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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: July 27, 1949.

U.S.S.R.: Forced Labour Camps (Inquiry)

Mr. Eric Fletcher asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the terms of the request His Majesty's Government are making to the Economic and Social Council for an investigation by the United Nations as to the conditions existing in slave camps; and whether he will make a statement.

Mr. McNeil: I take it that my hon. Friend is referring to the forced labour camps which exist in the Soviet Union and certain other countries. The Economic and Social Council at its last session adopted a resolution which declared that an impartial inquiry was desirable into the charges that had been made concerning forced labour in certain countries. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was instructed to ask all Governments if they would be prepared to co-operate in such an inquiry. His Majesty's Government have declared that they would be willing to co-operate in any such inquiry which is generally acceptable, and it is our hope that all other Governments will do likewise. This subject is due for discussion at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in the near future.

Mr. Fletcher: Can my right hon. Friend confirm whether it is true that the Soviet Government have consistently refused to give permission to the United Nations to visit these camps? Is he aware that so long as this policy of secrecy is maintained the public are compelled, however reluctantly, to draw the worst conclusions about the barbarous conditions that exist?

Mr. McNeil: It certainly is quite true that the delegation from Soviet Russia at the last meeting of the Council at which this matter was discussed refused to admit the terms of a resolution which provided for investigation upon the spot. It is probably true that people will continue to draw regrettable conclusions from the continued refusal of Soviet Russia to accede to such a request.

Mr. Gallacher: In view of the original answer of the Minister that there are forced labour camps in the Soviet Union, may I ask him two simple questions? One is: Is it not a fact that the Soviet delegation have tabled a motion at the council in favour of investigation of working conditions in all countries and Colonies including the Soviet Union? The second question is: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that I sent a letter to his neighbour on the Front Bench, in which I showed that the present Foreign Secretary, when he was Secretary to the Transport and General Workers' Union, condemned this story as a lie and a slander, and will the right hon. Gentleman see that the letter is communicated to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations?

Mr. McNeil: The answer to the first part of the supple-

mentary question is that delegations of the Soviet Union have in my opinion continued to evade this question by proposals—

Mr. Gallacher: On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker. My question was: Has the Soviet delegation tabled a motion?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Gentleman must not dictate to the Minister how he shall answer.

Mr. McNeil: I will answer the first of the three points put to me by the hon. Gentleman bluntly and factually, in a fashion he will not like. It is my opinion that the Soviet delegation—

Mr. Gallacher: I want the facts.

Mr. McNeil: The hon. Gentleman shall have the facts, but I am entitled to draw an opinion from the facts. It is my opinion that the Soviet delegation have continued to evade this issue by claiming that investigations should take place. To that effect they have tabled a resolution which was a counter-resolution to one which demanded an inquiry into labour conditions in all countries. The Soviet delegation have on this subject, as on others, refused to allow United Nations investigators to proceed to the spot to make an inquiry which would satisfy dispassionate witnesses.

On the second point, I am not aware of the letter, but since I saw an article about this in the *Daily Worker*, I think it probable that the hon. Gentleman has written a letter in similar terms.

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson: If, as appears probable, the Soviet Government persist in their refusal to allow an inquiry to take place with visits to the actual places, it will be the policy of His Majesty's Government to urge upon the United Nations the desirability of the fullest possible publicity and publication of such facts as can be gleaned without a local investigation?

Mr. McNeil: No, Sir. I do not think that would be profitable or useful or—I am not sure—appropriate, but I am certain that, as long as the Soviet Government adopt this attitude, even people who wish desperately to be friendly with them cannot escape coming to the conclusion that they have something to hide.

Mr. Emrys Hughes: As the document quoted at Geneva was dated 1940, what official protests were made between 1940 and 1946 against slave labour in Russia? If the Government object to slave labour, is it intended to continue conscription?

Mr. McNeil: The second part of the supplementary question is a confusion, and in any case it should not be directed to me. My recollection is that the publication date of the Codex was 1943—I might be wrong in that—but at any rate, whatever the date was, we took into account any subsequent amendments to the regulations. The subsequent amendments have been published. I see the hon. Gentleman shaking his head.

Mr. Hughes: I am asking what protests the Government made.

Mr. McNeil: If the Soviet administration publishes alterations to the parent regulations, we are right to assume that the parent regulations are still in force. As to protests, we have several times at the United Nations attempted to have this subject investigated.

Mr. Stokes: Is my right hon. Friend aware that I have repeatedly asked the Soviet Government to let me visit some of the slave camps—and have named them—and that I have been consistently refused?

