

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 8. No. 22.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1942.

6d. Weekly.

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The Germans say for export purposes, that the only good Jew is a dead Jew. We say the only good German is a dead German. Things that are equal to the same thing, are equal to one another. Q.E.D.

The President of the Miners' Federation says the Russians want coal, not resolutions. We send them coal, and they send us the Ogpu system of seeing that we don't burn any ourselves. The Lease-Lend principle.

Just to show how seriously we are intended to take the threat of what will happen to us, the Strand Palace Hotel, which belongs to Messrs. Lyons, has been fined for wasting light; yeth.

Most people will find it easier to understand the present world situation if they will simply invert the labels on the policies. The "New Order" of Messrs. Roosevelt, Eden, Sieff, Hitler, Stalin and Co., is simply a reactionary attempt to restore, under the cloak of military necessity, the rule of pure physical force in a more effective and irresistible form. The so-called "Old Order," that is to say, the system to which we were, against the opposition of every reactionary force, progressing before the war period was invoked to restore power to the Dark Forces which were losing it, was the immature beginnings of an organisation which contained the seeds of leisure, freedom and peace. In that sense, it is not wholly untrue to say that Social Credit was a cause of War, as in a larger sense, it was said, "I came not to bring Peace, but a sword."

"As Professor Edward Warner, one of the greatest aero-engineers of America has put it 'The air-plane specialised for a single function will continue to maintain superiority in that function over the machine designed with some other object.'" —*Sunday Express*.

You can see, Clarence, that with brains like that, we must win.

We are constantly hearing of the conflict between private property and public ownership. There is no such conflict, because there is no such thing as public ownership. It is simply a device to expropriate the individual.

It is possible to have *successive* use of a toothbrush by a large number of persons, and most people would agree that the attraction or value of the toothbrush would not thereby be enhanced. That is not an exceptional case. The exclusive use of property *at will* is not something which has a value which is increased by sharing—it disappears.

A right-of-way may be a necessary arrangement in our present rudimentary stage of development, but its effect on the land over which it passes is *invariably*, not merely to decrease its money value, which is a matter of no importance, but to reduce its real value out of all proportion to the amount of land subject to it.

The use of property is an externalisation of the user.

So far from the continual encroachment on the inviolability of property rights being an index of progress, it is the root cause of insecurity. Its philosophic basis is Judaism.

The problem of the immediate future is to render property rights absolute. It is a pure delusion fostered for interested purposes and arising out of the financial system and the amazing acquiescence in the legalised robbery of taxation, that it is impossible to endow more than a small number of the population with a reasonable and increasing amount of property. Had one tenth of the effort which has been devoted to attacking property (of which the present war is the largest scale effort so far) been applied to increasing it, the "property" problem would have disappeared centuries ago.

The first stage to a better world is to stop using words which have no meaning, such as "the public." We're not fighting the Germans, you know—just Germany.

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL HERO: "The arrival of General McArthur was worth twenty divisions to the Australians."

—*Saturday Evening Post*: BEN HIBBS, Editor.

Accountants and others striving to defend the last reserves of small shopkeepers against the encroachments of the City of London (Tweedledum to the Treasury's Tweedledee) are finding it hard to compete with the salaries paid to English girl typists of twenty by the Army Movement Control (U.S.A.), which are £5 10s. 0d. a week in the provinces and £350 a year in London.

"The [United States] Treasury still has Britain down for 5,650,000,000 dollars in unpaid war loans and the Administration has no intention of repeating this experience.

"Instead, the Government now is paying attention to less definite but equally valuable commitments, such as trade concessions, access to needed raw materials and international shipping agreements. . . .

"In general, lease-lend aid has a twofold advantage: to resist the Nazi advance now, and to secure this country's position as a world power in post-war adjustments." (Our emphasis).
—*United States News*.

The Identifying Factor

The range of propositions set out in *Economic Democracy* is considerable and the rate of their absorption by the public has varied according to many factors of which the press—and primarily our specialised press alone—holds perhaps the first place. From 1918 to 1934 *The New Age* held the centre of the picture, with its interesting concentration on monetary technique, possibly an instance of the tendency of the old age to centre attention upon mechanics. In 1933 the focus was changed from diffused permeation to definite action. From 1934 to September 1938 *Social Credit* held this central position which since that date has been maintained by *The Social Crediter*. Files of these publications will reveal astonishing qualities in this succession, but whatever their differences, these periodicals have been consistent in this respect—that they have recognised that the source and centre of this matter lies with Major Douglas.

The unceasing development of the original theme—monetary reform, the reconstitution of democracy, the experimental trial (and largely the success) of this and that tactic to bring it into effect—these, with due attention to other aspects, have required a certain elasticity and power of adaption in the individual social crediter. Each advance, always and at every point conceived in framework of action rather than the diverting discussion of plans; always inspired by the determination to change, in a specified direction, the sequence of events, has proved too much for some. Throughout these years it has been observable that at each move forward individuals drop out, unwilling or unable to climb that escarpment and continue the battle on the next range of hills; replaced, it may be noted, by others who are. It is much the same with the social credit press.

