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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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THE BIG IDEA (XI)

By C. H. DOUGLAS

It is becoming a commonplace to hear people say, "Of course, we're fighting two wars"; by which statement is meant, that our enemies are not merely Germany and Japan but a vaguely apprehended and ill-defined factor in regard to which there is some hesitation as to its name.

I am a little doubtful as to the utility of this idea. As I see it, we are fighting Germany and Japan for the benefit of a third party, the Promoter. There are faint indications quite recently that the Promoter may get further into the *mêlée* than had ever been his intention, but the process will have to go to greater lengths before it can be called a fight.

I do not want to waste the time of the Superior Persons who have long ago risen above what they describe as hidden hand theories, but the rest of us must be impressed by the accumulating evidence that much more is involved than a nice, clean-cut war against Hitler and the Mikado. Let us contemplate our Prime Ministers for a few moments, omitting, for obvious reasons, Mr. Winston Churchill.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, commonly known as the Washington Post, has had a remarkable career. I may perhaps repeat as germane to the matter the remark made to me by a prominent Canadian when I said that I had been informed in Washington in 1919 that Mr. King (almost as unknown to the general Canadian public as was Mr. Stanley Baldwin to the British public of the same period) would be the next Prime Minister. My friend observed, "Well, we Canadians didn't know it, anyway."

To say that Mr. King's spiritual home is in Washington may perhaps be to limit his domesticity unduly, but it certainly isn't in Westminster. I should be the last to claim that the efforts of the Imperial Government, in the main dominated by Mr. Baldwin, were, during the fatal armistice years, either distinguished or evenly moderately courageous, but anything Mr. King could do to make them completely abortive, was done. The World Economic Congress of 1933 might—probably would, because of its limited agenda—have been a failure in any case, but Mr. King left nothing to chance in indicating, in able collaboration with Mr. Cordell Hull of the United States, that any putting-to-rights of world affairs, wherever else it might come from, would not be allowed to proceed from London.

It would be unfair, however, to omit the effective collaboration with the Bank of "England" for which reliance upon him could always be placed. The disallowance of the Acts of the Alberta Legislature, the appointment of an official nominated by Mr. Montagu Norman to control the

Bank of Canada, and many other minor policies, obviously did nothing to cool the welcome he could always expect to the South of the Canadian Border, whatever the Canadians themselves may have thought, or of the repercussion on the Imperial link. And we may cast a glance in passing, at Mr. Curtin, the "Labour" Prime Minister of Australia, of whom few of us had heard until, like Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Mackenzie King, he appeared from nowhere with no false sentiment in looking to Washington to console him for any very slight regret for the passing of Britain. And there is Mr. Nash of New Zealand, of whom it was said that the interests of international Finance were quite safe while he remained *de facto*, if not *de jure*, Prime Minister. At this time of writing, Mr. Nash is representing New Zealand in Washington. It should not be overlooked that, while the "Liberal" or "Labour" Parties in the Dominions, which tend to be the dominant parties, seem curiously liable to develop a nasal accent, England, which seems incurably "Conservative," whatever that may mean, provides a touching example of Imperial Unity by providing Leaders from the Conservative ranks, who are delighted to conduct the calf to the water, even if it may subsequently transpire that there are difficulties in making it drink. The negroid sex-moans retailed by the "B".B.C. under the title of entertainment are no doubt expected to develop the right culture for the appropriate policy. Taken by and large, the British Commonwealth for the past 25 years provides a remarkable object-lesson on the workings of "d'markrazy."

The subject of what is commonly called India (which is as descriptive as a reference to Europe) is, of course, much too large to be dealt with in detail here, but certain facts are essentially relevant to a grasp of the larger picture. The first is that the Indian Congress (significant title) is not, and never has been, representative of more than the most insignificant fraction of the indigenous population. The second is, that it is known to be, and to have been for many years, financed from the same source as was the Russian Revolution.

And the third, and most significant, is that the so-called "Indian Problem" has assumed intractable proportions only from a date which is common to two incidents. The first of these is the foundation of the Federal Reserve Banking System by the Warburgs, which set the stage for the War, and to which I have already made reference. And the second, which at first sight would appear to be both wildly irrelevant and absurdly disproportionate, is the Marconi Scandal.

There can, I think, be no appreciation of the problem with which humanity is faced, and therefore no hope of a

decisive and satisfactory outcome from it, without a recognition that States—Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States—are simply “Counters,” in the sense that the word is used on the Stock Exchange. Exactly as shares are manipulated by the big Operators, the destinies of whole people are played with by the same type of Group, with as little compunction or respect for the results to the populations concerned as the big share promoter has for the public, where no question of legal danger is involved. M. Coty, the French millionaire, entitled his exposé, which dealt with some of the aspects of the situation, *Financiers who Sport with the World*.