Mr. Platts-Mills: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this story about slave labour camps in the Soviet Union is the oldest and the least founded of all the silly anti-Soviet twaddle; and that in 1931 it was the Swedish timber exporters who began the story to prevent the British people from buying Soviet timber, that Goebbels continued it actively for eight or ten years, and that now His Majesty's Ministers have taken it up? Is he not rather shamed by that?

Mr. McNeil: Whatever may have been the facts in 1931, this is no fabrication of the Swedish timber trade or His Majesty's Government or any other government. It is a publication and an enforcement made by the administration of Soviet Russia—

Mr. Gallacher: What about this country 20 years ago?

Mr. McNeil: —and whether the hon. Gentleman likes it or not, these are the facts, and no wriggling can escape from that.

POST OFFICE: Wireless Sets (Inspectors' Visits)

Mr. Baker White asked the Postmaster-General if he is aware that at 11-15 a.m. on June 30 a Post Office inspector called at 72, Meadowside, Eltham, S.E.9, the residence of Mr. R. E. Cross and demanded to see the wireless licence, although he has not got a wireless set; that when Mrs. Cross stated this fact he said he would have to search the house and attempted to force an entry but was forcibly prevented from doing so by Mrs. Cross; that he further stated he would apply for a search warrant; and what action he proposes to take in this case and others of attempted entry brought to his notice by the hon. Member for Canterbury.

The Postmaster-General (Mr. Wilfred Paling): The inquiry officer of my Department who visited No. 72, Meadowside, Eltham, denies emphatically that he attempted to force an entry. He states that he requested permission to enter in order to verify that a wireless receiving set was not in use, but permission was refused and he accepted the refusal. I have no means of reconciling the very different versions of the incident given in the hon. Member's Question and by my inquiry officer; but whichever version is correct, and whatever led to Mrs. Cross's complaint, I very much regret any inconvenience or distress she may have felt.

The hon. Member for Canterbury (Mr. Baker White) has brought two other complaints to my notice. In one, which occurred last January, the Head Postmaster was asked by the householder to verify that the visit was genuine, and he did so. In the other, which occurred in March, the householder reported that the visit had occasioned some distress to his wife and an apology was made. In neither case was any complaint or suggestion of entry or search made. In the hope of reducing to the utmost the occasions of complaint, I have had the instructions about the conduct of these

inquiries revised.

Mr. Baker White: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the case of Mrs. Cross the inspector who visited the house put his foot in the doorway so that Mrs. Cross was unable to close it, that he refused to accept her statement that she had not a wireless at all, and that he got into a temper and threatened to get a search warrant? Is he further aware that when I asked him on June 6 about the case of Miss Clarke, at Herne Bay, he said that no other cases had been brought to his notice during his term of office at the Post Office? I have brought three other cases to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman, and proceedings reported in the Press yesterday indicate that another case has occurred at Reading.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the new instructions will make it clear to his officers that they have no right of entry, and make it clear to the householder that they can only enter with the householder's consent.

Mr. Paling: Yes, Sir.

Far East (Rubber Prices)

Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what discussions have taken place at an official level with the Government of the United States of America regarding the political effects in the Far East of the low price of rubber.

Mr. Rees-Williams: The situation in the Far East is a matter on which, as in other matters of common concern, constant contact is maintained with the United States Government, and the consequences of the low price of rubber are, of course, a factor to which full consideration is given.

Mr. Gammans: Will the hon. Gentleman say what he meant in this House a week ago when he said it would be quite impossible to maintain security in the Far East if rubber fell any further and went on to say,

"I hope that those who are concerned in this matter will realise that I mean what I say . . . ?"—[OFFICIAL REPORT, July 20, 1949; Vol. 467, c. 1509.]

To whom was that addressed?

Mr. Rees-Williams: It was addressed to those concerned in this matter.

Kenya (Banned Periodical)

Major Tufton Beamish asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the latest development in discussions regarding the banning in Kenya of the periodical *Labour Monthly*; and which articles in the two issues immediately preceding the ban were not considered suitable for circulation in Kenya.

Mr. Rees-Williams: I am not aware of any developments, or that any discussions have taken place. This is a matter within the competence of the Governor, who is not required to give reasons for the ban, or to indicate which articles were not considered suitable for circulation in Kenya.

Major Beamish: Is the Minister aware that the last three issues of *Labour Monthly* contained eight contributions from hon. Members of the party opposite? Does he not think it a most unfortunate thing that so-called supporters

(continued on page 7.)