During these twenty-three years many journals dealing, or purporting to deal with these subjects, have existed and do exist in many different countries. Certain of them give support to anything which can be described as monetary reform (a name with any other smell is still a rose), but in present circumstances talk of any sort of monetary reform is blankest futility while we are “pledged to form an international” (or totally totalitarian) “society,” as stated by Mr. Eden on the “B”.B.C. on July 23. Others of our press specialise on democracy which is rather too frequently a few points east or west of Buxton. Often they publish excellent material, which quite naturally is culled, if not extracted, from these pages. But, widely though these journals differ, they are consistent, with a few exceptions, in one respect—in their omission to accord recognition to the source of what they print. This avoidance, which commonly passes the custom of journalistic courtesy and sometimes infringes copyright, is not the brightest feature of what may loosely be termed the social credit press.

But, for those journals whose general objective is our own, there is more in this than courtesy or legal rights. A necessary adjunct to action is being missed or mishandled. That ‘a rose by any other name will smell as sweet’ is true enough, but not a practicable maxim for a florist.

To change the metaphor, shopkeeper and customer alike would be disconcerted if they could not identify that soap as Pear’s soap; business would be at a standstill. The proprietor will insist that all soap sold under that name is up to specification; anything less will damage credit and

the trade mark which secures correct identification. Clarification of identification in ideas as well as in things must precede action. The social credit press neglects the cardinal reference point which secures correct identification of what it advocates. That reference point is, before the event, the source; nothing less identifies that which is to be identified other than, after the event, its result.

There is little doubt that this cloak of anonymity is in some degree the result of the bitter and sustained opposition consistently raised against the establishment of economic democracy. The pressure of more recent events has not diminished this, but it has resulted in a far more realistic point of view among a widening circle of people. The development of this realism, *focussed aright*, must lead to Douglas. It has no other issue. H. E.

BENES

“Of all the smaller allied governments in London that of Czechoslovakia possesses the most powerful propaganda apparatus. It is controlled by the deputy foreign secretary and is under the administrative direction of Dr. Jan Kraus. It has a staff of over 100 which has been carefully recruited from Czechoslovakia and British journalistic and literary circles. Many of its members have a high international reputation and they are all very well paid. As much as £50 is given to anyone successfully placing an article in the British press. In addition is the fee paid by the paper or review itself. . . .

“The vigorous activities of the government require finance on a large scale. Ministers, members of the State Council and officials are well paid. Revenue is derived from three sources, the post-Munich British loan, political warfare funds, and the considerable personal wealth of Dr. Benes.” — *Review of World Affairs*, August, 1942.

If, as has been said, Dr. Benes is a member of the Sanhedrim, the post-Munich British loan and Dr. Benes’s considerable personal wealth, would both come from the same source, for the same purpose.

By C. H. Douglas

THE BIG IDEA

2/6

This important commentary has now been issued in a limited war-time edition. Readers are invited to co-operate in as rapid a distribution to members of the general public as possible by direct sale, reserving to themselves a minimum number of copies. To facilitate sales on these lines a discount of 25% for cash with order will be allowed on orders for three or more copies.

Order from K.R.P. PUBLICATIONS LIMITED,
49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15.

Activity in Jewry

The *Jewish Chronicle* last week provided material for an interesting study in the methods and objectives of the Jewish Board of Deputies.

Following a column-and-a-quarter report of a meeting at the Civic Hall, Leeds, on July 22, of a "Trades Advisory Council," the newspaper runs on four full columns of angry letters complaining of the only speech which seems to have been "widely reported" in the daily newspapers. Evidence on this point is not quite clear:—

(1) "A report of Mr. Goodenday's speech had been previously handed to the general press and was widely publicised up and down the country."

— Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*.

(2) "A leading member of the Trades Advisory Council uttered statements of such a nature that journalists were led [i.e. by the nature of the statements] to *select* (our emphasis) passages, in such a way as to give a *false* (our emphasis) impression of what was said."

ARNOLD KLAUSSNER, Taplow.

(3) "The *speech* (our emphasis) was given wide publicity" — D. SEGAL, Leeds.

(4) "Only those remarks which dealt with the 'Black Market Jews' and the 'Jewish Bankruptcy' were given" — BASIL S. FELDMAN, [i.e. the press was to blame.]

(5) "After stating that the proceedings were held in private, the *Yorkshire Post*..." — D. I. SANDELSON, Leeds.

The *Jewish Chronicle* itself says that "Mr. John Goodenday, Chairman of the Textile Section (London) opened the discussion on future policy... Speaking as the official spokesman of the T.A.C. on policy, he said..."