To say that, for instance, the United States—still less the American people—is deeply involved in this policy is fundamentally as meaningless as to accuse the Pennsylvania Railroad of complicity. We have got to know, and the whole future of the world depends upon our knowing, who are the Directors who use one country after another as a base of Operations. As usual, the surest clue is to be found by a consideratoin of the enquiry “*Quis beneficiat?*”—Who benefits?

We can clear the ground at once of one candidate—nothing which has happened in the political field in the last twenty-five years, to go back no further, could conceivably be expected to advance the interest of the communities linked together by the British Crown. On the contrary, it is obvious that, for instance, the present war is being fought, for the destruction of that association. The only question at stake appears to be which of the controlled Groups nominally takes over the assets, the hidden Promoters being in control of a majority shareholding whoever “wins.” At the same time, it is essential that the assets shall be handed over in a condition which will not cause trouble. That is to say, they must be converted into Servile States forever unable to revolt against irresistible World Police under the orders of the Promoters.

Bearing this in mind, we can consider the events to which the Marconi Scandal made an important contribution.
(To be continued) (All rights reserved)

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The idea that “justice” and “equality” are the same thing, belongs to the same order of intelligence as that which believes that the Dictatorship of the Proletariat means that every Russian can buy a Dictaphone.

There is no confirmation of the story that Mr. Curtin, the Australian “Labour” Prime Minister who now regards Washington as “Home,” is generally referred to by his name with the syllables transposed.

Another story which is current, but doubtless apocryphal, is that an international Chemical Monopoly, which is controlled by Jews, has a synthetic rubber substitute which it has kept off the market pending an arrangement with the Japanese to attack Malaya and ruin the British rubber planters and their trees, and that the wild nonsense about the responsibility of the planters for the Singapore disaster is a smoke screen put up from the same source.

What has happened to the “B”.B.C.’s dear “Russian”

friend, M. Lozhovsky, without whose name no Red Army communiqué was complete until a month or so ago? Has he joined the American Fleet?

Another tale that is surely apocryphal is that United States food-canners are to use the Fort Knox gold for plating cans, now that the major source of the world’s tin supply is in enemy hands.

Times advertisement:—“Well-known finance house has FUNDS available for the purchase of large, well-established businesses.” Well, nobody else has! And, on purchase to whom will they belong? And (supplementary question), THEN what?

THE GARDEN OF EDEN = CRIPPS

Magic Flute?

“Plato declared that the revolutionary spirit always makes its first appearance in innovations on established musical form.” — A. E. TAYLOR: *Aristotle*.

And wasn’t the Minister careful not to disclose the names of the chief proprietors of the *Daily Mirror*, which the *Evening Standard* so badly wanted to know a year or two ago? Not now, of course!

The Line to Take

The policy in force:

- To introduce and entrench Bureaucratic Socialism;
- To use the National Credit for this purpose;
- To use monetary reformers to put this over.

The policy for social crediters:

- To attack and discard Bureaucratic Socialism;
- To expose the Big Idea behind (and its control of policy in relation to National Credit);
- To endeavour to effect the reconstitution of democracy by means of Policy Associations.

Regionalism and control by Whitehall were attacked by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Norman Tiptaft, in a speech to the Birmingham Rotary Club on March 16:—

“The menace to the city,” he said, “does not in war-time come solely from Germany. It comes from gentlemen in London and their local organisation who, with the excuse that there is a war on, would impose on Birmingham and other cities a form of government which is irresponsible, anonymous, and not as efficient as the municipality itself can produce.

“We have heard much of regionalism and of the control of the backward provinces by Whitehall. We have had an insidious attack on the entire system of local democratic government by people anxious to substitute for free institutions vested interests and bureaucratic control. That way

lies danger. We are not fighting this war to instal Gauleiters and their entourage nor to put a Gestapo in charge of Britain.

"In a national emergency we are prepared to accept restrictions of individual freedom, but we will not, as free men and women, lightly accept some new control from any department of any Government less competent than that we already possess. No regional organisation can treat Birmingham as if it were the Nether Backwash. Nor will we allow powers conferred for civil defence to be used for encroaching on other matters pertaining to local government.

