

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1951.

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Gnostic Heresies

Henry Bettenson in his Documents of the Christian Church (1943) lists the "heresies concerning the Person of Christ" as follows:— (a) Docetism; (b) Gnosticism: 1. The Syrian Type. 2. The Egyptian Type. 3. The Judaizing Type. 4. The Pontic Type. (c) Monarchianism: 1. Patripassianism. 2. Sabellianism; (d) Arianism; and (e) Attempts to overthrow the Nicene Formulas. The Syrian Type of Gnosticism is exemplified by Saturninus, (c. 120); the Egyptian Type by Basilides (c. 130); the Judaizing Type by Cerinthus and the Ebionites of the late first century; and the Pontic Type by Marcion (c. 160). He defines Gnosticism generally as "The attempt to interpret Christ in terms of heathen philosophy, or 'theosophy.'" Anyone who has read e.g., Mme. Blavatsky's "The Secret Doctrine" cannot but be impressed by the 'resonances' evoked by Dean Mansel's treatment of the Gnostic Heresies of the First and Second Centuries.* In contrasting the thought of these two works, we feel that we are contrasting the *fons et origo* of the schism which has afflicted the society of man throughout historical times. In this quarrel, Social Credit is vitally, and we would say almost pre-eminently concerned. In music, the small difference between a pure fifth and an equally tempered fifth (which even the inexpert can detect *in suitable circumstances*; but which only the highly trained can reproduce at will) is called a *schisma*; and this *schisma* is the measure of our predicament as Social Crediters. The whole world *detects* the presence of a *schisma* which reduces the natural harmonies of physical life and the metaphysical harmonies of social life to something more and more akin to the "great shout" which shattered Jericho's wall. Unless the only answer to a great shout is a great silence, there may be something salutary in a little tuning. And so we return as promised to Dean Mansel, from whose work we have abstracted the following:—

(Lecture II: *Sources of Gnosticism*): In my last lecture I mentioned two problems borrowed from heathen philosophy, and intruded by Gnosticism on the Christian revelation—the problem of Absolute Existence and the problem of the Origin of Evil. These two problems, as we have seen, were by the Gnostics merged into one; but they came to them from different sources, and their previous history to some extent belongs to different systems of philosophy. The problem of the Absolute was handed down to them from Plato, through the medium of the Græco-Jewish school at Alexandria represented by Philo Philo elaborated a theory for the interpretation of the Jewish Scriptures, according to which God who made and who governs the world, the God whose personal intercourse with His chosen people is conspicuous throughout the whole teaching of the Old Testament, is distinguished from the absolute first principle, which, as being beyond personality and beyond definite existence, is

immutable and incapable of relation to finite things. This latter—the supreme God—is absolute and simple existence, without qualities, and not to be expressed in speech. The former—the Logos or mediator between the supreme God and the world—is invested with those personal attributes which characterize the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, and to him are referred those several passages of Scripture in which God is spoken of as holding direct intercourse with man. Whether Philo really intends to represent the supreme God and the Logos as two numerically distinct beings, is a matter of dispute among his commentators, and indeed in the case of a writer so extremely fanciful and unsystematic it is difficult to say whether he had any definite theory on this subject at all. The same may be also said of his description of the Divine powers or *dynamis*, which are sometimes described in language which seems to represent them as distinct personal beings, sometimes appear to be merely poetical personifications of the several attributes of God, as manifested in relation to the world.

But the Gnostic philosophers differed from Philo in one important particular. Philo, as a Jew, had merely to adapt his system to the interpretation of the Old Testament; the Gnostics, dealing with the Christian revelation, had to extend the theory so as to connect it with some kind of an acknowledgment of the person and work of Christ. The Gnostics professed to acknowledge Christ as in some manner the Redeemer of the world; but from what does he redeem it? Not from sin in the proper sense of the term; not from evil entailed upon man by his own voluntary transgression of God's law, for, under the Gnostic hypothesis, there is no free will in man, and therefore no voluntary transgression. The evil from which Christ redeems the world must therefore be evil of another kind—something not introduced into the world by man's disobedience, but something inherent in the constitution of the world itself. The evil that is in the world must therefore be due to the Creator of the world; it must be inherent in the world from the beginning—the result of some weakness at least, or some ignorance, if not of some positive malignity concurring in its first formation. The Demiurge is thus necessarily lowered from the position which he holds in the system of Philo, as next to, if not one with, the supreme God. The Redeemer of the world must stand higher than the Creator; for he is sent to remedy the imperfection of the Creator's work: there will be a gulf between them of greater or less extent, according to the amount of evil which the philosopher may believe himself to have discovered in the world, and the consequent amount of imperfection which he may think proper to attribute to its maker, and this gulf may be filled up by any number of intermediate beings, forming so many successive links in the chain of descent from good to evil. It is obvious that under a theory of this kind the Jewish religion and the Scriptures of the Old Testament may be regarded as standing in either of two different relations towards Christianity, or rather towards the philosophy which