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, *The Social Crediter*.

The German Elections

Sir,

If my information is correct the recent German Elections have been something in the nature of a farce. I understand that a German Party which advocates a form of Social Credit was excluded from the Elections. Whether the "form of Social Credit" the German Party advocates was indifferent or not does not seem to be the point. The point is that the mere mention of the subject is obviously not pleasing to the U.N. Organisation. . . .

Yours, etc.,

J. CREAGH SCOTT.

Moretonhamstead, Devon,
August 16, 1949.

The Stuffer and the Stuffed

M. Spaak, President of the European Consultative Assembly, in an effort to elevate the tone of that meeting, last week called a press conference to give the world the speech which (he declared ingenuously), his office as President precluded his giving to the Assembly itself—thus of course nullifying the intention of those who laid down the powers and responsibilities of that office.

Speaking from Strasbourg, a town otherwise memorable for forcibly feeding its geese (to swell their livers, legend assures us, in aid of *pâté de foies gras*) he ". . . deplored the tendency of some representatives to take up positions as partisans of Liberalism or of Socialism, of partisans of a policy of abundance or austerity.

"There never had been a statesman who in the face of the choice of abundance or austerity, had deliberately chosen the latter. The fact was that since the war certain countries had been forced by circumstances to adopt a policy of austerity; others had been able to follow a policy of abundance. It was senseless to consider the question as one of two opposing doctrines."

But the *fait accompli* is the prime weapon of the planner: in the face of abundance his first thought is to contrive a guaranteed genuine copper-bottomed A1 dyed-in-the-wool undeniably real *local* scarcity, presenting the desired opening to the myopic Statesman, who can then declare that 'circumstance forces' his policy. The planner's means are various. We have a sugar shortage (dollars); a fat scarcity (dollars); a feeding-stuff scarcity (an international committee); a meat shortage (bulk buying and discouraging subsidies); and so on. Consumer goods are kept from their makers by draining them abroad to reduce debts to e.g., India, Burma and Egypt, incurred in fighting the war from which they have gained so much. Certainly not less than 2/5 of British goods exported are sent in this way without return.

That for each purpose a "reason" is found does not discount the conscious intention behind it: on the contrary, it shows that certainly (and admittedly) *some* purpose has been at work. And as the sum of the shortages and their devastating effect shows the scope of that purpose, the fact that they are so intelligently specific in attacking precisely the fundamentals of our culture shows the *conscious* nature

of that purpose.

A mere goose would see that—for geese are traditionally obliged to discern text from pretext, sheep from camouflaged fox, or die. But of course in Strasbourg geese it is the liver, not the life, which is important.

Rabbits

Precise data concerning food and fertility are often of use as well as interest to Social Crediters. Concerning rabbits, S. F. Everiss, M.Sc., writing in the *Transactions* of the Radnorshire Society for 1941, is the authority for the following:—Five rabbits eat about as much as one sheep and forty will consume a quantity of grass equal to that required by one cow. The warren itself is practically desert, and in the vicinity the grass is eaten down close to the soil and cannot be grazed by sheep or cattle. Seedling trees are eaten and saplings may be killed by gnawing. Many parts of Radnorshire would naturally develop woodland if rabbits (and sheep) were withdrawn. The spread of bracken is partly attributable to rabbits.

Poison gas "is very little used in the county" (for the destruction of rabbits), (1941).

Gestation is for thirty days, the young vary from three to five in number in May and September, from six to eight in July. Breeding may begin much earlier in the year. One doe has from four to seven broods a year. Occasional epidemics reduce the rabbit population "possibly because of overstocked ground" (1936).

Hares, hens and geese are mentioned by Caesar (*De Bello Gallico*, V.); but not rabbits. Neither the Domesday Book nor the gaming laws of King John, 1199, mentions rabbits; but they were plentiful in North Wales in 1282, when 3s. 6d. was paid for keeping the King's ferrets and for catching rabbits at Rhuddlan.

Sugar

In 1948-49 the sugar-crop from the British Commonwealth for the first time exceeded the pre-war crop: it reached 2,994,000 tons. Cuba grows most of the world's sugar and now produces more than twice what it did before the war, and has succeeded, in its own hemisphere, in compiling a glut.

As sugar is plentiful, Mr. Strachey cut down the sugar ration.

First he imported nearly twice as much sugar (over a period) as last year from the British Commonwealth. Then he cut down sugar imports from Cuba. Then "because of the dollars" he cut down sugar imports from Cuba.

