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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

"The day may come when in England the question of limiting the, at present, all but unlimited discretion of the executive [*i.e.* the Cabinet—*Editor.*] will have to be dealt with, and the example of the American Senate will then deserve and receive careful study."—Bryce *The American Commonwealth*. (1888).

One of the most effective books of the immediate pre-war period, *Spanish Arena* by Messrs. Foss and Gerahty, contained a masterly exposition of the Red technique of militant propaganda. Every atrocity committed, or said to be committed by *either* side was to be pilloried and even exaggerated; and the whole weight of venomous assertion, irrespective of probability, still less of truth, was to be directed to fastening the crimes of every combatant upon the opponents of the Reds.

The spate of anti-British propaganda in the States, hardly a hint of which is allowed to reach the British newspapers, is so identical in character with the Communist efforts in Spain, that it would be straining co-incidence to suppose that it is not inspired from the same source. A general principle, of which there are a number of specific examples, is to collate a sufficient number of genuine instances of financial and governmental roguery and buccaneering, mainly of necessity the outcome of international Jewish activity, and to identify them with "Britain."

Now it is quite indisputable that during the nineteenth century the headquarters of international finance was geographically and temporarily located in the City of London, and that the British people, their so-called Government and their resources, were manipulated by the Rothschilds, Sassoons, Cassels *et al.* But never at any time did the corruption, the cold-blooded inhumanity, and the hypocritical dishonesty which characterises the Financial Hierarchy everywhere, proceed to such unchecked limits in its "British" period as have always characterised Wall Street and Washington. The British landed classes set a non-commercial standard of behaviour even in commerce which excited the fury and hatred of the Monds and Isaacs; and it is only in this century that this standard, the remnant of Christian Europe, has been effectively submerged. It was that culture, and not that of the Rothschilds and the Monds, which was effective in the great days of the Indian Civil Service; the financiers hated it, and Wall Street and Washington set themselves to undermine it. The practical extermination of "the noble redskin"; the slavery, and later, the peonage and share-cropping of the American South have been "excused" in a spate of filthy abuse of a British Administration in India whose chief vice was that it had a standard of honour. There is nothing in British commercial history which remotely parallels the methods of the Vanderbilts, Harrimans, Jay

Goulds and other railway "kings"; but it is fairly obvious that with the undisputed supremacy of the "Americans," we are exposed to, and are beginning to endure, the consequences of their moral standards unchecked by even a decadent and adulterated aristocratic culture.

We always suspect that estimable, and esteemed, journal, the *Scotsman*, of a pawky sense of humour, and it is no doubt for that reason that a letter from a citizen of Illinois, which also exports Spam, is published in a recent issue.

Premising that "he cannot resist . . . to tell" the editor of a "local newspaper" what he thinks about "Edinburgh and the Scotch people," he tells him what he thinks about London, the British, what they think, how they should receive the victories of the all-conquering Americans in the Olympic Games, gas lighting in Edinburgh Closets, and the lack of ice-water, concluding with, "my friend and I consider ourselves authorities on 'casing' [*sic*] a town in a limited amount of time."

Readers of our "local newspaper" will be glad to learn that, with Edinburgh, it passes the searching test of "the authorities."

It is a curious, and we believe a not accidental development of modern publicity that if you can quote someone else as saying something, the statement will carry more weight than if you make it yourself. In spite of the profoundly true remark that "what the soldier said isn't evidence," a mass of "documentation" makes an impression out of all proportion to the intrinsic value of the sources quoted.

Nevertheless, we may pay attention, for many reasons, to the connection between the steady, unrelenting attack on the prestige and credit (they are interconnected) of the British Empire, and the conclusion of a speech by J. J. Hill, the Wall Street railway buccaneer, at Chicago on October 7, 1908:

"Search history and see what has been the fate of every nation that abused its credit. It is the same, only more awful in its magnitude and its consequences, as that of the spendthrift individual. And it will profit us nothing to conserve what we have remaining of the great national resources that were the dower of this continent, unless we preserve the national credit as more precious than them all. When it shall be exhausted, the heart of the nation will cease to beat."

It is perhaps unnecessary to say that Mr. Hill's ideas on the use and preservation of credit are not ours. But his recognition of its significance at that date is informative.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: July 15, 1948.