It seems that the "wicked anti-Semitic" press was given only the paragraph which particularly excites the anger of the *Jewish Chronicle* correspondents and that these paragraphs embodied at least a part of the 'official policy.'

What is the "Trades Advisory Council"?

It is the Jewish Trades Advisory Council—*vide* Simon Clyne, S. W. 16.

"Through the medium of the Board of Deputies it has been given a mandate to carry out a construction policy; to help *our people* (our emphasis) in the difficult times that lie ahead" — MR. GOODENDAY.

"I therefore contend that unless the T.A.C. is strictly subordinated to the discretion and control of the Jewish Board of Deputies..." — D. I. SANDELSON, Leeds.

"It is believed by the Jewish Community that the Trades Advisory Council was originally formed for the purpose of safeguarding the interest of Jewish traders, of *helping to combat* (our emphasis) the anti-Semitic feeling in the field of commerce..." — D. SEGAL, Leeds.

It is fairly clear that the "chairman of the Textile Section (London)," Mr. Goodenday, like Mr. Selby, chairman of the Editorial Publicity Board of the T.A.C. is as Jewish as Nathan, Orbach, Barou, Brodetsky, Axelrod, Sol. Almond, Livesman, Montague Burton, etc., etc.

The only names mentioned in the pages under consideration which do not seem to be Jewish are Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury) and Laycock. Mr. E. B. Laycock, Chairman of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, said at a

T.A.C. luncheon that he had never heard of the T.A.C. until that day; and the Archbishop of Canterbury sent a message of greeting which showed that he knew (or thought he knew) all about it.

D. I. Sandelson, in a letter, says fair-minded Englishmen "have expressed their horror that Jews should themselves seem to wish to provide the weapons for anti-Semitic propaganda." D. Segal, in a letter, thinks that "if the Council, instead of carrying out its professed policy, is really out to further anti-Semitic feeling, it could not do better than allow responsible members to make public speeches of this kind."

And the speech?:—

"The limitation of supplies, Price of Goods Act, coupons, and other restrictive decrees have attracted many weak and wicked Jewish traders into the black market. Whether their proportion is higher in relation to the general trading public, or whether the Press publicity has been discriminatory, I do not propose to discuss, but, unfortunately, the fact remains that among the mass of normally fair-minded British citizens Jew and the black market has become a synonymous term. There is ample evidence showing that wherever people meet this subject is one of frequent discussion. It is a story which grows with the telling, and it is bringing increasing and unmerited odium on the Jewish people." The black market scandal had given impetus to the mass propaganda upon which Hitler had spent millions. He believed the black market was passing, but the mountain of prejudice created by it would not disappear. In the future they might be judged by the misdemeanours of the few. To counteract this they must urge every Jewish trader to join his trade federation and so establish valuable contact with his non-Jewish competitors. "We shall fail unless we bring home to every Jew in trade and industry that his field of influence is greater than he realises. We must consider how we can influence a man or a firm who is without a sense of commercial morality to behave decently."

"We must put an end to what is known as the 'Jewish bankruptcy.' It is my experience and belief that our enemy is not so much the fraudulent debtor as the solicitor or accountant who advises him.

"It is common knowledge that in many large centres there are certain Jewish solicitors and accountants who take advantage of weak bankruptcy laws to advise their clients in such a way that, although they may be acting technically within the law, a crime is being committed against commercial morality."

These professional men without dignity must be prevented from injuring the Community. In London, a section of lawyers and accountants was being formed, and it would be an excellent thing if such a section could be started by every area council in those centres where the problem existed.

In conclusion, Mr. Goodenday said: "The T.A.C. is young and aggressive. Through the medium of the Board of Deputies it has been given a mandate to carry out a constructive policy; to help our people in the difficult times that lie ahead."

The possibility of "Subordination" to the Jewish Board suggests that what is going on is not the exhibition of a tendency among Jews to jibe at the future designed for them. "Anti-Semitism? — It has its uses!" was a remark of Jewish origin.

T. J.

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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

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

Offices: (Editorial and Business) 49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15, Telephone: Wavertree 435.

Vol. 8. No. 22 Saturday, August 8, 1942.

English Nazism?

Mr. Ernest Bevin, in an engagingly candid speech at a conference of the National Chamber of Trade on July 15, expressed the opinion that "when demobilisation came there might be a great political eruption if they were not careful. They had to anticipate what the conditions were likely to be then.

"In the Royal Air Force, men had been put in charge of the most powerful machines that science had ever produced, and that had developed an individualism the like of which no country had ever seen before. The Air Force and the motorised units of the Army and Navy had created in thousands of young men a greater adventurous spirit than had ever existed. Thus an unprecedented problem had been thrown up. So far as industry was concerned, they had to launch out on new, broader and more adventurous developments."