"All is not well with civil defence. Regional control, while admirable in theory, is not always administered with the competence necessary to ensure success. Fire fighting by paper has increased. Forms and memoranda have multiplied, but that is no guarantee of greater efficiency. There are other matters regional administration is seeking to control.

"Birmingham is not unaccustomed to receiving distinguished visitors. To-day the city authorities are over-ridden in the arrangement of visits within their own boundaries. That is not a position that this city of a million people will tolerate.

"We shall not surrender our democratic rights to any authority placed on us without our consent which attempts to usurp them."

His speech concluded with a call for changes after the war.

Mayors of other Midland towns who were present at the meeting are understood to be going to back the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in action on the basis of his address.

MEN OF MUNICH! (II)

The term 'Men of Munich' is a loose generality covering a number of persons associated with the so-called National government, particularly since the substitution of the Chamberlain for the Baldwin regime, which was accompanied by an increase in the influence of the Conservative caucus. I think it would be fairly safe to read for Men of Munich, Conservative Party, though to do so is merely to substitute one abstract term for another, with certainly no decrease in the controversial note.

For my particular purpose, which is to get at the reality behind the abstract terms and party labels, and specifically the mysterious rancour that surrounds Mr. Chamberlain's apparently forthright action at Munich, it is possibly not material, but it is interesting to speculate as to whether Mr. Chamberlain suffered as an individual or as a member of a party; and whether it was because his action threatened to give some *game* away? "Munich" had every appearance of a one-man show; the perpetuation of the phrase, however, confirms it as a group or party label.

Now, all genuine students of Douglas—by which I mean those who have attained to that rarest and most valuable possession, a philosophic outlook on social matters, recognise one or two fairly fundamental facts, though it doesn't serve any useful purpose to raise them worshipfully aloft as Immutable Truths.

One of these is that the Party System, which, though it is to be seen in some form in all so-called democratic countries, and in its fullest bloom in the United States of

America, is not essentially democratic, and appears to be the principal means by which the individuals comprising the state are deprived of the chief part of the reward of their associated efforts. One of the reasons for this, as we know, is that implicit in the Party System is the pernicious half-truth that it is not the system that is wrong but the individuals who are running it. No assumption could play up better to the devil's policy of "divide and rule." It is the temptation to think that all that is needed is a change of personnel—the old firm under new management.

Brought up as we are on Party tradition, it requires a firm sense of realism to recognise this fallacy, and to see that for our purpose, which is progression towards a concrete objective, the system is about as useful as a means of locomotion as a see-saw or a rocking-horse, while affording, unfortunately for civilisation, the same childish satisfaction and illusion of worth-while movement to a great, though diminishing number of so-called adults.

As realists we see the futility of it. And we may take considerable encouragement from the fact that this truth is dimly felt by almost everyone in a time of crisis such as the present one. From our point of vantage we can see the situation simply, as it is—a number of individuals, the nation, faced by a common danger, and endeavouring individually and collectively, and in spite of all differences, to put up a common resistance.

One recognises, however, that that condition goes down no more than a certain depth, and that beneath it lies the region of "party politics"—the bleak, confusing land of labels and classifications and vague abstract ideas, headed by the "Troublesome Trio"—Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, about which those who are without the advantage of such a book as *Economic Democracy* are in danger of disputing till doomsday.

Above that subterranean turmoil one sees the war-effort, suffering tragically in efficiency from the effects of the struggle going on beneath, yet temporarily dominating it by the sheer weight and urgency of the crisis. And above that again, if there is hope for the future, as there assuredly is, one must see—for to see a thing clearly is the first step to bringing it about—a body of emancipated individuals, Social Crediters consciously or unconsciously, able to recognise independently of war pressure the common interest of all men; not of all men after they have been forcibly reduced to one standard statistical aspect, but of all men in *all* their diversity; in *one* of their aspects, irrespective of class or creed or party.

As the only self-conscious element in that emancipated body of thought, Social Crediters will have an immense responsibility in that after-the-war period, and particularly at the moment when the sheer weight of physical dread is lifted and the nation begins to doff its uniform and resume its full regalia of party and social differences and its group labels.

Then will come the test of that tolerance which is the most valuable aspect of British culture, and for Social Credit philosophy, assuredly a flower on that cultural stem, with its healing, cementing formula. It is a demonstration of that philosophic toleration that the post-war world will need above everything, and for which it must look to the British in every part of the world. And it is against that time we must consciously prepare.

N. F. W.

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ALBERTA

In the issue of this journal for March 14, Major Douglas reminded us that "If the Social Credit Government of Alberta had done nothing—and it has done many things—to justify its existence, the demonstration afforded by its enemies of one fundamental factor in the world situation would still have made it a landmark in human history."