So we don't get more sugar because the Commonwealth grows more; and we get less "because of the dollars."

In fact, we get less sugar, choose how.

Plenty in Canada

In the Fraser Valley in British Columbia the 1947 and 1948 raspberry and strawberry crops, enough to make hundreds of thousands of cases of jams and preserves, still lie unsold in storage while additional quantities of berries lie rotting—at the taxpayers' expense.

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From Week to Week

"We know that in 1792 there were at least six or seven revolutionary societies in England which were in correspondence with the Jacobin Club; for at the end of September an address of congratulation was sent to Paris by the members of the following societies: London Constitutional Society, Reformation Society of Manchester, Revolution Society of Norwich; *Constitutional Whigs*; Independents and Friends of the People."—*La Belle Pamela* (Lady Edward Fitzgerald), Ch. X: Lucy Ellis and Joseph Turquan.

(At the end of the 18th century Manchester was dominated by Jews, and Norwich by Whig Quakers.—Editor, T.S.C.)

The problem of free will, freedom of choice, and predestination, arises in the affairs of nations to at least the same extent as it does in the lives of individuals. "We couldn't do that *because...*" is, of course, a colloquial assertion of the theory of determinism.

It is for this reason, amongst others, that we endeavour, in these pages, and to the best of our ability, to direct the attention of our readers to those points where, it appears to us, the major obstacles to effective free will can be found, and we have no doubt whatever that it is in the nature of collectivism itself—"the common good," "the people," "the public," that we find the soil from which the Devil grows his crop. The Anima Mundi is not human; only individuals are human, but not all of them. The subject is both subtle and comprehensive; it is complicated by intentional miseducation which suggests, against all experience, that a mob is the sum of the individuals in it. A library could well be devoted to the subject; but at the moment we confine ourselves to one aspect, collective murder, or war.

The *Protocols of Zion*, an unsurpassed treatise on the use of collectivism to murder individuals, remarks, "Nothing is so dangerous" [to us, the authors] "as initiative." There is no possibility of initiative coming from a collectivity; a collectivity is *formed* to carry out a policy. That is to say, a collectivity is the *tool* of policy.

Now, and we beg our readers to realise it, firstly we are enmeshed in an era of tool-power politics, and secondly, that the human being, and the mechanisms he uses are becoming nearly homogeneous. We will not stress the point, because no serious student of affairs would question it.

This situation is not the outcome of a similar initiative spontaneously emanating from every individual and producing that characteristic, Satanistic fable, the Common Will, so effectively used by Rousseau. It proceeds from the presentation of the World and Society as living under certain compulsions—at the present time, "Russia," "dollar shortage," "Food shortage." And, because war is a function of tool-

power, war is the final sanction of tool-power politics. "Only in war, or under threat of war, will a British Government embark on large-scale planning" (P.E.P.: Chairman Moses Israel Sieff.).

There is nothing novel in this statement. "That there is no contradiction between *practical* Socialism (Planning) and extreme militarism, was fully recognised in Germany sixty years ago. In 1892 August Bebel, a leading Social Democrat (State Socialist) told Bismark that 'the Imperial Chancellor can rest assured that German Social Democracy is a sort of preparatory school for militarism.' It could not be anything else, and remain socialism."—(*The Brief for the Prosecution*, p. 51.)

It is against the background of this policy that we have to consider the politics of the past sixty years. The greatness of Great Britain and the British Empire resided in the tradition of personal initiative—freedom. It was necessary to the success of the World Dominion Plot that the British should be fettered, and war was seen to be the instrument of the collectivism which would infallibly ruin them. *Every statesman of the Old Order* (Salisbury, Grey, Neville Chamberlain) *who recognised that war should and could be avoided*, from before the South African War to the present time, has been eliminated by the same influences dominant now and exemplified in "the guilty men of Munich" propaganda.

If, as we believe, collectivism has certain inherent attributes which are inimical to the human being (although it is quite possible that collectivism is a preparatory stage to genuine individualism—an aboriginal soil from which the conscious man emerges), it is clear that to oppose a collectivity by another collectivity is merely to stimulate the growth of both of them, just as we have seen the war collectivities, and the factory industrial system which is part of them, grow, not in one country, but in every country.

There are two major considerations which alone offer an escape from what would appear at first sight an inescapable bondage; the fact that internal disruptive factors will wreck any collectivity *if it is not attacked from outside*; and the rectification which can be effected if the power to contract-out can be established. It has been said that the most—perhaps the only—hopeful development of international law is in the field of neutrality. Neutrality is, of course, the power to contract-out.