* T.S.C. April 7 and April 14.

takes the place of Christianity. The Creator of the world, the God of the Jewish people, may be regarded merely as an imperfect, or as a positively malignant being. . . .

Two opposite views may thus be taken of the Jewish religion. It may be an imperfect preparation for a Christian philosophy, which the latter is designed to supersede by completing, or it may be a system fundamentally hostile to Christianity, which the latter is designed to combat and overthrow. On account of this difference, the Gnostic schools have sometimes been divided into the two classes of Judaizing and anti-Jewish Gnostics; the one regarding it as the mission of Christ to complete an imperfect revelation, the other supposing Him to be sent to deliver the world from the bondage of an evil creator and governor. How far this distinction may be considered as furnishing the ground for an accurate classification of the several Gnostic systems, will be considered hereafter. At present we must endeavour to complete our sketch of the philosophical sources of Gnosticism, by recurring to the second great problem, which its professors applied to the interpretation of Christianity—the problem of the Origin of Evil.

(To be continued).

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, June 4, 1951.

Gas Supplies (Underground Experiments)

Mr. Nabarro asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what statutory powers are possessed by his Department for acquiring or entering upon agricultural land for the purposes of conducting experiments or schemes for the gasification of underground seams of coal; what disturbance to agricultural land is entailed by the gasification process; and what compensation for damage and for losses, whether consequential or otherwise, will be paid to farmers and landowners when their land is used for gasification purposes.

Mr. P. Noel-Baker: Under the Defence Regulations, I have the power to requisition land for the underground gasification of coal. But this power has not yet been used in the experiments which have so far been begun; the farmers and landowners concerned have been most co-operative in every way. The disturbance to agricultural land is small, since the top soil is neither displaced nor heated. If loss or damage should occur, proper compensation will, of course, be paid; the precise terms have not yet been agreed, but I am confident that no difficulty will arise.

Mr. Nabarro: Will the Minister assure the House that more generous terms will be provided in these circumstances than have been given in the past for compensation for open-cast workings?

Mr. Noel-Baker: The terms were settled with the National Farmers' Union.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: Can the Minister say how coal from open-cast coal mines can be obtained without the top soil being disturbed?

Mr. Noel-Baker: This is underground gasification.

Mr. Baldwin: What is the effect of gasification when it takes place underneath dwelling houses? Is there any likelihood of subsidence?

Mr. Noel-Baker: We have not yet had experience of that. As the seams which have so far been explored are, I understand, 15 to 18 inches in width, I think that the effect would be very small.

Mr. Nabarro asked the Minister of Fuel and Power to make a statement upon the progress of experiments for underground gasification of coal seams being conducted at Newman Spinney, near Chesterfield; the industrial and commercial applications and value of the gas derived; the scale of the gas output; and whether any extensions of such gasification projects are contemplated in the Midlands or elsewhere.

Mr. P. Noel Baker: Most encouraging results were obtained in 1950 in the experiments at Newman Spinney in the underground gasification of coal; they have been fully described in a paper published in the Journal of the Institute of Fuel, of which I am sending the hon. Member a copy. During the last five months, the work at Newman Spinney has been mainly in preparation for further trials. Other experiments will be made in various places. Trial borings have started at Bayton in Worcestershire; but it has not yet been decided that actual gasification shall begin.

Mr. Nabarro: Can the right hon. Gentleman give the House any indication of the capital expenditure involved upon these gasification experiments during the course of, say, the next two years, and is such expenditure included in the Coal Industry Bill which is now passing through this House?

Mr. Noel-Baker: Any such expenditure is borne partly by the Coal Board and partly by my Department. This is measured in tens of thousands of pounds, and it may be more in the forthcoming years, but it is of the highest possible importance because it may mean the utilisation of thousands of millions of tons of coal which would otherwise be useless.

