

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 10. No. 12.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1943.

6d. Weekly.

Programme For the Third World War (VIII)

By C. H. DOUGLAS

WILLIAM ABERHART

We greatly regret to announce the death at the age of 64 years of Mr. William Aberhart, Premier of Alberta since 1935, and the first statesman to head a Government returned to power under the label of Social Credit.

In a confirmatory telegram, Mr. N. B. James, of the Alberta Social Credit Board, states that the event, which Social Crediters the world over will mourn, occurred in Vancouver Hospital after a brief illness.

The return of Mr. Aberhart's Government with a backing of 57 out of 63 seats in the Provincial Legislature of Alberta, began the first conscious and open challenge, on the part of a Government body, to the orthodox financial system, a challenge sustained by subsequent re-election by the citizens of the Province in 1940, and continuously pursued.

A memoir and such details of the present position as may usefully be published concerning the great fight in Canada will appear in the next issue of *The Social Crediter*.

The curious myopia (possibly resulting from the exoteric interpretation of Genesis which was supposed to indicate the date of creation as about B.C. 4000) which regards history as the events subsequent to the landing of Norman William, with his select body of Jews, in A.D. 1066, enables the statement that "Christopher Columbus discovered America at the end of the fifteenth century" to be accepted as accurate. Apart from the fact that Columbus never saw America, the mainland of which was "discovered" by John Cabot, who sailed from Bristol in 1497, there is strong reason to believe that various Scandinavian peoples had fairly constant intercourse with the North American Continent hundreds, if not thousands, of years earlier. Their traditional name for it was Markland.

There are, however, certain features in regard to the rediscovery of America which are worth attention. Christopher Columbus was a Jew, and John Cabot, although his ship and crew were English, was a Venetian. But the extraordinary and significant fact is that there was in Bristol at that time a secret Jewish community 'who handed on their tradition by word of mouth' (Lord Melchett: *Thy Neighbour*, p. 90).

It is obvious that both Columbus and Cabot had information of a fairly definite character to guide them. Both of them set a compass course which was approximately correct. And both of them had connections with banking—Columbus with Jewish banking, and Cabot with the banking-City-State of Venice, and almost certainly with this secret Bristol Jewry. The essence of banking has always been what in military circles is called "intelligence"—information in its widest sense, spying being an important component, and it seems highly probable that the existence of the American continent was known in banking circles when it was quite unknown outside them. If this was so, it is reasonable to assume that when action was taken in regard to this knowledge it was considered action.

Quite a different type of individual is required to pioneer a new country from that required to develop it subsequently, and it is not without significance also that the original British settlers were followed by a wave of Dutch, who for the most part remained on the Atlantic seaboard as traders and bankers. One of the real effects of the American War of Independence was that although a facade of the original settlers of British stock held most of the titular offices of Government, the control of development and policy rapidly passed to a tiny Dutch minority (not to be confused with the much larger German element

"A Fascist Conception"

Mr. A. M. Wall, general secretary of the London Society of Compositors, said at the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation conference in London recently:—

"It is really a Fascist conception of organisation to believe that the only way to advance the interests of printing trade workers is to create one big union controlling the compositors, journalists, litho artists, correctors of the press, and all the rest, under an executive charged with full powers of direction and representation regardless of minority interests.

"This war is being fought to destroy the Fascist conception of life. In the struggle we have vindicated on our side the principle of voluntary association and of free co-operation instead of the line of legal compulsion." Organisation of the workers by crafts was the real democratic method.

frequently called Dutch in the United States by a corruption of the word *Deutsch*). Such names as Roosevelt, Astor, Vanderbilt, Van Ranselaer, Van Cortlandt, etc., immediately occur to anyone in this connection. The Dutch were the Chosen Instrument of Finance.

This is not an attempt to write a history of the United States. It is a suggestion that the United States is a definite and very important item in a plan which was interrupted by the expulsion from England in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries of the Jews and their associates whom we now call Freemasons, but who were then called Knights Templars.

By common consent, the real framer of the Declaration of Independence was Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson's mother was a Randolph—probably, with the Lees of Virginia, the most aristocratic family of the New World. There is quite indisputable evidence that Jefferson was an international Freemason, and that the revolutionary elements in America, who were greatly in the minority, were the same elements who were fomenting trouble in France (Jefferson was actually United States Ambassador to France at the time of the fall of the Bastille).

