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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

We record the opinion, with which we concur, of Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the German Chancellor and *Partiechef* of the German Christian Democrats, that "the only difference between socialism and communism is as between an economic tyranny run by well-meaning men, and the same thing run by men who are, in addition, scoundrels."

It would appear that we suffer in "Britain" from a nicely judged mixture of both; dispensed to the prescription of the Sanhedrin of Satan.

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WITHOUT COMMENT. "Efforts will be made to carry out the switch-over at the expense of home-market goods rather than that of the export trade."—"Arms made in U.K. Free to Treaty Powers." — *Courier and Advertiser*, Dundee, August 4.

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"The idea of total war spreads, not because it is efficient, but because it trains a body of men who like "Planning" and control over other men. War gives them a vast propaganda apparatus by which to tell people that they, like Chantecler, cause the sun to rise. . . .

"It is curious how few people ask the question: Do the nations which adopt total mobilisation actually win their wars? Germany, the greatest exponent of total mobilisation, lost its last two wars. The gradual spread of total mobilisation all over the Western world has had truly disastrous results. Wars have become more brutal; war objectives more manic; fruits of victory more infinitesimal. The periods between open wars have grown shorter, and the descent to barbarism has gained increasing speed."

We have extracted the preceding paragraphs from an article by Edna Lonigan entitled "How to lose the war," appearing in *Human Events* of July 26.

So far from accusing Miss Lonigan of plagiarism, we congratulate her on a brilliant exposition of a central thesis of Social Credit, first sketched in outline in *Economic Democracy*, thirty-two years ago.

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The pattern of party politics in these hapless islands is now clear beyond any reasonable doubt to anyone who will give the matter attention. The major objectives are all laid down by the "United States," whatever we mean by that, and what happens to "the English" is just too bad. The Cabinet, equally with the Opposition, play an amusing and, to the individuals concerned, lucrative, game within this major Plan.

There is no alternative Party Government; the Central Offices of the so-called "Labour" Party, and that of the so-called "Conservative" Party, are under identical control and the leading figures in Parliamentary politics not merely know it, but aid and abet the situation in every way possible. We have no doubt that quite a large majority of the back-bench Members on both sides honestly believe (at any rate in their first months of Membership) that their opinions are of some consequence. They are, if they coincide with those of Mr. Bernard Baruch. When this illusion fades, they have the alternative of resigning from "the Party," as in the cases of those two outstanding examples, Mr. Brown of Rugby and Mr. Raymond Blackburn. Their Parliamentary career is over; they have demonstrated that British politics is either a profession for rogues, or an avocation for henchman. Outside these two classes, none other need apply.

So far the situation is comparatively simple, if not flattering to our whilom pride of race (which we are told is also an illusion). But there are two aspects which appear to be a little outside the main picture. How has it come about that the British Empire, even now the greatest potential political force in the world, has been handed over to "the Americans": without (outside ourselves and our valiant and esteemed contemporary, *Truth*) a coherent protest or a single action in rebuttal?

And how is it that the so-called national press, almost without exception, toes the "American" line?

In the meantime, recognising that no Party victory holds any promise of improvement, let us not overlook such possibilities as do exist. The fact that a Conservative Government only means allowing a second set of rogues to carry on the same policy while the Labour rogues take a well-earned rest, arises from the presence in the Legislature on both sides of the House, of a comparatively small body of conspirators. Turn them out; concentrate on their constituencies and explain their doings. And conversely, in the case of such men as Mr. Andrew Fontaine, make the Conservative Office find him a seat. Get Mr. Brown back to Westminster, and support Mr. Blackburn so that the penalisation of common honesty shall in his case be averted.

This country, *first*, needs men, not measures. And the Enemy knows it.

Drive the Front Bench on both sides out of Parliament, or into an avowed "American" cabal, where they belong, and where they have every right to be so long as Englishmen and Scots know what they have elected.

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Money Pamphlets by Pound*

By G. D. GILLING-SMITH

"He punches, and things and people fall flat. It is really good fun . . ."—so runs a blurb on one of Ezra Pound's pre-war books on Economics. One can not be so sure that the people who were punched merely reacted with loud guffaws—their voices were frequently heard during the later years of the war when popular antagonism to the Mussolini regime provided easy opportunities for verbal vengeance to be wreaked on such a man as Ezra who had associated himself with it. There were the literary men who in the past had taken exception to being called numbskulls, blockheads or doddards but they were not the sort of enemies who would have meted out the treatment he received at the hands of the Americans in Italy at the end of the war. It seems that when the American Forces reached Rapallo in 1945, Ezra gave himself up and was left unmolested for about a fortnight. By that time the penny had dropped, in the appropriate quarters, as to who he really was, and the authorities suddenly changed their tactics—he was handcuffed to a negro who had been convicted on a charge of rape, and whistled off to Pisa in the back of a lorry. There he wrote the now famous Pisan Cantos in which one can find passing references to his sufferings. Other details have been passed on by his friends about the treatment that eventually led to his nervous breakdown—how he was given only one blanket on the cold winter nights and had to stand with searchlights directed at him. He remembered the panther padding up and down in the Roman Zoo and wrote "The Panther could stand it, I must" and he remembered the negro soldier who, against regulations built him a table from a packing case:

And the greatest is charity
to be found among those who have not observed regulations

Not of course that we advocate . . .
and yet petty larceny
in a regime based on grand larceny
might rank as conformity . . .

The mental breakdown provided a pretext for locking him up without trial in an American asylum and for discrediting his work generally as that of a madman. It seemed that publicity was what was to be avoided and the inevitable controversy arising out of any treason trial would have given this, for, apart from his literary standing, Ezra is held in high personal esteem by many such popularly known writers as T. S. Eliot and Ernest Hemingway, whom he "spotted," encouraged, and sometimes, as in the case of James Joyce, introduced to the right publisher at a critical moment in their careers.

The attempt, however, to consign Ezra quietly to oblivion was not so successful as its instigators had hoped. The constant demand for his books called for reprints that were all too few and far between and I myself have spent many hours sifting through second-hand bookshops and only occasionally finding an odd volume, and that was usually able to command a high price. In 1948 the latest volume of the Cantos, the Pisan Cantos, were published and in the following year he was awarded the Bollingen prize for the best book of poetry published in 1948. The award was made by

the Fellows of the Library of Congress, men appointed by the Librarian in recognition of their literary position and including T. S. Eliot, Allen Tate and W. H. Auden. Then the fireworks started. Newspaper and periodical articles began to appear all over the place under such titles as "Treason's Strange Fruit," not so much disputing the choice as employing "smear tactics" one by one against the men who had made it. The usual epithets of "anti-semitic" and "fascist" were applied to one after the other of the literary jury and the Librarian was panicked into stating that no more prizes would be awarded in future. "The Case Against The Saturday Review of Literature"—\$1—Poetry Chicago—collects together the main articles that have appeared on the topic which it says took on in America the proportions of the Dreyfus Case. It quotes from one well-known New York weekly a statement which further illustrates the cultural affinity between New York and the Kremlin—"Art which does not portray our beautiful country in plain simple terms that everyone can understand breeds dissatisfaction. It is therefore opposed to our Government and those who create and promote it are our enemies."

The majority of Ezra's defenders have taken the line "You mustn't let his politics interfere with your appreciation of his poetry"—which unfortunately is rather like telling someone to enjoy the New Testament without being put off by its teachings. He writes in the opening of this pamphlet—"For forty years I have schooled myself, not to write the Economic History of the U.S. or any other country, but to write an epic poem which begins 'In the Dark Forest,' crosses the purgatory of human error, and ends in the light, *fra i maestri di color che sanno*. For this reason I have had to understand the nature of error." Elsewhere he frequently refers to the Cantos as the exhibiting of "ideas in action," not as they ought to be after being worked over by the idealizing romantic poet but in the poet's contrived equivalent to the 'rough unlicked moment' in the past. Wyndham Lewis in a recent article on Ezra Pound comments on the latter's exasperation when he first came to England at the widespread learning in the possession of those who never seemed to be able to harness it to contemporary events. Edwin Muir once referred to the Cantos as a "Social Credit Saga" and, although he was not meaning to be complimentary, his epithet was not altogether wide of the mark. The Cantos among other things do present a chronicle of human beings associating to achieve the ends they desired. It juxtaposes the ages when such ends were generally understood and accepted against ages such as the "age of usury" when confusion in every sphere, including terminology, was made use of to mislead men into accepting other ends than those they would naturally choose. But the record is not, like that in a history book just one of being wise after the event; the events are carefully tied up to the ideas in the minds of the individuals responsible for them, who are presented in the form of dramatic monologues or letters and diaries, whether actual or imagined, and every device of dialect, colloquialism and personal mannerism is brought to play to put the characters and "ideas in action" on the map of our own here and now—except of course where the events are made to appear in distant time to emphasize the contrast of another age with our own. The unfinished epic poem is a constant stimulus to one's awareness of the things that are really significant in one's political environment. The "Let's keep politics out of it" approach is therefore rather futile when it comes to Ezra's *magnum opus* and restricts appreciation to the occasional lyrical passages, such

*Introduction to the *Economic Nature of the United States*. Ezra Pound. (London: Peter Russell, 1950).

as the one on Vanity which I will refer to later, unsurpassed, in almost any judgement, by, at the lowest estimate, anything written in our own time.