Electricity Supplies (Power Production)

Mr. Pickthorn asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what are his plans for increased power production; and what consultations on this subject there have been with the American Economic Co-operation Administration.

Mr. P. Noel-Baker: Plans have been made to expand the production of electric power as much and as rapidly as the available resources will allow. Consultations with the Economic Co-operation Administration are taking place, but even if it were possible for the Administration to give us any help the main burden of the programme must be met from our resources here.

Mr. Pickthorn: Is it not possible to give any kind of indication of what is meant by "as much and as rapidly?"

Mr. Noel-Baker: Last year 965 megawatts of new capacity were brought in. This year somewhere between 1,050 and 1,100 megawatts will be brought in. The highest before the war was 765 megawatts.

On Planning The Earth

By GEOFFREY DOBBS.

K.R.P. Publications, Ltd.

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Sir Herbert Williams: Were any of these plants started before the British Electricity Authority came into being? How long does it take now between the decision to erect a power station and the time when it supplies current?

Mr. Noel Baker: A large number were, of course, begun before the B.E.A. came into being, but mainly by publicly-owned enterprises. Out of 60, all but three were by publicly-owned enterprises. I do not think that the delays are any longer now than they used to be. [HON. MEMBERS: "Oh."] The procedures were laid down in an Act of 1909. . . .

Right of Entry (Private Premises)

Mr. Bossom asked the Attorney-General if he will consider restoring the traditional privacy of the British home by removing the right of entry of any official or other person without a court order or a search warrant.

The Attorney-General: It is, unfortunately, unavoidable that the law should in certain circumstances permit of entry without warrant into private houses, and this has been found necessary in our legislation for a long time past. Generally, the power is only exercisable when the premises are also used for business purposes. I do not think that a wholesale change in the law such as suggested by the hon. Gentleman is either necessary or practicable.

Mr. Bossom: Does not the Minister realise that for a great many years the legal system of Great Britain was considered entirely satisfactory, and that the great majority of people are quite as honest as the snoopers who go into their houses?

The Attorney-General: I certainly realise that the system has been considered satisfactory. These powers have been inherent in it for a long time.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: Is it not the first duty of this House not to make laws but to preserve freedom? Will the Attorney-General not admit that however sympathetically the law may be administered at the moment it is the basis of the police State to have the right of entry without warrant?

Mr. Braine: Is this question not the most important on the Order Paper today, and is there not at least a case for restricting the number of officials in the exercise of these powers?

The Attorney-General: I entirely agree that powers to enter private houses should be used as sparingly as possible. So far as I am aware there is no power in our legislative system which transgresses that principle.

Refugees (Relief and Resettlement)

Mr. Pickthorn asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps are being taken or proposed by His Majesty's Government, *via* the United Nations or otherwise, to help generally Arabs expatriated from Israeli territory.

Mr. Younger: I stated in the House on 19th July, 1950, that the British representative on the Advisory Commission to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency had been instructed to propose that the Agency should provide all possible assistance to certain Arabs who had been expelled from Israel. Such assistance was, in fact, given by the Agency. In similar circumstances, His Majesty's Govern-

ment would again be prepared to recommend to the Agency that assistance should be made available.

Mr. Pickthorn: Has consideration been given to the possibility of unfreezing Arab assets held on Palestinian territory?

Mr. Younger: I think that is a question that varies rather widely from that which is on the Order Paper.

Mr. Gammons: Is the Minister aware that while the United Nations are keeping these unfortunate people alive nothing has been done to settle them permanently, and that Jordan, where half a million refugees are living in the most distressing circumstances, cannot possibly absorb one-third of that number, whatever help may be given?

Mr. Younger: I agree with the hon. Gentleman that the problem of resettlement is the one which is proving intractable. We went into this question at some length in a debate quite recently, and I cannot undertake to answer that supplementary question fully in the time available.

Electricity Supplies (Severn Barrage)

Mrs. Middleton asked the Minister of Fuel and Power whether he is now able to make a report upon the investigations that have been taking place on behalf of his Department concerning the proposal for the utilisation of the tidal power of the River Severn for the production of electric current.

Mr. P. Noel-Baker: Experiments with a tidal model are essential before it is possible to proceed further with the investigation of the project for a Severn Barrage. It is hoped that this model will be completed in 1953 or early in 1954.