What is the factor? "That the Secret Government is determined to keep the world in turmoil until its own rule is supreme, so that one uninformed mob may be mobilised against another, should either become dangerous."

A paragraph in the *Edmonton Bulletin* just to hand states that the Alberta government is going ahead with arrangements to appeal to the Privy Council against the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada adjudging the Provincial Debt Adjustment Act invalid. Air mail and steamship are being used to rush the necessary application forms to London. Why there should be a more dramatic touch about rushing some forms across the ocean than about rushing the citadel of public liberties at the point of the banker's pen is a mystery, but we must permit the *Bulletin* its little flick of journalese, if only because it speaks to a gallant public which has, to the surprise (and perhaps consternation) of the Promoters of Prize Fights and particularly the Promoters of Prize Fights for the Biggest Stakes—repeatedly set aside every form of inducement to corruption, political, propagandist and financial, and has steadfastly kept its own government, expressing its own policy, in power, even in power-overpowered because it understood something, if not everything, of the issues at stake. What was at stake was those biggest stakes for which Biggest Fight-Promoters play—National Incomes, National Soils, the Lives of Nations and of Peoples, and indeed, it is no exaggeration to call it so, the Soul of the World.

Lord Sempill, 52-year-old veteran of the air, who was mainly responsible for the 'Westernisation' of the Japanese air-force equipment, who returned from Berlin in the autumn of 1938 convinced that agreement between Great Britain and Germany "would exercise such a profound effect in the world that we could march together for the peace and good of Europe and the world at large," is one of those who have believed in 'international markets' as a proper objective of national effort. More recently, at a private meeting in London, he has "thanked God for Canada, if only because it has given us Alberta." A dark saying; but, like many dark sayings, capable of elucidation if approached in the proper spirit. Disregarding the generosity oratorically conferred upon the vast territory of America north of the 49th parallel,

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Canada has indeed given us Alberta—both of us. Lord Sempill will possibly have an opportunity to direct the gift to the right quarter, which, by the bye, is not the bottomless pit of financial sabotage of the 'national effort.'

Side by side with confirmation, emanating from the Department of Commerce at Washington, of Major Douglas's view at the beginning of the present phase of the World War that one of the key objectives was the restoration of the Gold Standard, comes the text of the striking protest by the Alberta Legislature against the ambiguities of the plebiscite proposed by Mackenzie King which deprives the people of Canada of opportunity of expressing themselves in favour of the mobilisation of credit power while releasing the Federal Government from "any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the method of raising men." The Legislature's resolution, which was passed, stigmatises the plebiscite "an inexcusable expenditure of public funds urgently needed for increasing still further our war effort, and a cause of disunity at a time when complete harmony was never more essential to enable Canada to render the greatest service possible to the British Empire."

The totalitarian dilemma, 'Guns or Butter' is matched by the dilemma of the so-called democracies, 'Butter or Guns.' In war what matters is (generically) guns. The alternative is artificial and were it not imposed upon the world as a whole, there would be no occasion for guns, for guns are the ultimate force to impose and to reimpose the dilemma. Preparations which stick out a mile are being made to adjust the financial system not to the requirements of a sane economy but to the requirements of a shattered theory. Here, too, we may 'thank God for Alberta,' for it has provided object lessons from which citizens may learn to distinguish means from ends. There is no trick of deception in the bankers' armoury of which the fight in Alberta does not provide an example.

T. J.

At the end of January the Alberta Legislature passed by 28 votes to 17 a resolution condemning the open advocacy of the 'Union Now' movement in Canada. The resolution pointed out that the 'Union Now' proposals entailed the surrender of "all essential sovereign authority" of the people of Canada to an international totalitarian authority, destroying effective democratic government and submerging the British Empire.

"It seems incredible that any people in their senses could look upon healthy twins growing up together and say: 'What a pity they are not Siamese twins joined together in indissoluble union!'" — A. V. MCNEIL.

War for Intellectual Freedom

"Dear mummy and daddy,

... I don't know yet who have been chosen to make a speech for Warships Week. But one boy and girl in every school in —shire is going to be allowed to make a speech, and so someone from our school is sure to be chosen."

"Oh, what can little voices say,
 To please the Great Panjandrum?"

ABSTRACTIONISM

By P. R. MASSON

The title of a paper read to a gathering of engineers recently seems to merit close examination. It was *The Failure of the Technician in his Role as Citizen*.