Education

Independent Schools (Inspection)

Mrs. Florence Paton asked the Minister of Education (1) if he is aware of the increasing number of private-house schools; whether his regulations make it necessary for any person setting up a school in a private house to notify the local education authority; and to what extent these schools are responsible to the local education authority;

(2) if he is satisfied that children attending private-house schools are receiving the proper physical and mental training; and to what extent he undertakes inspection of these schools to ensure the adequacy of the conduct and conditions of such schools;

(3) whether the register of independent schools which he proposes to keep under Section 70 of the Education Act, 1944, has yet been compiled.

II. *Mr. Skeffington* asked the Minister of Education whether he is yet in a position to inspect private schools.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Tomlinson): Part III of the Education Act, 1944, which provides for the registration of independent schools, is not yet in operation and I cannot say when it will be. I am, however, considering whether, as an interim step, I can introduce some measure of inspection of these schools under my existing powers.

Mrs. Paton: Is my right hon. Friend aware that in one small area in my division no fewer than six of these schools are open, holding 600 children; and that the Parents' Association are very alarmed at the rapid growth of these schools and feel that something should be done at once to supervise and to inspect the buildings?

Mr. Tomlinson: If I can under my present powers implement the suggestion which I have made—I agree about the necessity of it—I will do all I can to speed it up.

Mrs. Leah Manning: Will not my right hon. Friend get into touch with the local authorities and ask their health departments to inspect these private houses in respect to sanitation and the general health of the children, even though it might be some time before the inspection in ordinary subjects can take place?

Mr. Tomlinson: That is not my responsibility, which is to call the attention of the local authorities to the facts. If they consider that children are not receiving adequate education they can prosecute under the Act as it stands.

Mr. Lipson: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that independent schools are made necessary by the fact that there are not enough places in the ordinary schools for the children?

Mr. Tomlinson: I would not accept that. What I would accept is that that position may arise in certain instances. That is one of the reasons why it is impossible at the moment to implement Part III of the Act.

Mr. Morley: Can my right hon. Friend say the reason for the delay in bringing Part III of the Act into operation, seeing that there is no capital expenditure involved?

Mr. Tomlinson: There are two or three reasons, adequate reasons too. One is that it would involve a large increase in the number of inspectors, if this job is to be properly done. The second is that it would be necessary to

call into being a tribunal for schools found to be unsatisfactory, where we refused to register. The third reason is that if we close these schools at the moment because they are not satisfactory, there are not materials and labour available to make them adequate to our requirements.

Sir Waldron Smithers: Is not the Minister aware that the more private schools there are, free from his control, the better for the children of this country?

Mrs. Paton: Is it not the case that any person without any qualification whatever and in any kind of building can open a private school? Does not my right hon. Friend think that that position ought to be stopped?

Mr. Tomlinson: It is so, but it is also incumbent upon local authorities to proceed under the Act of Parliament if children are not receiving adequate education.

Statutory Instruments

Sir J. Mellor asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury how many statutory instruments have been published by the Stationery Office during the last 30 days.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: Two hundred and sixty four.

House of Commons: July 16, 1948.

National Health Service

PATIENTS' RECORDS (DISCLOSURE)

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware that anxiety is felt by doctors at the increasing tendency of Government Departments to disclose to lay persons the contents of confidential medical certificates furnished by practitioners in charge of patients; and, since the regulations in Statutory Instruments 506 and 507 require medical practitioners in the new Health Service to submit to a committee consisting predominantly of laymen, records of patients under their charge, if he will withdraw this requirement.

Mr. Bevan: No, and I cannot accept the implications of the Question.

House of Commons: July 29, 1948.

Haifa Refinery

Dr. Segal asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what potential loss of refined petrol has been incurred since the closing down of the Haifa refineries; and what are the conditions proposed before these refineries can be restored to full operation.

Mr. Gaitskell: In normal circumstances the amount of motor spirit produced at Haifa refinery is approximately 645,000 tons per annum out of a total output of 4 million tons of refined petroleum products. As regards the second part of the Question, I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given yesterday to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the hon. and gallant Member for Lewes (Major Beamish).

Dr. Segal: Is my right hon. Friend aware that the figure of 4 million tons given yesterday is more than 33 times the present total allocation of basic petrol and that if petrol could be brought over from our Persian oilfields in tankers to Haifa the present basis of the allocation of petrol could be increased 33 times over? Is not that rather a terrible price to pay for the delays in securing facilities in Haifa?

Mr. Gaitskell: No, Sir. One cannot, of course, consider the output of one refinery in relation to supplies to the United Kingdom. We have to consider it in relation to the needs of the sterling area, export trade and everything else.