Generating Stations

Mr. Osborne asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if the generating stations which are temporarily out of production and are partially causing the electricity cuts, will all be in commission again before next winter; and if he can give an assurance to industry that power cuts this coming winter will not be more severe than those imposed last winter.

Mr. P. Noel-Baker: The British Electricity Authority so arrange their programme of maintenance and overhaul that they have the maximum amount of plant available during the winter months. I hope that more than 1,000 megawatts of new plant will be commissioned in 1951. I am considering what further measures can be taken to reduce the frequency and severity of power cuts, and to mitigate the loss and inconvenience which they cause.

British Subjects (U.S. Visas)

Dr. Santo Jeger asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that United States citizens are admitted to this country without visas while British subjects have been experiencing some difficulty in obtaining United States visas, he will explore the possibility of entering into some reciprocal arrangement with the United States Government in this matter.

Mr. Younger: The United States Government are unable, because of their immigration laws, to waive the visa

(continued on page 6).

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, June 16, 1951.

From Week to Week

We purposely included the statement of the Rev. W. J. Torrance (vicar of Frome, Somerset) to a reporter in our account of the recent meetings of Convocation at Canterbury,

I am against anybody investigating Freemasonry unless they are Freemasons.

because it was explicit, not anonymous, symptomatic. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and possibly in that of Queen Victoria, such an assertion would have been incredible. We had an idea that (in form, not in intention) it was 'news' even in 1951. But this turns out to be quite unwarrantable optimism; we are evidently confronted not only with the tresses of the Gorgon Medusa, but with the hypnotic effects which freeze the critical faculty. Let *The Social Crediter* be once more a mirror and a shield for Perseus.

But where is Perseus?

The Guardian for June 8 is among the agencies which give currency to the fantastic notion of the Somersetshire vicar—a wide currency as we have observed. Surely the place it occupies must have been previously a vacuum, and the notion has rushed in to fill it. So Mr. Judd, writing from The Priory, Beckington, Bath: "If anyone wants advice before becoming a Freemason, the answer seems to be simple. He should consult a friend who is a practising Churchman and a member of the Craft. From my own experience I can assert that nothing more is needed." We picture Mr. Judd consulting a friend who is . . . etc., . . . and heigh presto he was a Freemason before you could say Jack Robinson!

We understand that the Russophiles in Whitehall (and wherever Whitehall is 'eating out' here, there and everywhere), in the Universities, in the 'public' services generally, in the schools ('from infant school to university'), in the newspaper offices, M.I.5., C.I.D., Church, Chapel, Trades Unions and what have you, not omitting the political parties, have already taken note of the point, and are busy framing pleas that only Russophiles should investigate Russophilia in Whitehall, the Universities, the public services generally, etc., etc., etc., etc., etc.

To what disordered faculty does this absurdity appeal? Or doesn't it, and we are witnessing just another instance of that rhetorical favourite of Mr. Winston Churchill, 'Government by public discussion'? Babel is derived from a Hebrew verb, *balal*, to confound.

All but six of the fifteen countries assisted by UNRRA are now in Communist hands—and look at the six!—Austria, Greece, Italy, Finland, Ethiopia and the Philippines.

124

Mr. Hubert Martin, reviewing a belated history of the Administration published in New York, asks whether the officials who distributed nearly four billion dollars through this sink foresaw what the harvest would be? Some of them have (wait for it: they aren't holding an inquiry, not yet at any rate) moved over to key positions in UNO. If they failed to foresee the results they gained in UNRRA, Mr. Martin thinks they must have been very stupid. "But are they stupid? If they are not stupid, where are they going to lead us next?"

Taxable incomes in France:—

The following figures are for incomes from real estate investments and ownership of stocks and bonds.

Of the incomes assessed in 1938, there were 839 thousand real estate incomes totalling 5.2 billion francs. Of the more numerous incomes assessed in 1949 (3.88 million instead of 3.49), there were only 411 thousand real estate incomes, grossing 12.8 billion francs, the buying power of which was equivalent to only 0.85 billions of 1938 money!

In 1938, 747 thousand incomes from investments in stocks and bonds came to 9.5 billion francs. In 1949, only 587 thousand such incomes were large enough to be assessed, and they aggregated 27.5 billion francs, the equivalent in purchasing power to 1.8 billions before the war. Incomes from real estate and stocks and bonds amounted altogether to 23.1 per cent. of all incomes assessed in 1938; in 1949 such incomes were 4 per cent. of the total assessed.