"If Mr. Attlee and company had hired American diehards to embarrass British Conservatives they could hardly be doing a more complete wrecking job." (*Daily Mail*, August 17, 1949.)

But suppose the "American diehards" had hired (oh, quite unconsciously on the part of the recipients of enhanced Cabinet salaries) Mr. Attlee and company to do a complete wrecking job, because they had devoted most of the war years to ascertaining the effects of Socialism on industry, and now are determined to see that the wreckers are not interfered with?

Can we never learn, except the hard way?

On the evidence of Monsieur Coty the French patriot-millionaire, Jacob Schiff spent *millions* of gold dollars to procure the wreck of Imperial Russia. Schiff's firm made *billions* of gold dollars out of the wreck. Can we *never* learn except the hard way?

The Open Secret

*An Essay in analysis of the psychological background
of what is known as the Export Drive.*

By NORMAN F. WEBB.

I.

Some time ago in an attempt to follow up a hint dropped in these pages, I suggested as a line of approach to this question, that there were many very influential organisations of an international character in favour in Foreign Trade and Exchange, as such, *i.e.* for the organisation's own sectional purposes, and strongly and subjectively interested in increasing the volume of indirect barter, or exchange of commodities, between nations, without any particular reference to the realistic needs of the individuals comprising the various nations concerned.

Taken as a faculty, a single function of the industry of a national group, this activity includes all Import-Export Merchants, Shipping Houses, the great Shipping Lines, *etc.*, with, at its apex, the International Discount and Acceptance Houses. In an atmosphere of expanding industrialism it is obvious that government, which is largely a structural balance, good or bad, between powerful vested interests, and under pressure from them all, must be very decisively influenced by this large section of the nation's industrial system in the moulding of its economic policy, and through its national policy, the international economic policy, and that this influence, which by the very nature of the function behind it, is international, should seek to identify itself as much as possible with the national government in each separate trading area, in order to bring their several trading standards substantially into line. But what seems equally obvious is that it would find itself more or less in opposition to the inevitably self-centred national governments in, and through which it sought to exercise its influence. Gradually through the years, and more rapidly with the modern development of producing and transporting facilities and general communication, the weight and influence of this particular functional group has increased out of proportion and balance with all the other and equally essential social faculties. The actual result of this has been to form a minority government-within-a-government, with a strong international bias in each separate political area, influencing, and seeking to deflect, national affairs in favour of their own purely sectional ends. With the increasing tendency to friction and divided councils in all national governments, arising from this almost unperceived internal interference, has developed the urge on the part of the anti-national minority to mould and condition public opinion within each separate national group, so as to persuade the populace into accepting, as inevitable, the steadily increasing proportion of international, as opposed to national, legislation in their domestic affairs.

I think that that outline of the immediate situation, developed gradually over the years, contains no unreasonable assumption. That it is more than assumption, I don't claim; for the tremendous size and scope to which modern economic problems have attained—problems essentially simple in themselves—make the prevalent practice of approaching them from the statistical and technical angle completely useless. As a dialectical proposition—a problem to be tackled, so to speak, at the surface level, and argued about and proved, or disproved, in terms of figures—the contemporary economic

dilemma is just so big in a physical sense as to be inapprehensible and therefore insoluble; a matter quite transcending the unaided human intellect. One is forced—as ultimately statesmen and society everywhere will be forced,—back to principles; to fall back upon the instinctive manner of approach to the subject, carrying out one's investigation on the intuitive plane, and relying on analogy and induction rather than on documentary facts.

II.

If the above assumptions, therefore, do not strike us as unreasonable, I feel we should give a very careful scrutiny to all the elaborate propaganda and argument with which the air is filled today in favour of "internationalism", and the dire need for One Economic World. Because in the prevailing mental atmosphere there can be no such thing left as unbiassed information or disinterested advice. Without a doubt there was a time when the moderate international influence prevailing in national councils acted as a useful curb on excessive national concentricity. But within the last fifty years or so it has grown to such unreasonable proportions as to have developed into a world-wide tyranny of professional experts—shoemakers with the power to insist that there is nothing like leather; or, in this case, nothing like the facilitating of merchandise (at a price, of course) from one part of the earth's surface to another—in possession of the sanctions to impose their own sectional function, or means, as an end upon society in general.