Mr. Thomas Reid: May I ask my right hon. Friend if any petrol has been sent from Kirkuk to be refined in Tripoli or Syria?

Mr. Gaitskell: I am afraid that I should want notice of that question.

Dr. Segal: As the capacity of the Haifa refinery may now be utilised for refining American oil, does not this represent a very substantial loss in our dollar market?

Mr. Gaitskell: Nobody denies that the loss of output from the refinery at Haifa is a serious matter, but the oil which is refined is, in fact, produced by the Iraq Petroleum Company, which is an international body.

Miners (Control)

Mr. Gallacher asked the Minister of Labour how soon he proposes to restore to the miner his right to leave the industry if wages and conditions are not satisfactory to him.

Mr. Isaacs: It is too early yet to say when it will be possible to dispense with the rule that men, age 18 to 50, employed in coalmining may not take employment outside the industry except through a local office of the Ministry or an approved agency.

Mr. Gallacher: Would not the Minister consider withdrawing this control, or advising the Coal Board to make an acceptable wages structure for the industry; and is he aware of the fact that if this control were withdrawn and a lot of miners went away from the industry, they could be replaced by the appeals that are being made at garden fêtes by hon. Members on the other side for volunteers for the industry?

Sir John Mellor: Do not these restrictions discourage recruiting? Is it surprising that young men are reluctant to enter an industry from which they are unable to go out?

Mr. Isaacs: There is no evidence to that effect. The Coal Board is working in co-operation with the National Union of Mineworkers, and we feel that an application would be made to remove this restriction as soon as it was felt necessary to do so.

Sterling Balances

Mr. Walter Fletcher asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the total amount expressed in sterling of all arrangements similar to that made with the Government of India which have been entered into by His Majesty's Government, and which will in the end be represented by unrequited exports; and with what other countries arrangements of a similar nature have to be made in the future to resolve the question of outstanding sterling balances held in London.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Douglas Jay): On the scale of releases, I would refer the hon. Member to the answers which my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Member for Bucklow (Mr. Shepherd) and the hon. and gallant Member for the New Forest and Christchurch (Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre) on July 13 and June 29. Since then details have been announced of arrangements with India and Pakistan. This brings the total of sums so far released for current purposes

excluding initial working balances—to some £90 million up to the end of 1948. In addition, from the middle of 1949 we have undertaken to release to India £40 million a year for two years, should the state of India's available sterling make this necessary. Such releases do not necessarily result in unrequited exports from the United Kingdom. I cannot say at present what further arrangements will have to be reached.

Advertisement ("Report to the Nation")

Major Tufton Beamish asked the Economic Secretary to the Treasury why there is no reference to the decline in coal exports as one of the reasons for the gap in our balance of overseas payments, in "Report to the Nation No. 21," why the reasons given appeared in some reproductions of the advertisement and not in others; whether the definition given to the term hard currency is in conformity with the Treasury and banking definition; what public advantage is sought in this series of questions; and what was the total cost of the advertising.

Mr. Jay: The suggested reasons for the overseas trade gap in "Report to the Nation No. 21" were all of a general character. The number of questions printed varied with the size of space available in different newspapers. The definition of hard currency is, in popular terms, adequate. On the remainder of the Question, I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the answer which I gave in reply to Questions by the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale (Mr. Erroll), and the hon. Member for Orpington (Sir W. Smithers) on July 27.

Major Beamish: Is it not a fact that the falling off of coal production is clearly one of the main reasons for the gap in our balance of overseas payments, bearing in mind that in 1938 35 million tons of coal were exported under private enterprise, whereas in 1947 only 1 million tons were exported, with an equal number of men and far more machines? In these circumstances, are not the questions extremely misleading?

Mr. Jay: It is the total exports which affect the balance of payments, and the total of our exports is 45 per cent. above the 1938 figure.

Sir Gilbert Campion (Retirement)

The Lord President of the Council (Mr. Herbert Morrison): I beg to move,

"That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to Sir Gilbert Francis Montriou Campion, G.C.B., on his retirement from the Office of Clerk of this House, the assurance of its sincere appreciation of the distinguished and outstanding services which, by his pen, his ever-ready advice and his great knowledge of the law and custom of Parliament, he has rendered to this House and to all its Members in the conduct of their business during upwards of forty-two years, of which twenty-seven years have been spent at the Table."

I propose this Motion on behalf of the Government, of the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Liberal Party, . . .