What is the problem? This Mr. Bevin never clearly stated. He would not dare to. There is perhaps only one audience before whom that problem could be baldly stated.

"The second secret requisite for the success of our government is comprised in the following: To multiply to such an extent national failings, habits, passions, conditions of civil life, that it will be impossible for anyone to know where he is in the resulting chaos, so that the people in consequence will fail to understand one another. . . . *There is nothing more dangerous than personal initiative*; if it has genius behind it, such initiative can do more than can be done by millions of people, among whom we have sown discord."

The italics appear in the original.

Whoever may have written these words, they set forth the procedure of tyrants of all time—divide and rule, and liquidate genius if it cannot be perverted. Mr. Bevin in his speech has shown himself an advocate of the totalitarian state. For he reveals:—

(a) that the demobilised men are not likely to want socialism, or surely he would have nothing to fear;

(b) that socialism has no use for individual initiative;

(c) His aim, therefore, is to force them to live under socialism by producing "adventurous developments" in industry so that their individualism shall be absorbed. How this is to be done without allowing the profit motive to function (Mr. Bevin took care to discredit this during the latter part of his speech) must be giving him furiously to think. His plan is to substitute "service" for "profit" and

to abolish the rentier class. He made that quite clear. "At the end of the war we should have to buy goods for goods, and rentier people living on interest would be entirely gone."

It would be easy enough to abolish the rentier class. Procedure could follow the lines followed in Germany—inflation of money values and reduction of interest. This is to some extent already taking place. Prices have, of course been fixed for rations and mass-produced clothes in order to keep the "workers" quiet. The loss of our overseas investments Mr. Bevin thinks is "not a bad thing."

We should never forget the behaviour of the Socialist gang when war broke out. Until May, 1940, they did nothing whatever to help the war effort, making it plain at their Bournemouth conference that they did not desire victory unless the war could be used for the socialisation of the whole resources of the nation. They were partisans of the meanest brand, using a time of national weakness to force on to a reluctant electorate a programme which would never have been accepted in peace time.

"Individualism the like of which no country has ever seen before"—

Let them tremble and shake in their shoes at the vision of that returning army. For them it is a problem indeed. The longer the war lasts the greater will be that individualism, and the greater the spirit of nationalism, for the war cannot be won without strengthening these emotions, both of which are anathema to Mr. Ernest Bevin and his colleagues. It follows that the only means by which socialism can be made to function is the adoption of complete regimentation on the German model, where individualism is given an outlet, not in "service" but in a vested interest in the party machine of Nazism. To this the socialists in this country are being driven rapidly as their only expedient. To enlarge bureaucracy as much as possible, so that they can have half the people checking up on the rest, is their only way. Conditioning cannot start too early—note the plans already being laid to hand over children to state training at the age of two.

According to the *Sunday Times* Dr. John Murray, Principal of University College, Exeter, said on July 18:—

"The shadow of Hitler darkens Europe, and the infection of his authoritarianism and bureaucracy has reached our shores. You may not know it, but many of our reconstructors are totalitarians at heart. Some of the loudest and most confident of them in respect of education are moving towards totalitarianism such as exists in Germany, where schools such as this have no governing body, where we find officials everywhere, where the headmaster is merely a Civil Servant, and where education has a military flavour. German schools are not like English, nurseries of citizenship, and it is the most astonishing paradox of these days that what some reconstructors desire is to see English schools like those in Germany."

There is now a need, more urgent than ever, for Social Crediters to deal with these things. They have the information, and they know the way. The Social Credit Secretariat exists to give advice to individuals who see that something must be done, and wish to set about it immediately. Our strongest weapon is the development of *personal initiative*.

B. M. P.

Chester Corporation and the Electricity Commissioners

By W. A. BARRATT

Since writing my article* on large *versus* small scale electricity production, further evidence has come into my hands which does not make the main features of the great planning ramp which saddled this country with the Grid on the eve of war any less extraordinary, or, indeed, sinister.

In reference to my article, owing to transference of a decimal place a nought too many appeared in the cost-value of total line, transmission and transforming losses offsetting the saving of coal by increased efficiency in generation reflected in the fall in coal consumption from 3.32 lbs per unit to 1.47 lbs per unit. This gain is not negligible but is represented by a total of fourteen million odd tons of coal.

While the error is regrettable, and at first sight appears important, it does not in fact affect the main argument at all.

The total production for 1921 is given as 5,000,000,000 units. This production presumably was sufficient to provide power for the 1914-18 war when it reached its peak and for the very large immediate post-war production necessary to make up the lag in production for civilian purposes. In 1936-7 it is stated that under the grid system an amount practically equal to half the quantity of electrical energy generated in 1921 was lost in transmission and although the coal economy in coal per unit generated is stated to be 1.47 lbs over-all, as compared with an over-all consumption of 3.32 lbs per unit in 1921, this is only obtained by a total generation in 1936-37 of practically four times the generation in 1921, so that the actual consumption of coal is twice as great. What is there in the industrial or military, or social or economic situation in Great Britain in 1936-37 which could be said to reflect a return for the consumption of twice the amount of coal, whatever the apparent reduction in the amount of coal used per unit generated may be said to be? A minor omission in the same article was that of the words "assuming the population was working one hour a day" after the reference to 3,000,000 man-power.