The title indicates, correctly, how most of us play a double rôle in life; the one functional, as chemists, engineers, sailors, farmers or workers of one kind or another, and the other as citizens.

In a somewhat broader sense than the author probably intended, most of us are technicians in part of our lives, even if it is only to the extent of using and maintaining the familiar push bike or the now homely wireless set. Why is it that almost invariably we are successful as technicians, in that we soon learn to ride bicycles, swim, sail boats, skate or play games if we wish? Even those activities covered by the term "technician," as it is usually accepted, can be accomplished efficiently by any average person having the required application.

Yet as citizens we have failed so miserably that the whole world is now extremely busy exterminating all social problems by eliminating the individuals.

The short answer appears to be that as technicians we are invariably realists; as citizens we are too often abstractionists.

The dictionary suggests that an abstraction is a concept or idea which never ties up with reality; but a closer inspection seems to suggest that all abstractions must have some bearing on reality, but that they can be classified as good or evil according to how they are used. The old-fashioned idea of a continual war between "Good" and "Evil," between God and the Devil, had no room for apparently harmless neutrals, and a war between Realism and Abstractionism is but a variation of that fundamentally sound abstraction.

It is clear that an abstraction may be used just like any other tool. The technician uses an abstraction when he assumes the whole weight of a body to be concentrated at a point which he calls the Centre of Gravity, but he knows when it is a useful and convenient assumption and when it is not, and the fact that he uses it properly is proved by the final and successful results—ships which really do float and remain stable.

As citizens we are such abstractionists that but few recognise that the social mechanism has broken down because of bad design, poor materials and shoddy workmanship, coupled with inexcusable ignorance—one or more of these ingredients being present in every break-down once the initial development stages have been passed. A hot bearing to a realist engineer is a signal to get busy, and several hot bearings and unusual noises a signal to get busier still. He does not attempt to cover his inactivity by such abstractions as that "you can never have things perfect in this world," that "God must be angry" or that "Love is the greatest thing in the Universe." If he did he would soon be looking for another berth.

In the world of economics and finance there are many abstractions which, if they ever had any use, have long since lost contact with any reality that concerns the majority of individuals in society. The so-called "favourable" trade balance which implies that the more real wealth we export

the wealthier we become, is a case in point; and no Social Crediter will need to be told that this abstraction serves the ends of Kuhn, Loeb and Company well, in a realistic sense, but those of very few besides.

The concept that the purpose of the economic system is to make work for everyone might have a certain convenience in a world where it was necessary for everyone who could work to do so, but such a concept could never be anything more than a convenient assumption, and in a country where the productive system is characterised by a phenomenal increase in efficiency of production it could be, and is, as destructive as dynamite—it is the sin of abstractionism.

A recent letter in *The Social Crediter* referred to the concept that "money is a store of wealth" and, as the writer indicated, it is difficult to conceive any conditions in which such an abstraction could be anything but a tool of evil forces.

A few years ago the concept that "gold gave money its value" was severely damaged if not completely destroyed by an able article in *The Times Trade and Engineering Supplement* which showed that it would be more true to say that "money gave gold its value." The inability of people in general to distinguish between real wealth—food, clothes, houses, motor-cars and holidays—and the token or money is, in all probability, the most potently evil of all abstractionist ideas.

The mental confusion caused by abstractionism in money matters can be demonstrated by putting the question to a roomful of people: If we take twenty men away from their work on Spitfire construction for a day and put them on the street to collect for the Spitfire fund—and let us suppose they are highly successful collecting £1,000 or £10,000—what is the net effect on Spitfire production?

But abstractionism is not limited to finance and economics. In politics we have "lefts" and "rights," "reds" and "blacks" and modern "socialism" and modern "conservatism" supported by the idea that truth lies somewhere between two extremes.

Deliberation and discussion can be useful as a preliminary to a decision and the necessary action. If they do not lead up to these results they are abortive. When healthy deliberation is elaborated into the idea of an endless debate with truth fluttering everlastingly between the two sides, it is abstractionism or Devil's realism; it is an example of the old maxim of "Divide and Rule" and, put simply, it means that we are having our attention distracted while our pockets are being picked.

Perhaps the sphere in which abstractionism is most powerful in its influence for evil is when it succeeds in masquerading under the cloak of religion. Major C. H. Douglas has shown that the word "religion" by derivation means "binding back to reality" but he has also shown very clearly that there are abstract ideas in Puritanism, Freemasonry and Jewry which are evil. All these activities would be claimed as "religious" by their adherents so that it is obvious that the word has lost a precise meaning. An out and out abstractionist will tell you that the word "religion" is incapable of definition, which leaves an open door for any half-baked idea with a coating of neurotic emotionalism.