. . . On Parliamentary procedure Sir Gilbert is the acknowledged authority, both in this country and abroad, and he has made valuable contributions to the literature of the subject. In 1929 he wrote that book, which most of us have read, "On Introduction to the Procedure of the House of Commons," which, I am inclined to think, is the best work-

(continued on page 7.)

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Saturday, August 21, 1948.

The Alberta Election

Before examining the position in Alberta in the light of the forthcoming* Provincial Elections on August 17, it would appear to be desirable to establish certain premises.

With a clear memory of the statement of Mr. Manning's supporters that they are not anti-anything, we must place on the record that as representing the authoritative ideas of Social Credit (that is to say, those *ideas* on which the Social Credit movement has been built up everywhere, in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, specifically, rather than details of technique and legislation) we part company fundamentally. We are anti-monopoly, and anti the Managerial State. We regard the propaganda to decry the virtues of opposition to the wrong as being inferior to clamour for a "positive" action which takes no account of the opposition to it, as being mischievous and dishonest, as well as partaking of the argument that a stick has only one end.

We have no doubt whatever, and our opinion is being increasingly shared in quarters which would repudiate many of our opinions, that a monopolistic economy which has the force of Law behind it is more dangerous, but only a stage further than, a so-called capitalist monopoly in control of credit and price-making. Both are the negation of private enterprise, and both have been demonstrated as tyrannical.

In the past three years, *i.e.* contemporaneously with the establishment in Great Britain of a Fabian-P.E.P. administered monopolistic tyranny behind which are the forces of "private" monopoly, it is quite clear that very competent measures have been taken in Alberta to retrieve the monopolistic set-back threatened by the Social Credit victory of 1935. There have been quiet readjustments of the control of newspaper and other publicity, and so far as we can judge, there is now no considerable independent press in the Province. It has all been done with first class ability and unobtrusive assistance; there has been no violent shift of editorial policy; and it is a tribute to the importance evidently attached to the avoidance of any possible mistake in the suffocation of Social Credit. Every factor has been considered; the potentially very dangerous Quebec movement has been temporarily, we believe, checked by the infiltration (*corruptio optimi pessima*) of the dominant Force of the Province; and the programme for the next five years in Alberta is clear enough. It is to assist Mr. Manning and his Cabinet to return to power, on the assurance, tacit, no doubt, that he will continue to take advice; quietly to emasculate his administration while building up "Liberalism" in close contact with the C.C.F. and the Mond-Turner Anglo-

*A limited circulation in advance of publication here was given to these paragraphs in Canada and elsewhere.—Editor, T.S.C.

American set-up; and prepare for the final exit of even the Social Credit label at the next election and the return of a "Liberal" Administration and a C.C.F. Opposition.

The proper policy of the electorate is obvious; to concentrate on the defeat of Mr. Manning himself and his acquiescent Cabinet; to return a Social Credit legislature with a reduced majority; and to insist on the co-ordination of the Quebec and Western movements. We are confident that Alberta is genuinely a Social Credit Province; but its worst foes are those of its own household.

Industrial Output

The Economist for August 14 cites a "privately circulated study of productivity in British and American manufacturing industry prepared by Dr. Rostas two years ago for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research" concerning comparative productivity in United Kingdom and United States industry. The newspaper described some of the results as 'astonishing.' Tables constructed in accordance with Dr. Rostas's method are given. One, comparing the output per head in main industrial groups (U.K. = 100), gives the average U.S.A. output in 32 sample industries as 211 (1935) and 224 (1939). Higher than average was packing materials (glass containers, tin cans), 415-423, durable mass-produced consumption goods (motor cars, wireless sets), 310-313, and machinery, 280. Seed-crushing, rayon, soap, matches and paper were about average (224-225). Of less than average products, building materials were lowest (113-125). An appended paragraph gives an "impression" of the change in British output per man for ten industrial groups over the years 1935-1947. The following table is given:—

TABLE IV—ROUGH ESTIMATE OF CHANGE IN BRITISH OUTPUT PER MAN, 1935-1947.

	Production in 1947 comp. with 1935 (London & Cambridge Index)	Employment June 1947 comp. with June 1935	Approx. change in output per man
	%	%	%
Textiles	-25	-24.5	-0.6
Clothing and leather.....	-12	-22.4	+13.4
Metal production	+33	+48.0	-10.1
Metal using trades.....	+40	+48.4	-5.6
Food, drink and tobacco	+6	-13.0	+21.9
Chemicals	+18	+61.8	-27.0
Building and building materials	-20	+17.7	-32.0
Fuel and Power	+17 <i>a</i>	+1.6	+15.2
of which Coal	-14	+5.9	-18.6
Paper and printing	-18	-11.8	-7.0
Total (incl. other trades)	+9	+14.7	-4.8

(a) This increase masks a fall of 14 per cent in coal, a rise of over one-third in gas and a doubling of electricity output.