The fight of the City of Chester for their right to control their own affairs and to generate their own power, is contained in a published document issued by the Council of the City of Chester, *Report and Statutory Accounts March 31, 1940*. The following are extracts:—

"... For three years prior to May last the extension of Queensferry generating station was under consideration. The decision of the Electricity Commission and High Court is a very serious matter for the Undertaking.

"At the inquiry it was proved beyond doubt that generating plant could be installed at Queensferry and electricity generated for all the requirements of the Undertaking at a cost estimated by the Corporation at a figure of £20,000 below the Grid charges.

"This saving would have increased year by year. The Council's case was submitted in great detail and minute accuracy and the board attempted to discredit every detail of the proposals, in this they did not succeed.

"Their complete failure is evidenced by the following

extract from the decision of the Electricity Commissioners:—

"While the Commissioners found themselves unable to accept in their entirety the estimates submitted on behalf of the Corporation or those submitted on behalf of the Central Board, they were satisfied after full consideration of the evidence, and of the technical and other circumstances of the case, that the Corporation would, if consent were given, be in a position to give a supply of electricity adequate in quantity and regularity to meet the present and prospective demand of their consumers at a cost less than that at which they could give a supply if they obtained a supply from the Central Board." (my italics)

"I cannot imagine a more inapt simile," the Chester Report goes on, "than that used in the course of the hearing of the Corporation's appeal to the High Court. Surely an admittedly good scheme as that proposed by the Corporation put into any part of the electric supply industry throughout the country cannot be likened to a spanner thrown into the machinery of electric supply." (The reference here is evidently to some communication not contained in the Report.)

"What the case does prove is that the scheme of the Central Electricity Board as constituted under the Electricity Supply Act 1926, is fundamentally unsound. The Board buys all its electricity from the owners of selected stations, who in turn buy back the requirements of their own consumers at the price which it would have cost them to generate the electricity they require, on the assumption that they had remained independent generating stations. Invariably that cost is less than the Grid tariff, which has to take into account all overhead charges of the administration of the Grid and the maintenance of long transmission lines and sub station machinery. Accordingly those centres of population which are fortunate to be the owners, either through a company or local authority, of a selected station, are obtaining an advantage which the rest of the country is paying for."

"The effect of the Chester Corporation's experience is that no owner of a non-selected station, no matter how good his case that he can produce electricity cheaper than he can buy it from the Grid, will dare to ask for a local inquiry into his proposals to extend his generating station."

I may here interpose with emphasis that it is now known that there were approximately thirty electricity supply authorities in the country which could produce a scheme to generate their electricity with similar results to that shown by the Chester proposals.

"Such an owner," the Report goes on, "can only expect to be dragged through a long inquiry in which he may prove his case of cheaper generation to the hilt and then be told that for some reason undisclosed, and in regard to which he has never had an opportunity of giving an answer, his proposals will be detrimental to the scheme under which the Board is constituted [our emphasis] for his district, and therefore the Commissioners will feel bound to refuse his application. The result is that the whole of the Undertakers in the country other than the owners of selected stations will be forced to buy electricity at the Grid tariff a policy which in my submission cannot be justified by the terms of the Electricity Supply Act of 1926.

"I regard the opposition of the Central Electricity

*Large versus Small-scale Electrical Production: the Grid in *The Social Crediter* of May 30, 1942.

Board and the refusal of the Commissioners as a grave offence against the inhabitants—numbering nearly 80,000—in the Corporation's 144 square miles of supply area. . . .”

The above is only one case of that hidden control which we are now experiencing in almost all phases of the national life. The case of the Falkirk inquiry was given in an earlier article and is marked by the same features of ruthless imposition of policy as in the case of Chester. Having spoken on such matters with many engineers it is hard to find any who are not up in arms against C.E.B. and the Grid.

Nevertheless one is struck by the fact of how remarkably easy it is for these people to be persuaded to advocate the very measures which will inevitably draw the shackles of control tighter around themselves. Centralisation, joint boards, amalgamations, regional government, nationalisation, large scale undertakings and as the world dictators hope, Federal Union. These are all various stages in the mechanism designed to impose policy and tighten control on the people.