The famous phrase "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness" originally read "Every man is entitled to the possession of life, liberty and property," and Jefferson in person struck out "property" and inserted the quite meaningless abstraction "the pursuit of happiness."

Jefferson was almost a perfect example of the aristocratic abstractionist—the man who is born with a power complex which he inherits and disdains apprenticeship to his constitution-making. He was a student and a lawyer from the age of seventeen, and nearly every one of his policies was in direct conflict with his own mode of life and fundamental sympathies, and conveys the suggestion of outside influence on inexperience. Although he was President (a very different office to that now attached to the title) and is credited with the Louisiana Purchase, the picture presented of his Administration is that of a man with an inherited aptitude for dealing with large matters, but taking his instructions on them without much consciousness of the reality they embody.

Perhaps the most indisputable evidence that I am not unduly fanciful in this matter is provided by the Great Seal of the United States, which was the work of Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin, all Freemasons, the obverse of which consists of a truncated pyramid, with the headstone bearing a picture of the *All-Seeing Eye*, the symbol of Freemasonry, suspended above the Pyramid. The motto is "*annuit coeptis*"—"he prospers our origins."

The pyramid is the symbol of world-government. The rest of the symbolism is obvious. Seen in the light of this clue, the history of the United States is consistently bound up with Whiggism, Lutheranism, Calvinism, and with the "mergers," financial buccaneering, and political corruption of the super-capitalism which accompany Judaeo-Masonry. The political corruption is not adventitious—it is essential. The type of Government, and the type of legislator in the main prevalent in this country during the last half of the Victorian era, although very far from ideal, would never have tolerated for a week the financial piracy of the Vanderbilt-Harriman era which co-existed with it in the United States. It is not brains of which the Plotters are afraid—it is integrity. This type of British Government

was definitely one of tradition, not of expediency, and traditional Government imposes certain standards in much the same way that a Gothic Cathedral discourages ribaldry.

In 1935, a year which probably marked the disappearance of any real prospect of peace, the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury announced that in future the obverse of the Great Seal would be printed on the back of all U.S. paper money.

I should like to emphasise, for the benefit of those to whom it is necessary, that not only is the mass of the modern American people unconscious of the part it has been billed to play, but is very uneasy as to its part in world affairs.

Whether leading American statesmen understand the situation is also not plain. I rather doubt it. But that there is a small inner ring which does, I am confident. I have met at least one of them.

One of our nineteenth century statesmen begged Englishmen to cultivate the habit of studying large maps. With a world war on our hands, we require above most other things, to realise that evil designs can be, and are, built up from innocuous components, and in consequence, short views of history may be very deceptive.

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To be continued.

THE MIXTURE

While the Economic League is soliciting guineas on the plea that it is necessary for citizens to back their belief in Private Enterprise, *The Economist* is questioning the meaning of Lord McGowan's recent remarks to the shareholders of I.C.I., which the newspaper thinks may imply the setting up of a "State within the State" and the removal of I.C.I. "from the sphere of competition." Lord McGowan is a Vice-President of the Economic League (there is at present no President). The League had better tackle him!

COMMUNIST LITERATURE

According to the *Daily Worker* for April 9, 1943, £148,000 worth of "literature" produced by the Party was sold in 1942. Presumably this excludes sales of *The Times*, etc., etc.

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DEVOLUTION OF THE COMINTERN

Co-operation between Common Wealth and the Labour Party "on a reciprocal basis" was offered by Sir Richard Acland, leader of Common Wealth, speaking at West Hartlepool in support of his party's candidate in the Hartlepool by-election. Common Wealth's experience, he said, had proved that it could win a certain number of people whom Labour could not win and some constituencies which the Labour Party had never contested.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY

The *Sunday Times* of May 2 reported that "The closing down by the Nazis of shops and independent craftsmen has affected millions of Germans. Most of these Germans are over 50 and will find it difficult to change their mode of life. In some districts Government orders have caused disturbances... reports in the German Press indicate that at a special meeting in Hamburg recently, attended by managers of trade groups and of the retail trade, and Dr. Wolff, a high official of the Ministry of Economics, the fate of individual trade enterprise was sealed, and that the trade group leaders, usually Nazi party officials, will now be personally responsible for the fulfilment of the programme."