From our Post Bag

"I should like to say that I have found much that is inspiring in *The Social Crediter* lately—particularly in the idea that Social Credit is 'in the air,' and is likely to meet with subconscious and immediate recognition from those who hear of it. This is an encouragement to those who *speak of it*; for in expecting resistance you may raise it."

The Secret Ballot

The following letter appeared in the EDMONTON BULLETIN (Alberta, Canada) of July 3, 1948. The author, who signs it with initials, is unknown to us.

Its interest and importance have the widest application, and for this reason we reproduce it, with acknowledgments.

VOTING REFORM

I wish to reply to a letter written by "J.T." and printed in your columns of June 9, in which he stresses that it is our solemn duty to vote, and assumes that the mere act of voting is a guarantee that (ergo) we shall have a true democracy.

As a matter of fact, if the writer may be allowed to express his humble opinion, the irresponsible secret ballot, allied to politics at the present time, is a sure guarantee that a steady drift into a state of bureaucratic slavery will continue. That there has been such a steady drift over the last forty years, and that all "democratic" countries are rapidly approaching the situation which exists in Great Britain, can hardly be denied.

There are at least three types of votes being used in various places at the present time and an examination of them may help towards an understanding of why "ballot box democracy" has become as futile as it is. It may also serve as an introduction to a set of proposals which get at the root of the matter, and ensure government in accordance with the will of the electors.

(1) First, there is the vote such as has been taken recently in Czechoslovakia, in which the issues and the representatives had already been decided, which is a farce and requires no further comment.

(2) Then there is the vote such as is taken every four or five years in ballot-box democracies. Ballots are cast for any one of a number of candidates. Each candidate runs on a platform containing a multiple number of points.

It may sound unduly pessimistic to say: That most voters who are honest will not claim to understand many of the points in the platform for which they vote. The result of the whole operation will be that a political party will be put into power. Political parties are such that they lend themselves to permeation by politicians in the least complimentary sense of that term. Moreover, they are subject to control by those who wield sufficient power through press or finance. All political parties move inevitably towards socialism since the "popular mind" has been conditioned to believe that there is no other alternative except dead reactionism. In effect, ballot-box democracy is becoming the same thing as ballot-box totalitarianism. The first term in practice is coming to mean what is correctly defined by the second.

(3) The third form of vote is that exemplified in the economic vote as it operates to a recognizable extent in the economic system at the present time. A man has a number of dollars. Each one may be considered to be an economic vote. He uses some of these dollars to buy Johnson's Paint. By doing so he votes for the Johnson Paint Co., and encourages their production of the kind of paint which he has purchased. (The amount of freedom in his vote will depend on whether he can afford to buy other kinds of paint than Johnson's, if he so wishes.)

It may be noted that in using his dollar bills or his economic vote: (1) he immediately obtains the results he chooses; (2) his vote carries power or a sanction—the Johnson

Paint Co. cannot survive if it does not receive enough economic votes; (3) he is responsible for using 'his vote shrewdly, in order that he and his household may prosper.

In order to attach more responsibility (and more sanction) to the political vote, the following proposals have been made:

(a) The secret ballot to be abolished and replaced by an open, recorded and published vote.

(b) Prior to an election, each party to put forward an outline of any legislative proposals together with both the cost to the taxpayer and a designation of the interests and specific individuals affected.

(c) The cost of Legislation by the successful Party, together with the proved loss to any individual not having voted for the successful Party to be borne solely by those having recorded votes for the successful Party, and any reduction of taxation directly attributable to specific legislation to be shared as to 25 per cent. by recorded supporters of the unsuccessful Party, and as to 75 per cent. of the supporters of the successful Party so long as it may remain in power, after which the gains shall be equalized.

8625, 109 Street, Edmonton.

D. S. H.

Judgment Against Commonwealth Government

The Times of August 12 reported that a full bench of the Commonwealth High Court had delivered its reserved judgment on the litigation in which the State Governments of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and eleven private trading banks challenged the validity of the legislation under which the Commonwealth Government sought to nationalise private banks throughout Australia.