It is therefore a treat to find someone who, although not himself a Social Crediter, and declaring that his loyalties are purely personal, to Ezra, has recognised that Pound the political writer and Pound the poet are not to be placed in separate compartments, and that if one is genuinely interested in what he has to communicate in verse one must at least take the trouble to ponder on the more elementary but none the less important groundwork which he has put into prose. For this purpose Peter Russell, editor of an excellent new literary review, *Nine*, is publishing a series of Ezra Pound's Political and Economic writings, one or two of which had appeared before the war but the majority of which have been recently translated from the Italian of the original and are therefore completely new to the Social Crediter as well as to the general reader.

(To be continued)

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: July 20, 1950.

Schools (Propaganda)

Major Tufton Beamish asked the Minister of Education whether he is aware that Communist propaganda is being taught in many schools; and if he will issue a circular insisting that all such propaganda ceases forthwith.

Mr. Tomlinson: It is a long established and well understood rule that teachers should not use their position to propagate their political views in the course of instruction. I have no evidence that this rule is being broken, but if the hon. and gallant Member has any particular case in mind and will let me have information I will investigate it.

Major Beamish: If I give the Minister a copy of the text book I hold in my hand called "Life in the U.S.S.R." written by Mrs. Beatrice King, well known for her Communist associations, will he undertake to have this book withdrawn immediately from circulation; since it is Communist propaganda at its worst? Is it not a shocking and scandalous thing that the British taxpayer should pay for this subversive propaganda which is being taught to our children in the schools?

Mr. Tomlinson: If the book is drawn to my notice, I will certainly look at it. I would point out that it was published in 1944, when people were saying different things about the U.S.S.R. from what they are saying today; but if it is being used for propaganda purposes, and I can find evidence of that, I will certainly inquire into it.

Mr. Ralph Morley: Is the Minister aware that the question of the hon. and gallant Member constitutes a gross reflection on the professional integrity of the teachers of this country, and that all teachers are united in condemning any attempt at political propaganda in the schools, whether it be Communist propaganda or Conservative propaganda?

Mr. Nigel Fisher: Does not the Minister agree that it would have been a shocking thing to him to have found that 2,000 teachers in State schools in 1939 were members of the British Union of Fascists, and does he not find it equally shocking that today there are the same number at

least, and probably more, Communist teachers in the State run schools of this country?

Mr. Tomlinson: I have not made any inquiries as to the number of people who profess various political beliefs; it is no part of my business to do so.

Mr. Chetwynd: Would my right hon. Friend be careful not to interfere with the selection of text books, but to leave that to the responsibility of the teachers concerned?

Mr. Tomlinson: I have no authority to interfere with text books.

Mr. F. P. Crowder: Is the Minister aware that Mrs. Beatrice King, who is the author of this pamphlet, is a leading member of the executive of the British Soviet Society and that she was chairman of its women's organisation last year? Is the Minister further aware that this Society is condemned and proscribed by his own party, and if it is not thought fitting and good that Socialists should have any contact with it, is it not worse that children should have their minds polluted by this insidious form of propaganda?

Mr. Tomlinson: No single point that has been mentioned by the hon. Member has anything to do with the Question on the Paper.

Mr. A. Fenner Brockway: May I ask my right hon. Friend whether this book was not issued at a time when there was a Conservative Minister of Education?

Mr. Kirkwood: It was.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: We had better get on with the next Question.

Major Beamish: On a point of order. In view of the fact that this book is still in wide circulation and use, and in view of the extremely unsatisfactory nature of the replies by the Minister, I give notice that I propose to raise this matter as soon as possible.

Supply

Education, Scotland

Colonel Gomme-Duncan (Perth and East Perthshire): . . . I do not propose in any way this afternoon to try to be popular in what I am going to say. I do not regard this question of education as a party political matter in the slightest degree. Great mistakes have been made in the past in education by Governments of all kinds, and great progress has also been made under Governments of all kinds. I think it was Diogenes, who lived many years ago, who said that the foundations of every state lie in the education of its youth. There is no doubt about that.

As Scotsmen and women interested in the well-being of our country and in the contribution it can make to the world, what we have to do is to judge by results. Nothing else matters. It is the result of any system which has been brought into operation upon which we must judge—a fact we have to accept. We have to look today to the condition of our country particularly in its outlook on life, the conditions in the homes of the people, whether they have the ability or the intention to accept responsibilities, and to such things as crime, and in particular juvenile delin-

(Continued on page 6.)