The stockholder has suffered, the small entrepreneur has done relatively well and a new middle class is the "gainer" though what his gains are worth no one knows.

The authors of *English Life and Leisure* lament the fact that advertising increases the appetite for 'drink.' They make no mention of what advertising has done for the work state, banking and finance or cocoa.

"English Life and Leisure"

"Men like Mr. Rowntree and Mr. Lavers have to explain how it is that the medieval centuries, when the church's influence was at its height and totalitarianism possible, were in fact the great centuries of constitutionalism, of rights and liberties, the centuries in which parliaments took their rise, and in which the civil power was not merely respected by the spiritual, but was itself so subdivided that by mixed and balanced constitutions Churchmen sought to ensure the reign of law. It is tragically true that all this balance was in the end upset and much of it destroyed because one element, the civil executive, the Kings in Europe, became too strong; but Kings were able to make themselves the effective absolute masters of so much very largely because the Church made such an exalted position for the civil ruler, and respected such immense prerogatives in his great office. Whether or no this was the capital mistake of medieval Church statesmanship, it was the very opposite of a totalitarian conception of power. It was based upon ideas of the division of power, of separate spheres of activity, each with their appropriate rights and duties. In the same way the Catholic respect for reason produced the universities and the great proliferation of specialized studies, whose exponents then, in turn, sought to magnify their functions and to use their studies to supplant and displace theology.—*The Tablet*.

It is Happening Here

by H. SWABEY.

It must be about fifteen years since Major Douglas wrote an article about the seizure of coal mining royalties. He said that this did not matter to people who had no coal under their lands, or were not dukes, but that it would hit the ordinary man below the belt when he had his own savings confiscated, or words to that effect. The ordinary man's savings are dwindling with accelerated momentum by now, but it is the attack on property on which I should like to comment. I suppose that the right to hold property distinguishes a free man from a slave, and that the safeguarding of property is a great function of Law. Otherwise, property will come into a very few hands.

The activities of our police state came particularly to my notice when the local paper reported that a man had been fined for supplying eggs, laid by "his" hens, to his wife for her café. Unfortunately for him, he kept 25 hens instead of 24, and both he and his wife were fined £10. It was an instance of rotten law and savage penalty. In response to a letter of mine to this paper, I received a letter from another victim of the State. It included an enclosure, which had been received in July, 1950.

"Persons having any interest in lands the subject of impending action by the Minister under the provision of Section 85 of the Agriculture Act, 1947, are asked particularly to note that the Minister is not prepared to enter into any negotiations with them for the purchase of their interest otherwise than by way of compulsory purchase, or to negotiate with them as to the price to be offered or accepted, in advance of the giving of a certificate which authorises him to purchase compulsorily.

"Accordingly it should be understood that any representations made to him, either in writing or in person, as to the merits of his contemplated action, which are based solely upon questions of price or compensation, will not be taken into consideration by him and cannot be allowed to influence the action under consideration. . . ."

The recipient of this notice did in fact suffer personally for standing up to this tyranny and was "taken into custody on a charge of an offence for which a punishment by imprisonment could not be lawfully ordered." Sir Robert Peel did not create a police force for nothing.

It is obvious by now what is happening to our constitution, of which Blackstone wrote in his concluding words: "The protection of THE LIBERTY OF BRITAIN is a duty which they owe to themselves, who enjoy it; to their ancestors, who transmitted it down; and to their posterity, who will claim at their hands this, the best birthright, and noblest inheritance of mankind." This constitution, at the time those words were written, was based on land and subdivision into parishes. These were barriers against monopoly, for within this constitution no one was able to "gain the whole world." It found no room in it for the Cabinet system, to the disgust of whig historians who mention Montesquieu or Blackstone. And it had certain excrescences.

These excrescences were the savage penalties exacted for certain crimes, and for many of them whig ministers must have been responsible. But these were as good an excuse as any to attack the constitution itself, and to abolish good Law together with savage penalties, at the same time taking good care to eliminate the parochial and landed system of

responsibility itself. But evidently, now that good Law has been broken down, there is nothing to stop the reintroduction of savage penalties.

On a previous occasion the attempt was made to bring slavery into England, but it was clumsily done and was not tolerated. For 1 Edw. VI "ordained that all idle vagabonds should be made slaves, and fed upon bread and water, or small drink, and refused meat; should wear a ring of iron round their necks, arms or legs; and should be compelled by beating, chaining or otherwise, to perform the work assigned them, were it never so vile." It is much more attractive to proclaim the *right to employment*.