The judgement declared so much of the legislation invalid "as to make it completely inoperative" and, says *The Times*, the court has issued an injunction restraining the Commonwealth Government from giving effect to it and has ordered that Government to pay costs.

Further long telegrams appeared in *The Times* on the Friday and Saturday of last week, in the first of which it was stated that a copy of the judgment had been sent to Dr. Evatt, the Commonwealth Attorney-General, in Paris. According to the *Sunday Times* of August 15, Dr. Evatt arrived in London from Geneva on the Friday. Mr. Menzies, the Opposition leader, is at the same time also in London, and gave *The Times* the benefit of his opinion on the day following the first receipt of the news. He said the judgment was not only a legal but also a political landmark. "It shows," he said, "that there is a sharp limit to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to nationalise industry. People in Britain will be particularly interested to observe that it is more difficult for the Socialists to have their way in a federal country than in a unitary country like Britain. My own impression is that the position will be officially denounced but privately welcomed in Australian Labour circles.

"Many Labour members of Parliament have cursed the day when bank nationalisation was introduced. In all recent referendum votes the Australian electors have shown that they are not willing to extend the powers of the Commonwealth Parliament to a point at which undue centralisation of control can be made permanent. This decision, though based upon purely legal considerations, is in complete line with current Australian political thought."

To cite *The Times* again, it was on the Friday night

that Mr. Chifley announced that the Commonwealth Government would seek to appeal to the Privy Council against the judgment, and that the Solicitor-General, Professor K. H. Bailey, would go to London "within a few days" to discuss the procedure and grounds of the appeal with Dr. Evatt. The urgency indicated in this action, itself contrary to the general 'lead' given by the Canberra correspondent of *The Times*, is nevertheless explained both in his message incorporating it and in a following telegram published in London on the 14. We give both passages, under the dates upon which they were transmitted:—

August 12: "The Labour Party is traditionally opposed to appeals to the Privy Council on constitutional issues and its platform contains a plank to invest the High Court with final jurisdiction 'in all Australian causes.' There will undoubtedly be a divided opinion on the wisdom of appealing in the Parliamentary Labour Party to which the Cabinet will make its recommendation. There are those who instinctively disliked the nationalisation proposal from the time that it was foreshadowed by Mr. Chifley, the Prime Minister, just a year ago and feared its effect on the electorate. There are others once favourable but now completely convinced of its unpopularity by the series of labour reverses it has evoked, beginning with the Victorian election last November and culminating in the resounding defeat of the Government's appeal for power permanently to control rents and prices in May. But there is a third group of obdurate left-wingers whom the High Court's judgment will harden in support of socialisation. They are likely to insist that a fresh effort be made to attain that goal before the general election 13 months hence. Some may even revive the proposal for an enlargement of the High Court bench.

"The time factor attends an appeal to the Privy Council. Judgment might not be procured until after the election, in which event, were the Government defeated, the opportunity of recovering by amended legislation the ground lost by the High Court judgment would have passed. Moreover, if by an appeal to the Privy Council or an attempt to amend the Banking Act of 1947 the question of nationalisation is kept alive it will be the overshadowing issue of the general election.

"The Government's wisest course would be to let the High Court's judgment stand. It is difficult to conceive of any reason why public resentment over the nationalisation of banking should have evaporated within a year. If the court's invalidation of section 46 of the Banking Act, a section prohibiting banking business by private banks, means that the Government cannot constitutionally effect nationalisation, an amendment of the constitution is necessary to enable it to proceed, and the elector's answer to such a proposal seems a foregone conclusion.

"Since one reason for Mr. Chifley's introduction of nationalisation legislation was his fear that the trading banks might successfully challenge the provisions of the Banking Act of 1945 requiring them to establish accounts with the Commonwealth Bank as a check on the inflationary expansion of bank credit, the Government may content itself with attempting to strengthen the 1945 Act, but even that course might make banking the paramount issue of the 1949 election, and from the Labour viewpoint a worse issue could not be found.

"The newspapers unanimously counsel Mr. Chifley to accept the court's judgment and rest content with the banking reforms he accomplished in 1945. Undoubtedly the judgment has been hailed with overwhelming relief and satisfac-

tion by the supporters of all political parties. The legislation now invalidated has been feared not only for what it accomplished but also for what it implied—that through a monopoly of banking the Government might acquire menacing powers over all commerce and industry."