Of such, at that particular stage of development, were the Free Trade despots of the 19th Century, operating through London, along the lines laid down in those somewhat grim protocols known on the Continent as Manchesterism. Since then, however, and following two World Wars, conditions have altered both radically and subtly, and the pace has quickened and the reins tightened; with the centre of control shifted from the City of London to New York City, or Wall Street. And now what looks in retrospect like the almost lenient and tolerable Internationalism of the 19th Century is rapidly developing into a global nightmare, that must surely engulf us all if we cannot very soon contrive to discern and expose the still hidden mechanism through which it operates along with those that operate it.

We need, of course, to be quite clear as to what it is we want to expose. Granted he genuinely preferred world peace to world war, no one in his senses would deny the need—growing more obviously urgent every day, with the development of modern means of intercommunication—for International Authority of some kind. But what we must never forget—that is, if we regard ourselves as intelligent Christians—is that there exist immutable forces, servants of what we call the Natural Law, which make it absolutely impossible we should ever achieve a stable authority along the lines of a tyranny controlled by a functional section of the community. And more particularly a tyranny the source of which is *concealed*, as must of necessity be the case here, since, if it once recognised it, the public would never for an instant tolerate a situation in which, for instance, the faculty, or function, of Retail Distribution, down to, and including the sweet shop round the corner, was in a conspiracy to rule and regulate their entire existence so as to conform to what it considered was in the best interests of Retailers and the prosperity of their function of retail distribution. It follows, therefore, that the continuance and preservation of such a

comprehensive state of affairs, in spite of innumerable other factors, depends primarily on its secrecy, its occult element, and the machinery by which the truth regarding the source of compulsion and the identity of its real wielders is hidden from the community at large. This fact makes its discovery and denunciation of first importance; and doubly so, because the very fact that society is ignorant of the identity of its effective rulers, deprives those rulers of the restraining and essential counter-weight of open responsibility proportionate to the power they wield, leading directly and inevitably, as Lord Acton has pointed out, to corruption of every kind, conceivable and inconceivable. Without an acceptance of the importance of this conspiratorial element, which as an idea is fundamentally repugnant to the Western, and particularly the British outlook on things, and an understanding of its importance, there is not much hope of our arriving at a solution of the multitudinous problems arising directly from it. First and last this point must be emphasised, and it will be returned to later.

III.

In the early stages of Mercantilism, while nations still traded abroad mainly and properly for the sake of their own uncomplicated self-sufficiency; and while still the organised influence and power, the vested interest, of the faculty or function of inter-national trading and the experts operating it, was less than the combined influence of the several national units loosely united in their common interest in a mutual barter of differing products, who employed it—while this balance still persisted, an admirable mechanism of exchange had been evolved. No one with an eye for natural and subtle beauty—a faculty by no means so common these days,—could fail to admire the operations of the Foreign Bill Market, while they were still allowed to take their course with tolerable freedom, and the system of automatic adjustments of trade balances between nations, as it approached its zenith during the 19th Century under the halcyon influence of Sterling and the Pax Britannica. It never, of course, operated without interference; that would be too much to claim. But before the interference became too pronounced, it must be allowed to have been a beautiful mechanism. There is nothing outrageous, I believe, in this statement, although we are dealing with that supposedly dull and lifeless subject of economics; for it is a matter of observation, wherever functional human associations are concerned, that as long as they are sufficiently well-balanced and grounded in common sense, and realistically enough controlled as to resist satanic exploitation, beauty can always be relied on to appear, as the story-books say, "as if by magic"—be it added, White not Black Magic.

Comparable in effectiveness and symmetry with the above was the internal Money, or Exchange System of each separate country; of which, indeed, the international Exchange System was only an extension. It is true that the object of our dissection is not, strictly speaking, the Money System, but that of the international exchange of goods and services. It is an almost impossible feat, however, to achieve complete isolation of anything grown so pervasive and predominant as Foreign Trade has become today, or completely to dissociate any international activity that is more than the simplest physical barter from the Money System. At any rate, both these closely allied phenomena—the mechanism of internal and external Exchange—still remain with us, in

theory at any rate, to be studied; but so perverted and distorted in practice in, particularly, the last thirty-five years, as to be little more than museum pieces, and of rapidly decreasing practical use to the individual citizen, whose forebears evolved them instinctively for his own purposes, very much as he did his admirable domestic architecture. To such conditions has this contest—this distracting and yet *hidden* struggle within each separate nation, between national and international interests—brought contemporary civilisation! For that, simply, is the issue:—between external (international) trade as it should be, for, and limited by its direct benefit to the consumer representing his particular nation; and external trade for the sake (to put it crudely and not with complete exactitude) for the sake of the rake-off accruing to a purely functional section of the community, and one owning as much an international, as a national allegiance. An issue falsely presented with the help of a widespread, but still unrecognised influence, secretly acquired and exercised, over all sources of information and opinion, as the contest solely between public spirit and individual greed; the Common Good and individual self-seeking.