There is ample evidence to indicate that this control is seriously weakening this country's war effort but any action which is suggested for rectifying matters is squashed at the source by the argument that “nothing can be done while the war is on.” If it is not considered patriotic to point out that the centralised control of the C.E.B. and the Grid system seriously weakened our country's defences against attack, in the early stages of the war, then one is entitled to ask what is patriotism? The C.E.B. have already as much as admitted the above weakness by adopting a policy of dispersion and decentralisation, which by the way, must have added millions to the cost on the working of the Grid system. It is now the turn of social crediters to ask where is the money to come from? Judging by similar schemes of nationalisation the cost will be passed on to the consumer.

I wonder how many members of the Corporation of Chester and other cities have heard of the Briey Basin ramp of the last war!

Points from Parliament

JULY 23

INDUSTRIAL CONCENTRATION AND RETAIL TRADE

The question most frequently raised in one form or another in the debate on Industrial Concentration and Retail Trade, on July 23, was whether the war was a practical occasion for introducing the elements of “conscious planning” into the retail trade. While the plight of the small retail trader was mentioned often, the fact that he objected strongly to being planned was given very little emphasis. The position of the consumer was not considered at all, although obviously the efficiency which in war time

*The *Review of World Affairs* for August, 1942, has the following of the situation in Germany: “It is interesting to note that the rationalisation of retail trades has caused the authorities considerable trouble. It is found that housewives and others are becoming excessively tired by long and wearisome waiting when visiting shops, as well as post and food offices and doctors' surgeries. This has the effect of lessening the amount of time they can devote to war work. . . .”

we pursue, cannot, in these trades be measured otherwise than in the ease with which the consumer can obtain the goods he must have for his livelihood*. Of the schemes for Concentration of Industry, Mr. Dalton said they had “undoubtedly promoted industrial efficiency.” The housewife sees no sign of it. However, nobody ventured to say that the closing of retail shops made distribution ‘more efficient.’ Mr. Dalton, who opened the debate for the Government, said that he did not share the view “that it is practicable in war time—and probably it is not at any time desirable—to have a thorough going rationalisation of the retail trade, so that we have nothing left but the multiple shops and chain stores.” But he was reminded later in the debate of the attitude of the Walrus and the Carpenter to the oysters they ‘concentrated.’ One or two members, including Mr. Mander (Wolverhampton) and Mr. Leslie (Sedgefield), expressed outright approval of the coagulation of industry into larger units. Some interesting facts were given:—

Mr. Dalton (President of the Board of Trade). . . . How far has there been an actual contraction in the retail trades up to date? Here our information is not at all complete, but the Retail Trade Committee have published some very interesting figures in the Appendix to their Report, which I judge hon. Members will have read. There are fairly complete figures for departmental stores, which have lost 25 per cent. of their space and over 30 per cent. of their staff, co-operative societies have lost about 5 per cent. of their space and 15 per cent. of their staff, multiple shops have lost 11 per cent. of their branches and 22 per cent. of their staff, and chain stores have lost 4 per cent. of their branches and 26 per cent. of their staff. That gives a rough picture of how various sections have been effected. The Retail Trade Committee has also arranged for a very valuable survey . . . in seven medium-sized towns. . . .

Seven medium-sized towns are not a large sample, but I think they form a fair sample representing what has been going on all over the country. The moral of the figures is that relatively speaking small shops have lost ground very heavily. For instance, the Committee will be surprised—I was—to see that the very large shops have increased in number by 4 per cent., and large shops by 4 per cent., in this time of stress and diminished supplies. Medium shops have increased by 3 per cent., medium small shops have diminished by 5 per cent., small shops have diminished by 11 per cent., and very small shops have diminished by 19 per cent. . . .

Major Proctor (Accrington): . . . I am sorry to see that in this Report, [of the Retail Trade Committee] brilliant though it is in the survey it gives us, there is throughout its pages a defeatist line of thought. It seems to assume that the small retail trader is doomed to extinction. . . .

It seems to me that in essence the Committee says to those who are to be liquidated, “Go and commit suicide and then pay for your own funeral.” The Report is defeatist throughout.

As to the causes of the difficulties confronting the retailers, we are told they are due to the war, but in my opinion a great many of the retailers' difficulties are due to a wrong policy of the Government in the matter of equitable distribution of supplies. For instance, with

regard to the fixing of the quotas, no small retailer has by legal right any quota at all. He or she depends upon what is handed to him or her by the manufacturer as an act of grace. The large shops, the chain stores and the department stores, all with a big purse, are able to get supplies which the small retailer cannot get. There is in the Report no suggestion for helping the small retailer to get his fair share of goods. It tells him to prepare to die, not how to survive. It gives no advice how to overcome the difficulties due to the control of prices, and such impositions placed upon the small retailer by this House—such as coupons, rationing, and all that sort of thing. It takes a small retailer as long to fill in the forms and coupons sent to him by the Government as it does to serve his customers. There now descends on the small retailers of this country as much paper as falls on a New York procession for national heroes. . . .

I want to tell the President of the Board of Trade, as he knows, no doubt, that over 90 per cent. of the small retail traders are against the Committee's Report. They do not want it.