The Big Country's Little Idea

"Both in Asia and in Europe [the Americans] have appeared with the torch of political democracy, and have begun with broad sympathies for parties and doctrines which have always found it easy to make a first favourable impression by representing themselves as progressive and democratic, the parties of the under-dog, of the common man, against a surviving feudalism, kings and aristocracies, and still more if they have been able to represent themselves as the George Washingtons of their own time and country, 'rightly struggling to be free.' But economically the Americans have been much more conservative, much more conscious that the stupendous material achievements of the North American continent have only been possible because the constitution was written by men with the strongest sense of private property, whose secure possession, in law, custom and social esteem, is the first great prerequisite for the release and stimulation of human energy.

"No amount of foreign aid is going to raise the level of average consumption in the Middle East or the Far East if no capital undertaking gets the chance to take root and grow and yield fruit without a political party, representing either extreme nationalism or extreme Socialism, overshadowing it, threatening its existence and appropriating its wealth as soon as any wealth manifests itself. The Americans have to forget and unlearn a great deal that it used to give them a novel glow to think and say about European Imperialism in the different parts of Asia, and to understand better how the European Governments created and maintained, for the first time in history, conditions in Asia parallel to those which the American constitution created in the United States—law and respect for law, and an open and secure field for the private man or group. It was a great tragedy that in 1945 so little was understood in America that the Dutch were given no encouragement or help to return to the Dutch East Indies, and that almost invariably the American influence was ranged behind local political parties headed by men whose speeches and acts showed no understanding of the real prerequisites of that economic progress which they quite genuinely desired for their people, whom they had and have no intention of impoverishing, though they no doubt will impoverish them, because they embody political regimes under which confidence cannot take root."—*The Tablet*.

Grand Orient

FREEMASONRY UNMASKED

by MGR. GEORGE E. DILLON, D.D.

From K.R.P. PUBLICATIONS, LTD.

5/-

PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 3)

requirement, and reciprocity in the abolition of visas is therefore not possible.

Tibet (Situation)

Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a further statement on the situation in Tibet.

Mr. Younger: Yes. The House will have seen Press reports about an agreement which is said to have been concluded between the Chinese Government and a Tibetan Delegation in Peking on 23rd May. This agreement purports to guarantee Tibetan autonomy and safeguard her religious freedom, but the arrangements for the entry of the Chinese army, the setting up of a Chinese military and administrative headquarters in Tibet and the recognition by the Tibetan Government of a Chinese-sponsored candidate for the office of Panchen Lama, throw considerable doubt on the value of these guarantees.

House of Commons, June 5, 1951.

Specialists

Mr. Manuel asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the number of specialists in the Health Service in Scotland on 31st December, 1949, and 31st December, 1950, respectively.

Miss Herbison: The numbers on these dates were 928 and 993, respectively.

.280 Rifle

Brigadier Clarke asked the Secretary of State for War if he will postpone production of the .280 rifle in view of the shortage of raw materials and the fact that more than adequate stocks of .303 rifles and ammunition exist in stock.

Mr. Strachey: No, Sir.

Brigadier Clarke: Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that this is the right time to change over from the .303 rifle, in view of the shortage of manpower, the shortage of materials and the fact that this rifle is a very good one and we have it in very good quantities in this country—about the only thing we have in good quantity?

Mr. Strachey: Yes, Sir, I am satisfied about this rifle. The present one, although a good one, was introduced in 1902, and the time does come when it is necessary to replace obsolescent weapons by more up-to-date weapons.

Mr. A. R. W. Low: Will the right hon. Gentleman agree that the most important consideration here, out of a great many considerations—standardisation and mechanisation are two important ones—is for the infantry soldier to have the best weapon available, and will the right hon. Gentleman get on and produce that weapon as quickly as possible?

Mr. Strachey: I have very much more sympathy with that demand than the other. . . .

United Kingdom—Commonwealth Trade

Mr. Fisher asked the President of the Board of Trade if he will give, as a percentage of our total world trade, the

decline in United Kingdom-Commonwealth trade in 1950 as compared with 1949, both in imports and exports, for food, drink and tobacco, raw materials and manufactured goods.