The kind of religious abstractionisms which should not be difficult to classify can be illustrated by such emotionalised

ideas as that "Love is the greatest thing in the Universe." While there is everything to be said in favour of an attempt to be a good neighbour and take a share of the responsibilities inseparable from our existence, there is little to be said for being merely exalted over the idea while insulated on a pedestal of self-righteousness. There can be little doubt that it is possible for some individuals to carry religious abstractionism to the extent where a complete and satisfying insensibility to external discomforts is reached, but this kind of "religion" cannot come within miles of a conception of "binding back to reality."

The concept of a Great Architect appears to presume a Plan, the details of which are known to a few selected individuals invested with Divine authority to work out that plan on their fellows; Social Crediters, at least, do not believe that that will work, which is only another way of saying that it cannot have divine approval because it does not "bind back to reality."

The technician has one final test and one only—does it work? Does it "bind back to reality?" Has it divine approval? The fact that he is unfamiliar with the question in the last two forms suggests that we have invested "religion" and divinity with an abstractionism which must be eliminated. The final responsibility in the matter rests with the individual; it cannot be vested elsewhere.

"Plural Societies" and War

By B. M. PALMER

Correct principles, when properly stated, come home to the mind in relevant circumstances with the force of prophecy. The failure of the Malayan Empire to bear for more than a few weeks the onslaught sustained for five years by the Chinese has been a mental shock now resolving into a spate of words; but above the tumult of recriminations stands in calm dignity the axiomatic statement apprehension of which would have saved us:—

"The idea which is rising into prominence, and which is probably incompatible with the older conception, is that nations and races to some extent resemble individuals. A period of tutelage is necessary and desirable, but the extension of this period beyond pragmatic limits can only result in harm and discontent. On the other hand, to say that all peoples, or even all individuals, should be suddenly freed from the restraints imposed upon them by past generations is as absurd as to say that such restraints should be uniform and permanent.

"Whether we consider the resistance to a more fluid state of society to arise from inertia and fear, or from a positive craving for power, the recognition of its existence suggests that those who embody it will be found engaged in a struggle for the control of social forces. This, I think, is the case, and in one form or another this struggle is similar to that which has taken place throughout recorded history. The prize may be termed the unearned increment of association."

The struggle for the control of social forces: only a few realise that the protagonists are operating in obscurity, and but faint noise of their battle is heard; but the scorched earth of their combat surrounds every one of us, to whom it is represented by an obsequious press as the result of our

own wicked desire for profit, or more often lately as "inexorable economic law."

But it seems that at last one aspect of reality is appearing. It is unlikely that two sentences written by Miss Margery Perham in her articles on *The Colonial Empire* in *The Times* of March 13 and 14, would have been granted publicity before the fall of Malay:—

"To-day, behind the impressive set-up of chiefs, courts, and councils, the welfare of the people often swings helplessly in the tide of world markets, or is controlled by strong and remote commercial companies responsible only to themselves"

"Already the West Africans have shewn their resentment of this position, and if they perhaps exaggerate the degree of control thus exerted over their livelihood, the fault lies in the secrecy within which commercial policy is made and operated."

These are useful articles. The writer evidently has experience which is more valuable than she herself realises, and of which she has not yet envisaged the inevitable conclusion. For she fails to draw any conclusion except one wholly acceptable to *The Times*—a plea for new energy in Colonial administration and new and more intimate relationship with its peoples. These are phrases vague enough to be pleasing even to those commercial companies responsible only to themselves.

It may be true, as Miss Perham says, that the colonial peoples ask for no service with the same passion as they do for education; if so, it is our duty to provide it, and to lift the vast deadweight of ignorance and backwardness from the women; but education is useless if divorced from policy, and we have given these people no opportunity of learning that they have an aim in common; for the main purpose for which they might associate was taken away from them when we suffered the establishment of an external and secret control over their livelihood.

The results of this secret control are deplorable: the destruction of primitive organic communities and the formation of new units, with all the evils of industrialisation, tropical slums, where it is inevitable that proper growth should be arrested and distorted. Upon these conditions is grafted the system of debt and taxation so familiar to ourselves, with the break-up of family and community life resulting from an artificial unemployment, and the enforced migration of young men in search of "work."

Much of the Colonial Empire, Miss Perham points out, exhibits the characteristics of what the Dutch call "plural societies"—a steel framework of an imported state system, under which diverse groups pursue their material ends with the minimum of contact with the others. She says they are developing on parallels that will never meet.