Mr. Colegate (The Wrekin): . . . A great deal too much importance is attached to the idea that anything which is bigger is better. That is totally untrue. The Ministry of Supply can tell you that, in engineering, some of the most efficient firms are found amongst the small firms. I am, fortunately, married, and I have not to do the shopping, but, in any shopping that I have done, I have invariably found that, the smaller a firm is, the more efficient it is. Nothing can exceed the inefficiency of the large chain stores. In the rural districts, the co-operative societies do not bother to serve a district which is below a certain size; and, therefore, in the country we are accustomed to much better service than is given in the chain stores, where they adopt an attitude of "take it or leave it." At times the co-operative societies and other large concerns appear to exercise a somewhat unfortunate influence. I have had experience recently of one new scheme which was started for war industries in this country, where it was necessary for the new community created to provide a shopping system. The experience of the committee set up to deal with the question of whether commissions should or should not be given to certain shops, was that the matter was referred to the local co-operative society. . . .

Mr. Rhys Davies (Westhoughton): . . . It does not matter what Parliament wishes to do or what system of registration or licences there is, when the war is ended and thousands of men come back from the Forces, some of them wounded, some of them with a small pension, nobody will employ them in industry, and Parliament at one fell swoop will disregard all the Regulations and allow them to open little shops. That is exactly what will happen, and it is no use Parliament making promises of any kind about registration and licences. Some people talk about planning retail distribution, but when I hear a person talk about planning I am always afraid that he has the elements of a dictator in him. Show me a planner, and I will show you a dictator. The small shopkeeper is gradually going by the board owing to two processes that are taking place. One is the Co-operative movement, which is growing by leaps and bounds every year and the other is the chain stores and multiple shops, which are expanding. The hon. Gentleman who opened the Debate on this side of the Committee was right.

People do not go to small shops because they are small shops. Women go to the emporia and spend half a day to look at things and then come out without buying anything. The problem, in spite of all the President of the Board of Trade will promise, will be settled of its own volition. I would ask the Board of Trade when they deal with this problem to remember above all things that promises made during war-time will never be able to be implemented when the war is over. . . .

JULY 28

SUPPLY: COMMITTEE— AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. R. S. Hudson): . . . While I am speaking of potatoes, may I say that I know that a certain amount of waste has undoubtedly taken place, but I would remind the Committee that we grew potatoes as an insurance, and I would only ask hon. Members to imagine for one moment what they would be saying to-day if this country found itself in the same state as Germany, if we had had to reduce, during this summer, our potato ration to half the normal, with no guarantee that even half was available, and if London, for instance, had found itself in the same position as Hamburg, entirely without potatoes from July 2 to July 12, or Vienna, which was in the same state during the week ended July 4. Clearly it is very desirable that we should have that insurance, and, if you are to have insurance on that scale, I am afraid some slight modicum of waste may occur from time to time.

I have asked the farmers for an increase in the tillage area in England and Wales of over 500,000 acres this year. I hope to get the bulk of that planted to wheat and I hope that some land that would otherwise have been planted to other crops, will also be planted to wheat, so that if the weather is reasonable, we ought to increase our wheat acreage in England and Wales next year by no less than 600,000 acres. In addition I have asked for a 10 per cent. increase in the acreage under potatoes, a further expansion in vegetables and the maintenance of the very large acreage of sugar beet that we grew this year. At the same time, I am pressing for an increase in the production of milk. Dairy farmers, like other farmers, have responded well, and the results, so far, this year are encouraging, for in the first six months, despite a very unfavourable Spring, we actually produced over 10,000,000 gallons more milk than we did on the average in the three pre-war years and 13,000,000 gallons more than we did last year. . . .

County war agricultural committees have been instructed to see that the heavy crawler tractor type of which we are particularly short is concentrated on heavy work and that all available machines, not only those in the hands of committees and contractors but those in the hands of private users as well, are used to the full. The same thing is true of fertilisers. Supplies of fertilisers are limited. I hate to have to introduce a rationing scheme or limitation but it is essential to see that the limited supplies we have are used for the crops that need them most and this year we have had to introduce a rationing scheme which will, I hope, work reasonably well. . . .

In addition, other activities of the Agricultural Improvement Council have included setting-up the Agricultural Machinery Development Board, and moving the Agricultural Engineering Research Institute from Oxford to much better

premises at Askham Bryan, in Yorkshire. Certain members of this Board who have inventive talent have formed a committee, irreverently known as the "Heath Robinson Committee," and they are engaged in helping farmers to work out a number of practical ideas for labour-saving devices which can be made by farmers themselves with the help of the village blacksmith or carpenter. A committee under the chairmanship of Sir George Stapledon has been investigating the problems of ley farming and questions connected therewith, and also the question of adequate supplies of seeds from home sources. They have made a complete tour of England and Scotland and discussed practical problems with members of war agricultural committees and their executive officers. They have put in some interesting and valuable reports, the recommendations in which we are now actively following up. The question of seeds is an important one, for we have been practically dependent on overseas supplies, particularly from the Continent, and as these have been progressively cut off our difficulties have been enhanced. We are, however, putting the supply of seeds on a sound basis, and I hope that from now onwards we shall have adequate supplies. It takes a long time between the time when the land is originally prepared and when the seeds are available for planting. This work is definitely in hand now. . . .