U.S. DEFENCE WORKS IN CANADA

A permanent formula for the post-war liquidation of United States-constructed defence projects in Canada was provided recently in an exchange of notes between the Governments of the two countries.

The formula is:—

1. All immovable assets of the United States are to be released within one year after the end of the war to the Crown, in the right of the Dominion or the province in which they are situated.

2. All movable assets must be removed from Canada within one year or offered for sale to the Crown in the right of the Dominion or a province, at a price to be fixed by two appraisers, one chosen by each country, with power to select a third in case of disagreement.

3. If movable assets are not removed or sold to the Crown within one year, they must be offered for sale on the open market.

4. If they cannot be sold on the open market, their disposition is to be referred to the permanent joint defence board.

There are special agreements providing for the disposition of some United States defence projects in Canada. The formula, it is understood, is designed to apply in cases in which there is no special agreement for disposition.

Among the major projects undertaken by the United States is the Alaska highway and there is a special agreement under which it is to become part of the Canadian highway system after the war.

The exchange of notes was desirable, it was stated, because concern had been expressed from time to time that the United States might acquire some permanent vested interest through defence works undertaken, although this was not the intention of either the United States or the Canadian Government.

World-Government Plans

The following comments on recent suggestions for the control of international exchanges are taken from a letter addressed by a reader of *The Social Crediter* to an enquirer: "... You no doubt appreciate that Keynes's scheme and the U.S.A. scheme must have taken a considerable time to mature. The time would be taken up, not so much by the original drafting, but in submitting the draft to 'interests' without whose co-operation no such scheme could be put into successful operation. Also, you may have wondered at the coincidence of the two schemes being launched on the public within a few days of each other.

"It has long been a part of the technique of the Money Power to put up for consideration by the public two false alternatives. In the political field two such alternatives have been Fascism and Bolshevism, as if there existed nothing else besides these two. The suspicion of deliberate timing as far as the International Currency schemes are concerned seems well founded. Evidently those who have launched them wish the minds of the people to be concentrated on the *relative technical* merits of these schemes and so away from the fact that the objective is the same—viz., the concentration of monetary power in a nebulous and largely occult international (better termed anti-national) organisation.

"This underlying policy is anti-social, inasmuch as it removes from the individual any possibility of control of his own destiny. The Money Power probably thinks such remoteness of control essential to its own existence. In the last war the knowledge of the general public on money matters was almost nil. In the few years between the two great military wars, the public has, however, learned a great deal...

"If you study the circumstances in which unlimited money is available and those in which none is alleged to be available, you will discover that the guiding principle is that money is always available so long as it doesn't benefit *individuals*. The beneficiaries of this policy are bound to remove as far as possible from the individual all control of his own money. It would probably no longer be 'safe' to allow the British Parliament to retain even theoretical control. The people might bring pressure to bear to put that control into practice. Only by still further removing control can the beneficiaries stand a chance of success in thwarting general, legitimate aspirations and ensuring future wars when it suits them or that they shall be fought when they are an inevitable result of policy.

"In these circumstances I think you will see that consideration of the various schemes from a technical viewpoint would be misplaced, as it would merely be to decide which scheme would be the most efficient in carrying out a diabolical policy."

Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

Sir Harry Goschen, chairman of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, said recently that nearly a million acres of Britain are now mortgaged to that firm. The total of loans was £14,293,083 secured on 962,560 acres of land, together with the necessary farmhouses and buildings, valued in all at £22,393,121.

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. 10. No. 12.

Saturday, May 29, 1943.

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The coal nationalisation racket is now becoming clearer in outline. It was foreshadowed by the Sankey Commission in 1920, at which, it was freely alleged in Washington, a Jewish witness was briefed at £10,000 to present a case for making coal "a national asset." "National assets" are, of course, under lien to national mortgagees.

At that time, this little scheme went awry, but the Orientals behind it are nothing if not patient, and it is evident that British coal and the second world war have close relations.

• Coal having been acquired but not paid for, we now see the next step in the Report (one more Report) on "Coal Utilisation Research and the National Economy." The Chairman of the Committee which presents this Report is Viscount Samuel. The Report is a truly remarkable instance of the use of the step-by-step process of Encyclopaedism, each step by itself being unexceptionable.

It should be realised that coal is probably the most important source of raw material for the chemical and dye industry, including the production of synthetic rubber and high-octane fuel for aeroplane engines.