Sir H. Shawcross: The trade of the United Kingdom with the rest of the Commonwealth in the main commodity classes as a percentage of our world trade during 1949 and 1950 was as follows:

UNITED KINGDOM TRADE WITH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL TRADE WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

Commodity Class	Imports		U.K. exports	
	1949	1950	1949	1950
I.				
Food, drink and tobacco	50.1	44.5	47.7	44.8
II.				
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	51.3	50.7	9.5	9.1
III.				
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	27.4	26.5	53.8	51.3
All commodities	45.3	42.9	51.1	48.6
Total exports, including re-exports			49.9	47.2

House of Commons: June 6, 1951.

Petitions (Fuel, Meat and Housing)

Mr. John Morrison: I beg leave to present a petition from the women of Wiltshire. This Petition contains 1,485 signatures and is indicative of the feeling aroused there by the policy for fuel, meat and housing and its administration. The Petitioners pray that this policy be changed forthwith and concludes:

"Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

To lie upon the Table.

Mr. Studholme: I beg to ask leave to present a petition in identical terms with that presented by my hon. Friend the Member for Salisbury (*Mr. J. Morrison*). It is signed by 694 women resident in the neighbourhood of Plymouth in the county of Devon and also concludes:

"Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

To lie upon the Table.

Tibet (Situation)

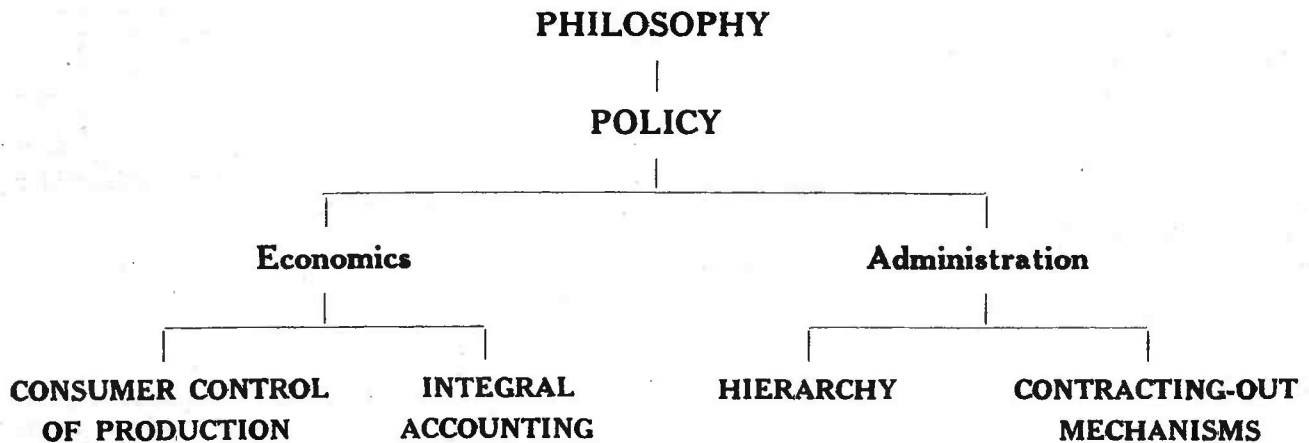
Mr. F. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will now make a further statement regarding the situation in Tibet.

Mr. H. Morrison: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 4th June to the hon. Member for Hornsey (*Mr. Gammans*).

(Continued at foot of page 7).

WHAT IS SOCIAL CREDIT ?

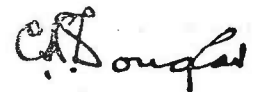
Social Credit assumes that Society is primarily metaphysical, and must have regard to the organic relationships of its prototype.



OBJECTIVE: Social Stability by the integration of means and ends.

INCOMPATIBLES: Collectivism, Dialectic Materialism, Totalitarianism, Judæo-Masonic Philosophy and Policy.

Ballot-box democracy embodies all of these.



February, 1951.

Mr. Maclean: Is it not the declared policy of His Majesty's Government to maintain Tibetan autonomy, and will not the Foreign Secretary agree that at the present time it seems most unlikely, to say the least, that Tibet will remain autonomous or, indeed, be anything except another Soviet satellite? Can he say what action His Majesty's Government propose to take?

Mr. Morrison: It is, of course, of some importance what the attitude of the Tibetan Government is, but for external relations it is surely a matter in the first instance for India.