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Saturday, August 19, 1950.

America's Plague of Plenty*

Time Magazine, June 19, describes the Abundance in this mechanised America, a land of milk and honey beyond Moses' wildest dreams. But, says *Time*, perverse economics and expedient politics have transformed America's blessing of plenty into a "plague of plenty."

Food prices are too high to the consumer, yet America is spending or lending more than \$11 million a day to keep them that way. There is more food than people can eat, yet at least 15 million Americans (plus 600 to 700 million in other lands) cannot get enough of the right kind. One arm of the massive Department of Agriculture is feverishly shuffling schemes for limiting farm production, while another arm is busily showing farmers how to grow and produce more.

The U.S. government is buying up this over-abundance, and, in elevators, underground caves, giant refrigerators, vacated warehouses and empty hangars, now has stored up:

516,242,531 bushels of wheat and corn—enough to fill a freight train stretching 11,679 miles, almost half way around the world at the equator.

3,600,000 bales of cotton—enough to loom 90 million bedsheets.

88,000,000 pounds of dried eggs—enough to supply U.S. bakers for the next eight years.

99,000,000 pounds of butter—enough to make 495 million cakes.

316,000,000 pounds of powdered milk—enough to irrigate the Wheaties of all New York school children for several years to come.

There is also stored up small mountains of cheese, soybeans, tobacco, dried fruit and peas, rosin, cotton seed meal and other products which no one would buy and the government could hardly give away—and more piling up every day.

Government subsidies paid to farmers—out of taxes, of course—have kept consumer prices scandalously high. The consumer has been paying *twice*: once in high prices over the counter, and again in taxes to finance the farm-supported programme to keep the prices up.

Many of the mounting surpluses could be removed—if we would consume more. But even now millions of Americans are too short of purchasing power to buy the things they need. Secretary of Agriculture Brannan seems to sense the direction of the trouble, for he favours guaranteeing a support-price to the farmer, and then letting

the market find its own level. If prices fell below the support-price, the farmer would be subsidised the difference; but the consumer would get the benefit of the lower prices and would only be paying *once*—in taxes.

It becomes more obvious each passing day that the only barrier standing between the people in America and unparalleled abundance for every family is a "financial" one. The problem is one of Distribution, not Production. And any use of subsidies to find a solution requires their application at the Consumption rather than the Production end.

Let our governments use national credit to pay a subsidy to *lower* prices to the consumer. This is the opposite of inflation; this will expand our home market by increasing consumption, and raise our standard of living to the mutual benefit of both producer and consumer. Stimulate Consumption and Production will take care of itself.

The Politics of Hebrew

In an article in DUCKETT'S REGISTER of August, 1950, STANLEY B. JAMES comments:—

"Writing in *The Nineteenth Century* on *The Hebrew Conception of Speech as a Creative Energy*, Agathe H. F. Thornton, Ph.D., some little while ago, quoted Josh Pedersen Israel to the effect that in Hebrew the word which means that a man is such and such also means 'to make a man such and such.' This characteristic has survived among the Jews to the present day. In a tribute to Dr. Weitzmann, Dr. Gustav Krojanker of Jerusalem wrote: 'With us it is not, as with other people, only a question of winning, through the persuasive power of the spoken word, the majority which gives its consent to the practical way. With us it is necessary again and again to mould the people itself in whose name one can speak.' And this principle he applies to Weitzmann. 'It might be reasonable to regard Weitzmann's speeches,' he says, 'merely as a text accompanying the practical political work of the statesman, and thus to distinguish between action as his essential achievement and the interpreting word accompanying such action. But this holds good only for a part, and a very small part at that, of his speeches.'"

Reality Will Confirm

"... truth confirms truth. If you say to a man a thing which *he* thinks is nonsensical, impossible, a mere jingle of words although you yourself know it very well by experience to be true; when later he finds this thing by his own experience to be actual and living, then is truth confirmed in his mind; it stands out much more strongly than it would had he never doubted. On this account, it is always worth while, I think, to hammer at truths which one knows to be important, even those which seem, to others, at their first statement mere nonsense. For though you may die under the imputation of being a man without a sense of proportion, or even a madman, yet reality will in time confirm your effort. And even though that confirmation of your effort, the triumph of the truth, should never be associated with your name, yet it is worth making, for the sake of the truth, to which I am sure we owe a sort of allegiance: not because it is the truth—one can have no allegiance to an abstraction—but because whenever we insist upon a truth we are witnessing to Almighty God." —H. BELLOC, *The Cruise of the 'Nona'*.