When war comes to plural communities there will be no resistance from those who have nothing to fight for. So we may judge, as we imagine the smoking ruins over which the war has already passed, the measure of our help to the Colonials in learning the rudiments of democracy.

The attitude of *The Times* towards colonial matters has already been commented upon in this paper on November 29 last.

The intention to make self-government everywhere compatible with some form of common economic policy,

formed, of course, by the secret junta, has already been forecast by the powers behind that newspaper; and in *The Colonial Future* published on March 14, the destiny of the colonies has been thus arrogantly arranged:—

“Except in a few special areas, the colonies are probably now more important as markets than as sources of supply. It is as markets that they will make their major contribution to the rebuilding of world trade.”

Such is *The Times's* main comment on Miss Perham's articles. It is to be hoped that its readers will be less myopic.

Points from Parliament

MARCH 12.

Oral Answers to Questions

WAGES AND PRICES

Sir Patrick Hannon asked the Minister of Labour what is the aggregate increase in weekly wage rates as at the end of the last convenient week in the present year, and the available figures for the corresponding week in the two preceding years; and whether the advance in weekly wage rates now equals the rise in the official index of the cost of living since the outbreak of war?

Mr. Bevin: On the basis of such information as is available to my Department, relating mainly to rates of wages fixed by statutory orders or by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workers, it is estimated that the average increase in weekly full-time rates of wages since the beginning of the war was about 27 per cent. at the end of January, 1942, as compared with about 18 per cent. at the end of January, 1941, and about 5 or 6 per cent. at the end of January, 1940. The official cost of living index figure at February 1, 1942, was approximately 29 per cent. higher than at September 1, 1939.

Sir Herbert Williams: Do these figures relate to wage rates or weekly earnings?

Mr. Bevin: To wage rates.

Mr. Higgs: Do the figures include increased earnings due to piece work?

Mr. Bevin: No, they are the increase in rates.

GOLD SALVAGING (LABOUR)

Mr. A. Edwards asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that £30,000 worth of British labour has recently been used in salvaging gold alleged to be worth £2,000,000, but which is useless for the war effort; and whether he will take steps to prohibit the use of labour and materials on any kind of gold production operations, seeing that the Allies already have larger stocks than can be usefully utilised?

Sir K. Wood: I am aware of the salvage of gold to which the hon. Member refers. It is certainly not useless for the war effort, and I regard this salvage operation as having rendered a valuable service. We have to pay for those essential imports which are not covered by Lease-Lend or the generous financial arrangements made by the Government of Canada. For this purpose exports have to be maintained, and gold is from many points of view a very advantageous export.

Mr. Edwards: Is the Minister seriously telling this

House that shipping space is being used to-day to transport gold across the seas to pay our debts to our Dominions, and if that is not the case would not this gold have been as secure in its safe deposit at the bottom of the sea as it is upon land in New Zealand? May I have an answer to the first part of my Question, with reference to gold being transported across the sea?

Sir K. Wood: The hon. Member ought to put that Question down.

Mr. Edwards: The Question is here on the Paper.

Mr. Stokes: Is the Chancellor of the Exchequer aware that more than 500,000 British subjects are engaged in the perfectly useless pursuit of digging gold, and that even America is now awakening to the uselessness of this business?

Sir K. Wood: I am aware of my hon. Friend's views on this matter.

Mr. Edwards: In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the reply, I beg to give notice that I shall raise this matter on another occasion.

MARCH 18.

LORD BEAVERBROOK (DUTIES IN UNITED STATES)

Mr. Attlee: As was stated on 20th February when the list of the new War Cabinet was published, Lord Beaverbrook will proceed to the United States, where he will carry on the work which he has already begun regarding the pooling of the resources with such other duties as may be entrusted to him from time to time by the War Cabinet.

It is probable that later on this work will be devolved upon a Minister of the rank of Under-Secretary, thus releasing Lord Beaverbrook for other duties in connection with the war effort of the United Nations.

Mr. Shinwell: If it was known on 20th February that Lord Beaverbrook was to proceed to the United States at the request of the Government, why was a statement to that effect not made last Thursday instead of the Prime Minister's statement that he was not sure whether Lord Beaverbrook was so proceeding? May I ask whether Lord Beaverbrook, in the United States or elsewhere, will be under the direct supervision of the Minister of State?

Mr. Attlee: Yes, he will be acting under the general direction of the Minister of State as Minister of Production. I presume that the reply which was made was the reply which could have been made at the time.