The chemical industry is completely "international" and predominantly Jewish in control, and German-Jewish at that.

The amount of consideration which will be given to "the people," as distinct from the Chosen, in the use made of once-great Britain's vital asset, can be readily assessed.

• • •
"When we stood alone... in May, June and July... shotguns, sporting rifles, clubs and staves were all they could find for weapons... it was not till July that we ferried safely across the Atlantic the 1,000,000 rifles and 1,000 field guns which were given us by the people and Government of the United States in an act of precious and timely succour... You will remember how you worked night and day to clean them from the grease in which they had been stored for a generation, you will remember how we hardly dared to fire a round for practice..."

— THE PRIME MINISTER: Broadcast from Washington.

Beautifully put, Sir. But we doubt whether it will penetrate.

• • •
Steinhardt, the American Ambassador to Moscow, was,

previous to his appointment, a junior member of the Jewish Law firm of Samuel Untermyer, New York.

• • •
"There are two lots of people who must be beaten in this war—Germans and the English pseudo-intellectuals... The contrary view I leave to fish and Fabians."

— LORD VANSITTART.

L'Idée Gaulliste

The following sentences are quoted from an article by a Correspondent published in *The Economist* for May 22, 1943:—

The collapse of French Parliamentary democracy has been followed by the failure of Pétain's pseudo-authoritarian regime. The vacuum is now being filled by what may be called the *mystique Gaulliste*...

... From June, 1940, to November, 1942... General de Gaulle's name was the only symbol of France's will for survival and rebirth... For the first time since the collapse of the Second Empire, one personality took an exclusive hold of the centre of the political stage within the *pays réel*. The *pays légal* was represented by Pétain...

The *mystique Gaulliste* dominates the underground press of nearly all political shades...

The feeling that the old parties failed and that each of them had its share in responsibility for the military breakdown is very strong. A "sense of guilt" weighs on all attempts at the revival of the party system...

The aureole which in the eyes of Frenchmen in France must surround General de Gaulle can hardly be dismissed by references to the much-discussed shortcomings of the leader of Fighting France...

But this is only one element in the *mystique*... General de Gaulle has the almost unconditional support of the resistant wing of the *Croix de Feu*, of the Catholic Trade Unions and of the C.G.T., of Radicals, Socialists and Communists... General de Gaulle's strength lies at least partly in the vagueness of his politics, which lends itself to the most divergent and contradictory interpretations.

... In the detached atmosphere of exile—in *partibus infidelium*—contradictions need no unravelling; and the *mystique* is—like every other *mystique*—growing with an element of *malentendu* in it...

In the series of meticulously polite letters exchanged between Carlton Gardens and Algiers, some notes of a strange nationalist egocentrism can hardly be missed. But it would be a fallacy to believe that the growth of the *mystique* could at this stage be prevented or hampered by any artificial devices or by the fostering of any rival myths. The only effective reply to the *mystique* can be provided by the wholesome political prose of a liberated and free France... But, if and when it is accomplished, there will be no room left for any independent *idée Gaulliste*; and General de Gaulle can only retain his well-merited and honoured place in French history if he parts with the highly controversial "ism" that has been affixed to his name.

'Facts' about Electricity Supply

By W. A. BARRATT

The issue of *Planning* dated March, 1943 deals with *Facts About Electricity Supply*. The most vital facts concerning the delivery of electricity to the public are not mentioned at all.

It is stated on page 1 that "A P.E.P. Group has for some time been considering just this question of a national policy. And a Report will eventually be published in four main sections..."

Judging by the array of carefully selected facts in this issue, their recommendations are a foregone conclusion—larger areas, regional government, reduction of costs, more control by some remote centralised authority such as the Electricity Commissioners; thus removing more and more control of their own affairs from the people, and the power to demand the results they want.

There is only one source for policy under a true democracy and that is the people themselves. All other expressions (and sources) are nothing less than variations of dictatorship, and this must be set against P.E.P.'s statement (printed on the back page) which asks "for the continued support of all who believe in a fact finding, non-partisan attitude as the most constructive way of dealing with public affairs." Further, "P.E.P. is a completely independent organisation." Independent of what? "Is not run for profit and is pledged to avoid personal publicity." The watchword of all the dictators is that they are willing to serve.

It is easy to trace to the continent the characteristics of the policy of increasing centralisation; they are certainly alien to the British people.