*From *Social Credit* (Walters Falls, Ontario) July, 1950.

Sybil

by H. S. SWABEY

"If the history of England be ever written by one who has the knowledge and the courage, the world would be more astonished than when reading the Roman annals of Niebuhr: all the great events have been distorted, most of the important causes concealed, some of the principal characters never appear, and all who figure are misunderstood and misrepresented [owing to] the mysteries with which for nearly three centuries it has been the labour of party writers to involve a national history . . . The written history of the last ten reigns has been a mere phantasma. Oligarchy has been called Liberty; an exclusive priesthood has been christened a National Church; Sovereignty has been the title of something that has no dominion, while absolute power has been wielded by those who profess themselves the servants of the people. Two great existences have been blotted out of the history of England, the Monarch and the Multitude: the sceptre has become a pageant and its subject has degenerated into a serf."

In *Sybil*, which was published in 1845, Disraeli glanced at earlier times, but gave most attention to the affair of 1688 and its consequences in the degradation of the people. "The monks' history was written by their enemies. The Monastics were easy landlords; there were yeomen then, sir; the country was not divided into two classes, masters and slaves; there was some resting place between luxury and misery." He also mentioned "The 'civil and religious liberty families' who in one century plundered the church to gain the property of the people, and in another changed the dynasty to gain the power of the crown." "King Charles was the holocaust of direct taxation." But his account of 1688 gives the book much of its present importance.

"The real cause of the . . . Dutch invasion of 1688 was financial. The prince of Orange had found that the resources of Holland were inadequate to sustain him in his international rivalry with the great sovereign of France. In an authentic conversation with one of the prime abettors of the invasion, the prince said, 'Nothing but such a constitution as you have in England can have the credit to raise such sums as a great war requires'. The prince came and used our constitution for his purpose; he introduced into England the system of Dutch finance. The principle was to mortgage industry in order to protect property . . . nothing can be conceived more unjust . . . Applied to a considerable and growing population, where there was a numerous peasantry, a trading middle class struggling into existence, the system of Dutch finance, pursued for a century and a half, has ended in the degradation and fetters of a burthened multitude. Nor have the demoralising consequences of the funding system on the more favoured classes been less decided. It has made debt a national habit, it has made credit* the ruling power . . . the moral condition of the people has been entirely lost sight of."

It was a pity that Disraeli did not define the principle more accurately, for it was not property that was protected, nor even productive capital, but loan capital. This vagueness has been very useful to generations of "Dutch" financiers. It is worth noting that Blackstone also detested the Dutch system. He objected to the excise duty "first

introduced on the model of the Dutch prototype after the rupture with the crown in 1643"; and no less deplored loan finance: "Immense sums are appropriated, first and principally, to the payment of the interest of the national debt." Blackstone objected to anticipating the revenues of posterity, saw the dangers of some of this debt being owed to foreigners, and held that the system "weakens the internal strength of a state."

Disraeli ridiculed the idea that there was anything "popular" about the revolution. "Alarmed at the prevalent impression that King James intended to insist on the restitution of the church estates to their original purpose, the education of the people and the maintainance of the poor, the Lord of Marney Abbey became a warm adherent of 'civil and religious liberty' . . . and joined the other whig lords and lay impropiators in calling over the Prince of Orange and a Dutch army to vindicate those popular principles which, somehow or other, the people would never support." Nor was it particularly "religious". Disraeli shews: "To those who believe that the English nation (even in the days of the Plantagenets anti-Papal) was in any danger of again falling under the yoke of the Pope, religious liberty was perhaps acceptable, though it took the shape of a discipline which at once anathematised a great portion of the nation and, virtually establishing Puritanism in Ireland, laid the foundations of those mischiefs which are now endangering the empire." Indeed, to govern Ireland was "only to apportion the public plunder to a corrupt senate." He rounds off the religious question: "That the last of the Stewarts had any other object than a scheme to blend the two churches there is now authority to disbelieve. If James II had really attempted to re-establish popery, the English people, who had no hand in his overthrow, would doubtless soon have secured their 'Catholic and Apostolic Church'; it is possible they might have achieved their object and yet retained their native princes; (and) we might have been saved from the triple blessings of Venetian politics, Dutch finance and French wars . . ." Blackstone recorded the City of London's hostility to James when he questioned their right to abuse their charter. The following quotation from the *Essex Chronicle* shews that such hostilities are not merely of the mythical past. R. J. Thompson wrote on July 28, 1950:—

"The real strength of the hostility to King Edward was something that lay deep below the surface of the national life. It was the old regime, the ancient aristocracy, and still more the leaders of the upper middle class, the bankers and manufacturers and traders, who did not want King Edward on the throne. They preferred a figurehead. They wanted no King who had any sort of aspiration to restore the monarchy to what it was before the Hanoverians took it over from the Stewarts."