Mr. Shinwell: Last week the Prime Minister, in reply to Questions, said that he was not sure whether Lord Beaverbrook was to proceed to the United States. As I understand it, this was apparently known on 20th February. Was there any need to have any trouble about it?

Mr. Attlee: My hon. Friend is wrong. A statement was made on 20th February; but it was uncertain last week whether Lord Beaverbrook would proceed. It is now certain.

Sir Irving Albery: Can the right hon. Gentleman say exactly what Lord Beaverbrook's status will be when he is in the United States?

Mr. Attlee: He will be acting as a representative on behalf of the War Cabinet, particularly the Ministry of

Supply, for this work of co-operation.

Mr. Stephen: Is Lord Beaverbrook to be regarded as a member of the Government and a Minister of the Crown?

Mr. Atlee: No, he is not.

Colonel Arthur Evans: What part of Lord Beaverbrook's duties will eventually be undertaken by an Under-Secretary?

Mr. Atlee: I think my hon. and gallant Friend might wait and discuss that in the Debate on the Ministry of Production.

Sir I. Albery: Are we to understand from the right hon. Gentleman's answer that Lord Beaverbrook proceeds to the United States on a special mission?

Mr. Atlee: That was explained on 20th February.

Mr. Hore-Belisha: What is the nature of the other duties? Are they diplomatic, and, if so, will the authority of His Majesty's Ambassador be fully preserved?

Mr. Atlee: There is no question of diplomatic duties. The Ambassador's privileges will be fully preserved.

GINGIVITIS

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Health whether he can now give the figures for the incidence of gingivitis in the civilian population and in the Services during the past year?

Mr. E. Brown: I regret that there are no figures available as to the incidence of gingivitis in the civilian population as the disease is not notifiable. Any question as to incidence in the fighting Services should be addressed to the responsible Departments.

MARCH 19.

Oral Answers to Questions

NATIONAL FINANCE

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

Mr. Bellenger asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the present position of the Bank for International Settlements; whether he proposes to continue membership of an international financial institution, a majority of whose directors are enemy nationals, and whether he will cause information to be laid before this House in an appropriate form of the transactions between the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements?

Sir K. Wood: On the outbreak of war, the Bank for International Settlements decided to maintain a strictly neutral attitude, and I am satisfied that this decision is being carried out. The Bank of England has entered into no fresh business with the Bank for International Settlements since the outbreak of war. It is not proposed to change our connection with the Bank for International Settlements, for the reasons explained in a reply given to the hon. Member for Southampton (Dr. Thomas) on 9th October, 1940, of which I am sending the hon. Member a copy.

Mr. Bellenger: How does the Bank maintain a strictly neutral attitude, when the vast majority of its directors are under enemy control? Does my right hon. Friend not think, particularly in view of the fact that no transactions

have taken place during the war, that it is time to wind up this institution?

Sir K. Wood: No, Sir. As was pointed out in the reply to which I have referred my hon. Friend, this country has various interests under a trust agreement in relation to this matter.

Dr. Russell Thomas: Is not the Bank for International Settlements still functioning to some extent?

Sir K. Wood: Yes, Sir, to some extent.

BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

Economic Democracy	(edition exhausted)
Social Credit	3/6
The Monopoly of Credit	3/6
Credit Power and Democracy	(edition exhausted)
Warning Democracy	(edition exhausted)
The Use of Money	6d.
"This 'American' Business"	3d.
Social Credit Principles	1½d.

ALSO

The Bankers of London by Percy Arnold	4/6
Hitler's Policy is a Jewish Policy by Borge Jensen and P. R. Masson	6d.
Southampton Chamber of Commerce Report	6d.
Democratic Victory or the Slave State? by L. D. Byrne	4d.
How Alberta is Fighting Finance	2d.

Leaflets

The Attack on Local Government by John Mitchell	9d. doz.; 50 for 2/6
Taxation is Robbery	50 for 1/9; 100 for 3/- (Please allow for postage when remitting).

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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.
- BIRMINGHAM (Midland D.S.C. Association): Hon. Sec., 20 Sunnybank Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield.
- BLACKPOOL D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 73 Manor Rd., Blackpool.
- 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 April 2.
- NEWCASTLE-on-Tyne Douglas Credit Association: Hon. Sec., 10 Warrington Road, Fawdon, Newcastle, 3.
- SOUTHAMPTON D.S.C. Group: Hon. Sec., 19 Coniston Road, Redbridge, Southampton.