Concerning the expansion which has taken place in electricity supply, figures are given from 1930, when it was nearly 20,000 million units, to 1941, when it had risen to 32,000 million units. During this period, of course, the mighty Grid was in the process of taking over, finance was already assured of its required control, loans were available for this expansion and colossal sabotage of millions of machines, power stations, etc., was taking place.

The expansion during the war period is very significant and shows what can be done if finance is willing: 24,000 million units were generated in 1938, and 32,000 million in 1941. It is worth drawing attention to the fact that this is only one instance where we shall finish the war potentially richer than we started. Our potential capacity of electrical energy will no doubt be considered an added burden if, as is not beyond the bounds of possibility, new sabotage schemes are then proposed in order 'to make work for all.'

In this respect *Planning* drops a beautiful pearl: "During the year 1939-40... The number of staff and workmen engaged totalled 98,290 (nearly 9,000 fewer than in 1938-39)." Thus with an increase of 2,000 million units generated in one year there are 9,000 fewer staff and workmen employed. The improved process, increased efficiency and substitution of solar for human energy has been operating for a long time and it would be most interesting to compare the number of staff say in the year 1920 for 5,000 million units generated with the year 1941 for 32,000

million units. This is only one industry: the same process is operating in all other industries.

Again, the Broadsheet quotes: "Salaries and wages paid were almost £18,600,000. Revenue from the sales of energy totalled £94,733,000..." Thus for a total aggregate of prices (receipts) of £94.7 million, purchasing power of only £18.6 million was issued in respect of it. No wonder we live or die by our export trade. To quote Major Douglas in *Economic Democracy* referring to the deficiency of total aggregate purchasing power to total aggregate prices:—"If this happens in one factory (or industry) it must happen in every factory" (or industry). Hence the necessity for continual and increasing outpourings of money loans, credit issues, etc., in order to make up the deficiency. It also explains the increasing debt with which industry is burdened and the consequent increasing control by high finance.

Some of the "facts" given are not facts at all but expressions of opinion—propaganda: "The purpose of the Grid is to concentrate the largest amount of generation at the most economic stations and to act as an insurance against breakdown." (my emphasis). It is a great pity that the safety demands of our country make it impossible to give an adequate reply to this statement.

Planning gives much publicity to increased efficiencies, and the necessity for reducing costs, quoting the McGowan Report to this effect. If the high costs of distribution are preventing supplies to rural areas and "generation is concentrated in the most efficient stations" it proves that efficiency has no relation to the purpose of the industry. Production is for consumption: efficiencies *in vacuo* might be very nice to admire but if they do not contribute to the public's satisfaction, of what use are they? Then again, the 'sound financial method' of computing costs have been proved fraudulent.

The Broadsheet says nothing whatever about the failure to make supplies available to farmers and in rural areas, and yet the most responsible statement which can be found on this subject says, "The National Grid Scheme was developed with a view to making an electricity supply available in rural districts, and there can be no doubt that the inhabitants of these districts have a right to such a supply."* Finance has no objection whatever to finding the money for centralised controlled schemes—the original estimated cost of the Grid Scheme was £27 millions, but this has gone up considerably due to expenditure necessary to make the Grid less vulnerable to attack. But finance has a decided objection to loaning money for decentralised schemes, or to individuals, for instance, to enable them to gain access to ultimate commodities such as electricity supply. Yet the Government is at this time demonstrating how easy it is to sell below cost many essential commodities for consumption.

Planning makes reference to the Government White Paper which followed the McGowan Report in 1937, where it was recommended that all Electricity Supply undertakings should be amalgamated into 76 main groups. One can detect the note of regret that the Government were unable to put these proposals into law because of "pressure of war legislation" and the opposition of the small undertakings. The most effective criticism against these centralising proposals came from a committee of 100 of

**The Electrification of Agriculture and Rural Areas* by PROFESSOR GOLDING.

the small undertakings. This committee contended that most of the McGowan proposals could be achieved without existing undertakings *losing their identities*. Why has not this most fundamental challenge been met?

Publicity is given to the provisions made for *rights* of appeal and enquiries by undertakings but of what use are these, when the actual cases like that of Chester† and others are treated with such disregard and contempt?

P.E.P., in accordance with its own pre-war dictum that "Only in war or under threat of war will the British Government embark on large-scale planning," is obviously too much pre-occupied with finding the shortest route to Moscow either to heed the policy of the *consumer*, which should define the scope of the Electricity Industry's activities, or to relate to it the realistic aspects of the technique of production.