IV.

In the circumstances, it is obvious that there must be an urgent necessity for secrecy, occultism; for camouflaging the real origin of the pressure upon nations to trade beyond their actual needs, merely for the benefit of the functionaries, or servants, facilitating the activity. For what it amounts to is incipient conspiracy on the part of the Faculty of Exchange against the State, meaning by that term the People as consumers, and not necessarily the government, except in so far as it is truly representative. Nations—powerfully-organised groups of people—cannot be whipped knowingly into mutual activity for the benefit merely of a third, and minor group. Some more compulsive reason must be substituted. In the beginning, and to some extent still, this was achieved by transferring the anticipated benefits further and further into the economic future. But as the inevitably negative harvest of unnatural and secret monopoly ripened, or failed to ripen, even these delayed-action inducements had to be reinforced by threats of dire results—terrifying pictures of unemployment and starvation,—should there be any mitigation in the flogging of the exhausted horse of international trade. And as the original deception grew more and more difficult to keep up in face of the industrial development of the world in general, so too, increased the cankering necessity on the part of the concerted minority to get wider and wider control of all the sources of public information available to the dis-concerted majority. This subtle and unofficial censorship began with such faculties as Education and the Press and, as soon as it arrived on the scene, Radio; gradually spreading and percolating as it must, and will continue to do as long as we continue to turn our backs on its pervasive existence, in order finally to include the very basis upon which all independent human thought is built up,—from art and literature to scientific and ethical speculation until we find ourselves involved in a vast and diabolical system of interference with the natural course of things, built up in the interests of an original, and comparatively petty deception!

What we are following here—or attempting to follow—in isolation is the inevitable evolution of an unbalanced (uncompensated) phenomenon, an unnatural and excessive enlargement of one organ, or function, of the body politic,

exercising its monopolistic power, *the possession of which it has succeeded in hiding from the public*, to impose its particular *means* or technique, as an *end* on society as a whole. The original field of our observation is unmitigated International Trade—the Export Drive,—but it will be seen that the monopolising influence of this particular function has become so overpowering today, that in trying to treat of it specifically, one finds oneself making observations that seem like generalities about the whole of existence, to such an extent have the countless aspects and infinite varieties and needs of human consciousness been obliterated or bent to serve the unnatural, and exacting, and mostly fictitious necessities of a servant turned tyrant. The position is in fact so outrageously distorted that it is no exaggeration today—though it is a profoundly impious and unrealistic statement—to say that modern life *is* economics, and that everything else; the adventure, the fun, the love, the beauty, the wonder, the vital interest of existence, is become so secondary to the necessity of getting the last blade of grass off the field, or grub out of the midden, as to be almost negligible.

Realistically, in view of the advances of technology, such an attitude is sheer lunacy, a mesmeric obsession, the result of allowing one's mind and thinking to be controlled by another *for his own personal ends*; which, we must remember, is quite different from keeping a mind consistently open to the influence of all and any realistic thoughts and action that may be present. The bare idea of such control is revolting! But of one thing at least we may be sure, and that is, that as long as we leave this obscure glandular enlargement of society unexposed to continue its unbalanced and unbalancing development in the existing semi-secrecy, to the preserving of which an outrageous proportion of the energies of all modern states, with their elaborate precautionary measures and mechanisms are devoted—as long as we leave it unexposed and undenounced, in the Parliamentary cliché, no stone (with the disclosure of all the little wriggling things that inhabit under stones) will be left unturned, and no avenue, even if it leads to another Belsen, left unexplored, and no silly administrative experiment however futile and dangerous to society remain untried, in the endeavour to stave off the inevitable day of dis-covery.

(To be concluded).

PARLIAMENT (continued from page 3.)

of his party can contribute so freely to a subversive publication?

Hon. Members: Answer.

Mr. Rees-Williams: The hon. and gallant Member has asked for my opinion. If he asks for facts, I will give them to him.

. . . When more and more self-government is given to Colonies they must have a lot of these detailed decisions in their own hands. We cannot have self-government, on the one hand, and interference from Whitehall in every little detail, on the other. . . .

British Guiana (American Experts)

Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why American experts have been engaged to advise on rice production in British Guiana; and what are their conditions of service.