Mr. Donald Scott (Wansbeck): . . . At present the decision to grant or withhold petrol is in the hands of the regional petroleum officer, who has no real knowledge of agricultural conditions and needs.

I would suggest that all petrol for farm tractors, for farm machinery, for farm vehicles and even for the farmer's motor car if it is used wholly for business should be allocated by the county war agricultural executive committee, that is, by people who know something about agricultural conditions and local needs. I think my case is proved on this point by the form which farmers have to fill up when they want petrol for their tractors. That form is the most perfect example of the divorce between administration and production. There is a question on the form which asks, "How many hours per week will the tractor be used during the next two months?" I am an honest man and have tried to fill up that form correctly. [*Interruption.*] I have tried to do it with the aid of Old Moore's Almanac and maybe a little bit of seaweed in the hall, but I cannot tell what the weather will be two months hence. If this matter were in the hands of the county war agricultural committees I suggest that we should have a form which bore some relation to the concrete facts of the case and to the area to be cultivated in the period under review. . . .

My next point has to do with potatoes. Let me say that I cannot speak with any real authority for the Eastern counties or any of the great potato-growing areas of the country. I can only speak, and speak only too sadly, of conditions in my own county of Northumberland where, taken by and large, we were not potato growers before the war, but in spite of that and a certain lack of experience and a decided lack of equipment and seasonal labour, we did our best on a very considerable acreage last year, and grew good crops. The result was a serious financial loss to the farmers in spite of the £10 per acre subsidy. That was for the very good reason that no one seemed to want to buy our potatoes either for human consumption or for cattle food. Hundreds and hundreds of tons rotted in the county. The fault of that may have been partly due to the weather. Certainly the

fault may have been partly due to transport difficulties, or partly to over-production. No matter what the cause was I most certainly hope that we shall not have that to contend with again and that such a result, after all the hard work and sweat and skill put into that potato growing, will not recur next year. . . .

Mr. Owen Evans (Cardigan): . . . The magnitude of the task and of what has been achieved can be seen when we consider that before the war it was estimated that the amount of food imported from overseas, taken altogether, was about threequarters of our consumption before the war. To take the figures separately, we imported 87 per cent. of the flour, 92 per cent. of the fats, 51 per cent. of the meat—the rest being greatly dependent upon imported feeding stuffs—and 73 per cent. of the sugar. . . . Perhaps the Minister may not care to give actual figures, but I am under the impression that by his efforts, backed up, as he has been, by the farmers of this country, we are now producing more than half the food supplies of the country. I am under the impression that this is about the figure, and I notice that the Minister nods his head.

Mr. Hudson: It is nearly two-thirds. . . .

SOCIAL CREDIT LIBRARY

A Library for the use of annual subscribers to *The Social Crediter* has been formed with assistance from the Social Credit Expansion Fund, and is now in regular use. The Library will contain, as far as possible, every responsible book and pamphlet which has been published on Social Credit, together with a number of volumes of an historical and political character which bear upon the subject, as well as standard works on banking, currency and social science.

A deposit of 15/- is required for the cost of postage which should be renewed on notification of its approaching exhaustion.

For further particulars apply Librarian, 21, Milton Road, Highgate, London, N.6.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Information about Social Credit activities in different regions may be had by writing to the following addresses:

BELFAST D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 20 Dromara Street, Belfast.

BLACKPOOL D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 73 Manor Rd., Blackpool.

BIRMINGHAM (Midland D.S.C. Association): Hon. Sec., 20 Sunnybank Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield.

BRADFORD United Democrats: R. J. Northin, 11 Centre Street, Bradford.

CARDIFF S.C. Association: Hon. Sec., 8, Cwrt-y-vil Road, Penarth, South Wales.

DERBY: C. Bosworth, 25 Allestree Road, Crewton, Derby.

LIVERPOOL S.C. Association: Hon. Sec., 49 Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool, 15. Wavertree 435.

LONDON D.S.C. Group: Mrs. Palmer, 35 Birchwood Avenue, Sidcup, Kent. Footscray 3059.

Lunch hour re-unions on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 12-30 p.m., at The Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street, W. C. 1. Next Meeting August 20.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE D. S. C. Association: Hon. Sec., 10 Warrington Road, Fawdon, Newcastle, 3.

SOUTHAMPTON D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 19 Coniston Road, Redbridge, Southampton.