Disraeli was not taken in by the "reform" of 1832; it was a "mean and selfish revolution which emancipated neither the Crown nor the People". A comment in *Sybil* by one of the characters was: "We shall have some monster of the middle class . . . with his long purse, preaching reform and practising corruption; exactly as the liberals did under Walpole; bribery was unknown in the time of the Stewarts."

After a few words on Mr. Pitt, Disraeli dealt in detail with the condition of the people. Pitt "always preferred

*i.e. financial, not real, credit—Editor, T.S.C.

a usurer to a friend; and to the last day of his life borrowed money at 50 per cent." In politics, too, he was "struggling for his existence," and finally "appealed to the fears, prejudices and passions of a privileged class, revived the old policy of the oligarchy, and plunged into all the ruinous excesses of French war and Dutch finance."

Disraeli's description of the miserable results of Dutch finance is as graphic as those of Cobbett or Byron. Infanticide is practised as extensively and legally in England as on the banks of the Ganges." Laudanum and treacle, Godfrey's cordial, being sent out in the street at two years old to play were some of the methods. "When the nobility of France were supplanted, they did not amount to a third of us handloom weavers, yet all Europe went to war. . . . We have lost our estates. . . . Sympathy is the solace of the poor, for the Rich there is compensation." He mentions English girls of twelve "naked to the waist, an iron chain fastened to a belt of leather runs between their legs clad in canvass trousers." "Little trappers emerge from the bowels of the earth; infants of four and five years old, some of them girls." Shortage of money led to the "tommy" system, whereby the men were paid in something they did not want which was charged up at a fantastic rate.

But his conclusion is important, and is given in this dialogue:

"The domestic feeling is fast vanishing among the working classes. The Home no longer exists."

"You lament the expiring idea of Home. It would not be expiring if it were worth retaining. The domestic principle has fulfilled its purpose. In the present state of civilisation, and with the scientific means of happiness at our command, the notion of home should be obsolete. Home is a barbarous idea; the method of a rude age; home is isolation, therefore anti-social. What we want is community."

"It is all very fine, but I like stretching my feet on my own hearth."

Disraeli saw the danger of "reformers" who would take advantage of the conditions to mislead man further. We may compare W. Lewis's note on Proudhon (in *The Art of Being Ruled*): "*Socialism wishes to abolish the family because it costs too much*, he said. He saw the threat of a new slave state, worse than any former slavery."

Sybil concludes with a hope that was, apparently, rather forlorn: "That we may live to see England once more possess a free Monarchy and a privileged and prosperous People is my prayer." But, of course, "The great measures of Sir Robert Peel, which produced three good harvests, have entirely revived trade at Mowbray."

Mighty Atoms

The following press items are typical:—

"Banker Bernard Baruch is urging President Truman to make immediate use of his power to introduce rationing and other controls to stop war-scared hoarding in U.S.A."—*Reynolds's News*, August 6.

"President Truman is taking immediate action to speed up production of the hydrogen bomb. Plant will be built and worked by the great Dupont de Nemours chemical combine."—*The Daily Herald*, August 3.

PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3).

quency, about which every Member of this Committee is worried.

If we are to judge by results I feel bound to say that we must confess that our educational system has very largely failed. The results are not commensurate with the enormous expenditure of money, effort and good will. There are dreadful figures of juvenile delinquency and of the terrible decline in public morality, not only on the part of youth but very often of the parents too. A large number of those parents were school children not very long before the recent war.

This deterioration of public morality has been going on steadily. The war accelerated it by the breaking up of homes and the tragedies that followed, but our educational system has succeeded very largely, apart from all the good things it has done, in producing children in whom the chief idea seems to be: "What can we get for ourselves out of this system and out of this country?" instead of the supreme ideal: "What can we put into it?" Until we get that position turned round the right way all our plans for education—for buildings, size of classes, etc.—will not be of the slightest use. We must concentrate upon that great object. If any Christian country is to survive, and no state will survive until it is Christian in the highest sense of the word, we must reverse that process. The right principles must be put into the children's minds from the word "go" in their education. It must be: "What can I do for the good of mankind around me and for the life of my country?"

I have already said that all Governments are to blame for what has gone wrong. They are also entitled to accept the praise for what has gone right. I feel strongly that what we have come to call the "welfare State" is one of the great dangers in the production of that very state of affairs which we hoped the welfare State if set up would avoid. . . . I would not say that my remarks apply to Scotland only, but we are dealing with Scottish education. I would be the last person to run down Scotland as compared with any other country. My remarks apply to Great Britain, and to countries of the world which are far worse than Great Britain. That is the tendency of the world today. I agree in regard to the drunkenness.