Mr. M. Philips Price: Is it not a fact that we now have no power in this matter, seeing that India is a neighbour of Tibet and not ourselves?

Mr. Morrison: I think there is a great deal of truth in what my hon. Friend says.

Mr. Pickthorn: Do the last two replies mean that His Majesty's Government regard themselves as incapable of having a policy on Tibet because India is nearer?

Mr. Morrison: No, Sir, it does not mean that; but the

fact has to be faced that we have no diplomatic representation in Tibet.

Mr. Henry Hopkinson: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether His Majesty's Government are in consultation with the Governments of India, Pakistan and Nepal on this question?

Mr. Morrison: We are being kept informed as to the position in India.

Mr. Maclean: Is it not possible to bring the matter before the Security Council?

Mr. Morrison: I do not think it is for us to bring it up there. Tibet did bring it before the Security Council, but I do not know whether they are going to pursue the matter.

Germany (Refugees)

Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the increasing distress arising from the continuous influx of refugees into Western Germany and the difficulty of the Western German Government adequately

dealing with the situation, whether His Majesty's Government or the United Nations have considered or will consider afresh conferring with the West German Government with a view to assisting that Government in this problem.

Mr. H. Morrison: His Majesty's Government have considerable sympathy with the German Federal Government in their difficulties, and are participating in the discussions covering this subject recently initiated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Mr. Sorensen: Can the Secretary of State say to what extent the Government are prepared to take some active interest in and to render some active service to the solution of this very grave problem, because precisely these conditions, which are being added to by thousands of refugees daily, form the material from which very sinister political parties can arise in the future?

Mr. Morrison: This is a serious problem, as I found when I was in Germany; I quite accept that. On the other hand, we really cannot take the whole burden on the shoulders of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Sorensen: I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Ian Winterbottom: Will my right hon. Friend sympathetically consider any initiative coming from the Commonwealth or some organ of the United Nations, such as the I.R.O., the purpose of which is to arrange for the re-settlement of these people in the less densely populated areas of the world?

Mr. Morrison: We should regard such suggestions sympathetically.

Captain Ryder: Will not the sending of additional divisions to Germany make the problem even worse, and is it not likely to create bad feeling between us and the Germans? Would it not be better to have some constructive plan now?

Colonial Development Corporation (Schemes)

Mr. Henderson Stewart asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what further schemes, in addition to the 50 schemes now being operated, are being examined for early development by the Colonial Development Corporation; and what projects in connection with the Colombo Scheme are the Corporation being asked to consider.

Mr. J. Griffiths: The Corporation has sixteen schemes under investigation at the present time, but it is not the policy of the Corporation to publish details of their schemes while they are under investigation.

The Corporation is already participating in several projects in South-East Asian territories which, although not formally a part of the Colombo Plan, will contribute to the economic expansion which the Colombo Plan is designed to promote, and it has a number of similar schemes under investigation.

Mr. Stewart: In view of the Colonial Secretary's own statement in the recent debate that the present ought to be a time of consolidation for the Corporation, is it wise that they should be either required or encouraged now to undertake any new schemes?

Mr. Griffiths: These schemes are under investigation. No decision has been made about them yet.

Cuban Sugar Imports

Sir H. Williams asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what protests he has received from the British West Indies against the proposed agreement in respect of the importation of Cuban sugar into the United Kingdom; and what reply he has made.

Mr. J. Griffiths: I have received a number of representations from the British West Indies about possible purchases of sugar by the United Kingdom from Cuba during the period 1951-53 inclusive. The British West Indies have been informed that His Majesty's Government have noted their views on this matter and are taking them fully into account. As the hon. Member will be aware, my hon. Friend the Secretary for Overseas Trade recently visited the British West Indies to discuss the negotiations in question with representatives of those Colonies.

Messrs. Tate and Lyle (Expenditure)

Mr. Driberg asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware of the decision by the Tax Commissioners that expenditure by Messrs Tate and Lyle on their anti-nationalisation campaign was wholly for trade purposes and is therefore tax free; and what steps he proposes to take to ensure that excessive expenditure on political propaganda by business firms will not in future rank as tax-free trading expenses.

Mr. Jay: I am aware of the decision to which my hon. Friend refers; but as the Inland Revenue authorities have given notice requiring the Commissioners concerned to state a case for the opinion of the High Court, the matter is *sub judice* and my hon. Friend, will, therefore, not expect me to comment further at this stage.

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