation this time.

B. M. PALMER.

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