Sir T. Moore: That is owing to the high price of drink.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: Drunkenness has very largely disappeared. Many efforts were made to reduce it in days gone by as one of the factors which produced crime. Nevertheless, we have only to keep our ears and eyes open as we go about the streets to discover that public morality has declined. People are today doing things that they would never have dreamed of doing even before the war. We must not put our heads into a bag and pretend that it is not the case. Our whole education system must be judged by these results. The only object of taking a good look round at what we have done or have not achieved is the need for putting things right. It is no good merely saying that morality has declined and that the education system has failed unless we say that our great objective must be to put it right before it is too late. I believe that to be the object of every hon. Member in the Committee, especially among those who have been dealing with the edu-

cation of the country.

Let me give an example of what has been produced by the Welfare State. I am not saying that we are not responsible for the Welfare State as much as hon. Gentlemen opposite. I accept that. I am not being party political about this matter. We have to realise that a call was made for Civil Defence volunteers and that they did not come. A call has been made for Territorials. They have not come. We do not get volunteers nowadays. Young people say when we tell them to do something: "We will think about it, and probably do it." They do not come forward as they used to do. That is a clear example of faulty education.

Mr. Emrys Hughes (South Ayrshire) It is the result of conscription.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: That matter will come before us next Wednesday, I understand. We must accept the fact that volunteers for most worthy objects are not coming forward in the way that they would have done, for instance, in 1914. I believe that the teachers of our country are second to none.

Miss Herbison: Before the hon. and gallant Gentleman leaves that subject, I would remind him that he said that some blame could be attributed to the Welfare State. He has not shown us how he attributes that blame.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: The idea of the Welfare State is that we have only to have this that or the other board set up and they will hand it to us free. We all know that things are not free because we have to pay for them, but that is the attitude that people have towards the welfare State. It is: "You have no need to bother. The State will do it for you." There is no getting away from it that that is what the people of this country feel. It is very wrong. I would not do away with the principles of the welfare State. We have taken a greater part in building up the welfare State than has any other party in the country. [*Laughter.*] That statement is capable of proof, starting with the formation of trade unions by a Tory Government in the years gone by. [*Laughter.*] Yes, "Ha, Ha," but what I have said is true, and it took place in 1824. I do not propose to be drawn aside by these irrelevancies.

I was coming on to the question of teachers in order to say what an admiration I have for those wonderful men and women. It is not an easy job to teach children. The hon. Lady knows that, as a schoolmistress, as much as I know it as a parent, but I have only two of them, as compared with a class of 70. Teaching is a profession which calls for the very highest character and the highest degrees of patience and helpfulness. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them, yet we feel that there is sometimes rather an antagonism between parents and teachers. I am not quite sure that sometimes directors of education and potentates of that kind are not much more responsible for these troubles than are the teachers themselves.

Miss Herbison: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. and gallant Member again. From my experience, and from the watch that I have kept on education since, I should say that the feeling between parents and teachers is much better today than it was before the war.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: I hoped that I had made that clear. I am not saying that it is the fault of the parents

or the teachers but that people like directors of education who are unintentionally making the friction that should never have occurred between parents and teachers. [*AN HON. MEMBER*: "Nonsense."] I am not accusing directors of education of doing it deliberately, but we all know, from the correspondence we receive, of people who say: "Why didn't Johnny get a secondary school place? Willie down the road did." They say that that was done by the director of education.

This is a point that the Minister might well look at in order to see that the selection boards under the directors of education are proved to the parents to be entirely just, as I believe them to be, though often there is a misunderstanding that they are not. It should be shown that they are entirely competent to judge of children's merits. Though parents may feel—it is only human nature—that their children are one degree better than other people's children it should be shown that the selection boards preserve absolute fairness and equality of opportunity, about which the hon. Lady spoke so well, in this matter of going forward to secondary education.

I hope that the Secretary of State and all the education authorities in Scotland will do a little more about teaching Scottish children Scottish history— . . . I realise that what I have said will probably not have the agreement of a number of hon. Members, but, as I said at the beginning, we must judge education by results, and I do not think that in Scotland or in Great Britain today we can conscientiously say that the results which we see can justify the claim that our educational system has succeeded. It should be our job to find out what is wrong and to do everything we can to put it right. We are doing so much on the material side; I feel that a little more on the mental and spiritual side might put the matter right.