Mr. Rees-Williams: Two American experts have been

engaged through the Economic Co-operation Administration because of their specialised knowledge of mechanised rice cultivation. The dollar cost of their salaries during their two to three months' mission will be met from E.C.A. funds. They are also entitled to a subsistence allowance of £2 a day while in British Guiana, which is payable from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Bank of England (Staff)

Mr. Bossom asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons are employed by the Bank of England on Exchange Control.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: The staff employed by the Bank of England on Exchange Control form part of the general administrative staff of the Bank, and I understand that they number about 1,500.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Casual Weekly Earnings

Mr. H. D. Hughes asked the Minister of National Insurance what he estimates would be the cost of raising the limit of casual weekly earnings from 30s. to 45s. for widows and from 20s. to 30s. for women drawing retirement pension, respectively.

Mr. Steele: I regret that the necessary statistics on which to base any reliable estimate of the cost of this proposal are not available.

Retirement Pensions

Mr. H. D. Hughes asked the Minister of National Insurance what he estimates would be the total additional cost of re-instituting a pension of 10s. a week, without retirement conditions, for men at 65 and women at 60 years of age for all persons insured for five years prior to 5th July, 1948.

Mr. Steele: Subject to certain assumptions it is estimated that this proposal would cost about £4 million a year at the end of the first year, rising to £14 million a year in five years' time and gradually declining thereafter. The principal assumptions made are (1) that present ages of retirement remain unchanged; (2) that all those who do not now retire at age 65 men and 60 women would take the option of a 10s. pension, cease to pay contributions and forego increments; (3) that the increase to 26s. would be given at retirement or at age of 70 men and 65 women whichever is the earlier; (4) that unemployment and sickness benefit would not be payable after age 65 men and 60 women and that the people concerned would have to have recourse to National Assistance.

STATES ACTUAL, REAL & POTENTIAL

by

TUDOR JONES, Sc.D., M.D., F.R.S.E.

(The substance of an Address to the Speke Discussion Group on 7th December, 1948.)

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The Claims of the Sick

The following letter appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" of August 25, 1949:—

Sir,—Regulations under the National Insurance Act provide that benefit shall not be payable for any period more than ten days before the date on which the claim is made. In other words, if you become ill and see that the claim-form the Ministry sends you is safely lodged with them within ten days of the onset of your illness, you might reasonably assume that you have done everything necessary to establish your claim in being in the Ministry of National Insurance books.

But not so. Suppose, after drawing a few weeks' benefit, you send in a medical certificate to the effect that you have been admitted to hospital suffering from a long illness. Suppose also you are in receipt of your salary whilst ill, and do not bother, or feel well enough to bother to apply for further payment for, say, four months. When you do apply, enclosing evidence of your uninterrupted incapacity, you will receive a notice on form BF29A informing you, in typewriting, that "the claimant is disqualified from receiving sickness benefit on the ground that he failed to make a claim within the time prescribed," and going on to say, in print, that "it is provided by regulations that payment of benefit cannot be made in respect of any period of incapacity more than ten days before the date on which the claim is made." You will coolly be docked of benefit for the whole period (less ten days) between your latest medical certificate and the previous one of four months before.

The Ministry officials evidently regard each medical certificate as a separate claim-form and assume that the initial claim is cancelled at the first interim payment, rendering it necessary to remake a claim time and time again, even though it is perfectly obvious that the incapacity may last for months or years.

I maintain that this is a scandalous distortion of both the spirit and the letter of the Act and of the official regulations themselves, as these clearly relate any disqualification to the initial making of the claim. The Act and the regulations are there to be read.

The Ministry's insurance officer may, if he thinks you have proved "good cause for delay," remit the disqualification, or you may appeal to a tribunal if you feel well enough to exert yourself to do this. But how many people accept the first ruling and are thereby deprived of legitimate benefit?

How long would an insurance company be able to carry on business if it dealt with its sickness claims in this way?

I write in the public interest, as I have before me an actual case where what I have described has just happened. I cannot think it is an isolated one; indeed the Ministry's printed forms prove that it is not.—Yours etc.,

J. W. TOLFEE.

2, Kent View, Kendal, Westmorland.

August 22, 1949.

Federated Slopwork

The glamour-photographs of the new uniforms proposed for the British Army show a sloppy union-suit of part German and part American inspiration, obviously entirely

incapable of appearing either neat or smart.

If the soldier of the future is allowed no self-respect, how can he be expected to retain any respect for other people? Judging by the photographs the virtues to be fostered are the brutality of one alien source and the slovenly disregard for appearances of the other.

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