The analysis does not lack clarity, and, although the question is not primarily their "pidgin," our readers in both hemispheres will find in it confirmation if not instruction. But inattention to considerations so definite had to be explained, and so:—

August 13: "The fact that Mr. Chifley has not waited to consult a formal meeting of the Cabinet or the Parliamentary Labour Party indicates that he is bent on nationalisation as irreconcilably as ever and is eager to get the earliest possible decision from the Privy Council in order to make the most of the time left before the general election next year in which to introduce amended legislation, should the Privy Council's judgment make it practicable."

The judgment is said to run to over 300 typed pages, and, while it is not our intention to summarise here even the extracts which are immediately available, attention may be drawn to one or two points, chiefly of phraseology. The first is from the judgment of the Chief Justice: "If the fact that a statute touched and concerned a matter within the power of the Commonwealth Parliament were held to establish its validity, there would be no distribution of powers between the Commonwealth and the States." The distribution of powers is not, of course, the 'separation of powers' in the sense of Montesquieu, recently cited by Mr. Charles Morgan, but we cannot help recalling Mr. Menzies's remark about a 'unitary' country ('like Britain') as evidence that Constitutions are now consciously under examination elsewhere than in the Social Credit movement. A second point is one of Mr. Justice Starke's: "The Commonwealth Parliament was not as omnipotent as the United Kingdom Parliament and had no general authority to legislate, as the states had for their respective territories." From which we infer that the British Empire has not yet been reduced to unimportance *vis-a-vis* Great Britain, and that the nature of the political association is recognised.

The "Free" Doctors

"Lord Horder was foremost among the critics of the British Medical Association and the way it played its hand in the negotiations with the Ministry of Health. He and those who thought with him have already found plenty to corroborate their forebodings; for the first month of the new service has made it quite plain that doctors taking service under the Health Act will be scrutinised and criticised from a point of view which did not exist while they were a free and self-governing profession. Now Lord Horder announces a project to create an organisation for the doctors who stay outside the scheme who feel that the B.M.A. having adopted the policy of working closely with the Ministry of Health, to make the Ministry's scheme a success, will not be able at the same time effectively to oppose such further designs as the Ministry may little by little unfold, to the detriment of the remaining area of uncontrolled practice.

"If such an organisation is set up it should be accepted as thoroughly justified; and it certainly cannot be criticised by those who, in the industrial field, consider union a self-evident necessity. Lord Horder and his friends, surveying the national scene, can see how the Government pays close

regard to organised opinion, in proportion as it is strong and emphatic, and little regard to what is unorganised.

"The great objection urged against this projected new union is that it will divide and therefore weaken the medical profession; that what doctors need is to be able to leave the State service at will, if the conditions prove too exacting; and that therefore there must not be two unions, to one of which a man belongs if he is in the State service and to the other of which he belongs if he is outside it. But this will be met if those who join the new body are careful also to retain their membership of the British Medical Association."—*The Tablet*.

PARLIAMENT—(continued from page 3).

able book in regard to Parliamentary procedure. He has also edited the 14th—which is the current—edition of Sir Thomas Erskine May's "Parliamentary Practice." . . .

. . . The Clerk of the House was Secretary to the Conference on the Reform of the Second Chamber, in 1918, the Bryce Conference, as Viscount Bryce was the Chairman. The Report in referring to Sir Gilbert said:

"We desire here to express our high appreciation of the services rendered by our Secretary, Mr. G. F. M. Campion, one of the Clerks of the House of Commons. His abilities and diligence, as well as his wide and accurate knowledge of Parliamentary institutions at home and abroad, have been extremely helpful to us."

In addition, he was Secretary to the Speaker's Conference on Devolution in 1916.

I know that it will be the case that all of us who have served on the Committee of Privileges, and certainly I myself as Chairman, enormously appreciate the wise advice we have had from Sir Gilbert on what is I suppose nearly a record number of Privilege cases which have been thrown up during the proceedings of this Parliament, and we are all exceedingly grateful to him for the advice he has given in cases of extreme complexity.

The activities of Sir Gilbert extend beyond the United Kingdom. For the last two years he has acted as President of that section of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which is concerned with Parliamentary procedure, and the members of the Union are grateful to him.

The House will be interested and I think pleased to hear that Sir Gilbert Campion, with your countenance, Mr. Speaker, is about to make a tour of the Dominions in the Eastern Hemisphere to study the Parliamentary machines of the Dominions at work.

Mr. Churchill (Woodford): In the East?