Tomato and Cucumber Marketing Scheme

The Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture (Mr. George Brown): I beg to move:

"That the Draft Tomato and Cucumber Marketing Scheme, 1950, a copy of which was laid before this House on 10th July, be approved."

As the House knows, it is almost exactly 20 years since the present Lord Privy Seal, then the Minister of Agriculture, with the full support of his colleagues in the Cabinet of that day, came to the conclusion that machinery was necessary to promote the orderly marketing of agricultural produce. The view of the Government of that day was that this was necessary both for the good of the agricultural industry and for the good of the consumers, and the decision which they then took led to the introduction in 1931 of the first Agricultural Marketing Bill. Since that day, for very nearly 20 years this has remained the firm policy of the Labour Party.

. . . The scheme before the House has been prepared and submitted in accordance with the Marketing Acts of 1931 to 1949. It seeks powers for the regulation of the marketing in Great Britain of tomatoes and cucumbers by a Board partly, and in the main, elected by the producers of these products and, in part, appointed by the Minister. . . .

. . . May I now say just a word about the powers and duties which attach to Marketing Boards of this character, and examine against that background, since it is of some importance, the particular powers and duties which this Board

will have under this scheme. First of all, it should be able to establish conditions under which the sale of the producer's product will give confidence both to the producers and to the consumers. It should be able to encourage the regular and methodical supply of these markets in accordance with current needs. It should develop consumer demand, both by improving the character, standard, grading and convenience of supply, as well as by commercial propaganda of the most appropriate kind.

It should be in a position to collect and disseminate reliable, timely and practical market intelligence, which is of great importance in this particular field of our industry. It should encourage by every possible means better methods of production. It should have power to organise—and this is of considerable importance to the industry—suitable storage facilities as and when necessary, and to arrange for the economic utilisation of by-products. It should be able to encourage the assembly, for transport in bulk when possible, of the product to be marketed, in order to diminish costs.

In all this work—and this is important when considering whether marketing schemes are right or not—it must be able to command first-class management and employ expert assistance. It is, after all, a feature of Marketing Boards that they can afford to do this, whereas it is peculiarly a feature of an industry of thousands of small people, as this one is, that producers themselves individually cannot afford to do so.

The powers which it is proposed to grant to this Board at the outset of the scheme are set out in paragraphs 68 and 69 of the scheme, of which I think hon. Members have a copy. These powers are purely regulatory in their scope. The Board may determine the descriptions of tomatoes and cucumbers which may be sold by registered producers and the terms on which they may be sold. They may maintain a list of persons to or through the agency of whom alone tomatoes and cucumbers may be sold. They may advertise, co-operate with any other person in grading, packing, storing, adapting for sale, insuring and transporting tomatoes and cucumbers. They may encourage, promote or conduct agricultural co-operation, research and education. They may encourage and promote the use of packing stations and standard grades. They may act as the agent or registered producers for the purpose of the Horticultural Produce (Sales on Commission) Act, 1926. Finally, they may negotiate with any other person in any matter relating to the marketing of tomatoes and cucumbers. . . .

. . . It may be alleged, of course, that some of the powers of the Board are restrictive, but "restrictive" is one of so many words that can be made to sound so harsh and which mean so little. The interests of the public will be amply safeguarded by the consumers' committees and the committees of investigation established under Section 9 of the Agricultural Marketing Act, 1931, and the further powers given to my right hon. Friend by Sections 2 and 4 of the Agricultural Marketing Act, 1949.

I do not accept the view that the scheme will infringe in any way upon the legal or other rights of any section of the trading community. . . .

Train Fires

Sir R. Glyn asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware that the report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research into the fire on a train last autumn in the Penmanshiel tunnel near Berwick disclosed that the

lacquer paintwork was 16.7 per cent. nitro-cellulose and 75 per cent. solvent; how far conditions in the recent fatal fire on the Birmingham—Glasgow train were similar; and what action he proposes to take in this connection.

Mr. Barnes: I am aware from the report which was made to me by the Inspecting Officer of Railways who conducted the inquiry into the train fire at Penmanshiel last summer that the composition of the clear lacquer concerned was substantially as stated by the hon. Member. I am sending him a copy of the report from which it will be seen that the coaches which had been sprayed with this particular cellulose lacquer were withdrawn from service immediately after the accident. Other coaches in which cellulose laquers of any kind may have been used are being tested for fire risk as they pass through the shops for repair, and preventive precautions are being taken as may be suitable. The whole question of the interior finishing of railway coaches in relation to fire risks is under review with the Railway Executive.

The fatal fire near Beattock of 8th June this year is under inquiry by an Inspecting Officer of Railways and it will be appreciated that until his report is received, I am not in a position to make any statement.

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