Mr. Morrison: In the Eastern Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere is unfortunately out of bounds owing to the scarcity of dollars. Sir Gilbert is undertaking this tour, which is of great public interest, at his own wish at his own expense. Only the cost of his secretary will fall upon public funds. I am bound to say that I think the House will enormously appreciate his wish to meet his own expenses, but I should add that I have a little feeling that it is not quite fair that on this task he should be meeting them. [HON. MEMBERS: "Hear, hear."] As one has an expression of opinion from the House I think one might see if one cannot convey it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [HON. MEMBERS: "Hear, hear."] The whole House will be with him in his search for instances where young legislatures have improved upon our own procedure and will hope that his latest honorary services

will prove to be by no means the last of the many which Sir Gilbert has rendered to the House. . . .

Examinations (Age Limit)

Mr. Lipson asked the Minister of Education if in view of the widespread concern at the decision to make 16 the age limit for the new school examination, he will discuss the matter further with representatives of universities and schools.

Mr. Tomlinson: The imposition of an age limit cannot properly be considered in isolation or in relation to the existing examination system. It is an integral and important part of an entirely new system, with a new purpose, which was unanimously recommended to me by the Secondary Schools Examination Council on which universities and schools are represented and which after further discussions with representatives of the schools and universities I decided to adopt as a coherent whole.

Contribution Conditions

Mr. Janner asked the Minister of National Insurance what is meant by the life average of contributions necessary to enable a contributor to benefit under the National Insurance Act; whether an average of 50 contributions must be maintained from school-leaving age; or whether this average is only necessary during the ten years' qualifying period which has to elapse before an applicant can become entitled to a widow's pension or a retirement pension.

Mr. Steele: The term "life average of contributions" does not appear in the National Insurance Act, 1946, but has been used to indicate the insured person's yearly average of contributions paid and credited over the relevant period, which is a constituent part of the contribution conditions for retirement pension, widow's benefit, and death grant, as set out in the Third Schedule to the Act. I am sending my hon. Friend a fuller explanation of the way in which the condition has to be applied to particular classes of case, but for new entrants to insurance on or after the appointed day the yearly average must be maintained from that day or from age 16, whichever is the later. There is no ten year qualifying period of insurance for widowhood benefits; these benefits can become available at the full appropriate rate once the husband has paid 156 contributions.

Contributions (Income Exception)

Mr. Mitchison asked the Minister of National Insurance why the exception of persons with small incomes from paying contributions does not extend to employed persons; and

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whether he will take steps to remove the hardship caused to such persons by the increased contributions under the new Act.

Mr. Steele: Special provisions are included in the scheme for the reduction of the worker's share of the contribution where his rate of remuneration is not over 30s. a week and he is not provided with board and lodging. Further, under regulations employed persons engaged in certain part-time or subsidiary occupations are treated as self-employed or non-employed persons and so become eligible for income exception, but it would not in my view be in the interests of employed persons with small incomes to give them a general option of this kind. Exception from payment of contributions would of course carry with it renunciation of benefits.

Milk Registrations

Mr. Symonds asked the Minister of Food how many people recently took the opportunity of changing their milk retailer; what was the net effect on the total of registrations as between the Co-operative societies on the one hand and private retailers and multiple firms on the other; and if he will give similar opportunities for change at regular intervals while milk rationing remains necessary.

Mr. Strachey: Just under two million people—about 4 per cent. of consumers—changed their milk retailer last May. The Co-operative societies increased their registrations by about a quarter of a million. I will look at the possibility of allowing a change in the spring of next year.

Dispossessed Farmers

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he is aware that cases have occurred, details of which have been sent him, in which holdings expropriated by county agricultural executive committees have been assigned to members of the committees concerned or their relations; and if he will give instructions to prevent this happening.

Mr. T. Williams: In two of the three cases of which details have been sent to me the tenancies of the holdings were terminated by the war agricultural executive committees concerned, but they did not take possession of the farms. In both cases the owners negotiated relettings to tenants of their own choice who were approved by the committees. In the third case the committee took possession and arranged for the holding to be occupied and farmed by a member of a sub-committee. This happened before instructions had been given to committees on the subject of letting to members, but I am satisfied that the arrangement was in accordance with the immediate objective of ensuring improvement in food production. As regards the last part of the Question I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on December 19, 1947.

Sir Graham-Little asked the Minister of Agriculture in how many cases farmers who were dispossessed of their holdings during the war by war agricultural executive committees and were assured that their eviction would cease with the end of the war are still waiting to get their homes back.

Mr. T. Williams: I am not aware of any case where an assurance was given that eviction would cease with the end of the war.

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