On the Rocks

Bernard Shaw, in *Reynolds News*, writing on the May Day celebrations, says: "I only wish to mention that I am no longer imposed on by the pseudo-democracy of mass-meetings, platform speeches and party parliaments of Anybodies chosen by Everybody." This frank admission by the veteran tub-thumper and big-drummer seems to imply that after about 65 years of trying to "impose" his opinions about "democratic" government at mass-meetings and on platforms and in books, he finds at last that he has all the time been "imposing" on himself as well as on his audiences.

His having thus overruled the immaturity of his assumption that oratory at mass-meetings was Democracy in action, he ties the irrational knot still tighter by adding: "On May Day I shall simply not be there. Nor shall I be missed,"—surely a bitter admission from the unsocial socialist who wrote at the top of his voice believing in the pseudo-democracy which no longer imposes on him.

You never can tell, but our Methuselah of English Letters may yet recant another of the unintelligent ideas with which he has sought to guide socialists, men and women alike, the idea contained in his famous letter to a correspondent in California in 1925. Writing from Heartbreak House, fearful for the future of the Fabian appercart, this Socialist with the Superior Brains asserted that no scheme that proceeds on the illusion that what a banker lends is a sort of hot air called Credit has the slightest chance of success. What the banks lend, he explained, is not something of their own creation out of nothing, it is the solid commodities represented by the deposits of its clients; in short, all the banks lend is the deposits of their clients.

It would be too true to be good for Shaw's reputation as a Socialist teacher to assume that Mr. McKenna during the past 18 years had succeeded in correcting the versatile Irishman's belief, so long "imposed" on himself and his followers, that "all the banks lend is the deposits of their clients." For such a conversion would prove Shaw to have been a philanderer with Finance all his life. Indeed, it would land him on the second horn of his intellectual dilemma—on the rocks about the source of Credit as well as about Democracy. Will he recant before it is too late?

WILLIAM BELL.

Points from Parliament

House of Commons: May 11, 1943.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (INTERIM DEVELOPMENT) BILL

The Minister of Town and Country Planning (Mr. W. S. Morrison): . . . The objects of the Bill are twofold. The first is to extend planning control throughout England and Wales, and the second is to strengthen control over development in the interim period, that is to say, while schemes are being prepared. The first object is attained by Clause 1. There are many areas, including some which have been very badly damaged by bombs in our urban centres, which are not subject to any planning resolution at all and therefore are under no form of planning control. There are rural areas similarly situated. The effect of Clause 1 will be to bring under planning control some additional 10,000,000 acres of land. It is clearly right that this should be done. It is high time that such authorities as have not hitherto thought fit to pass planning resolutions should enter upon this duty, and begin as soon as they can if we are not to lose this opportunity of reconstruction which the war, with all its evils, has conferred upon us. The period of three months allowed in the Clause is thought reasonable to enable those authorities which have not hitherto undertaken the task to make the necessary arrangements for their new duties. As this inauguration of planning obligation and liability is now made universal by Statute instead of being left to the choice of authorities, it is thought that the elaborate provisions contained in the law as it stands for notices and registers can and should be dispensed with, and this is done by Sub-section (2).

Clause 2 deals with two matters in the existing law which I ask the House to agree with me in thinking out of place in the conception of national planning and post-war reconstruction. The first matter is existing buildings, and the second matter is the peace-time procedure and time limits for dealing with applications for interim development. Let me take first existing buildings . . . [A] proviso in the older Act secured certain rights to owners of buildings which are destroyed or demolished which enable them to replace those buildings on those sites with similar buildings. In our present circumstances, this cuts right across planned reconstruction, and is therefore abolished by this Sub-section . . .

Sub-sections (2) and (3) deal with the procedure and the time-table, and make changes on which local authorities set great store. Under the present law, that is, the Act of 1932, a man can make application in the interim period to develop land which may cover a large area. Whether he is able to carry out that development or not is irrelevant. The local authority has to deal with such an application within two months. Otherwise, the application is deemed to have been granted. If the subsequent scheme interferes with the building, certain rights of compensation arise . . .

Sub-section (2) enables the authority, if faced with such an application, to serve a notice of postponement upon the applicant unless he can show that the work would be done immediately if the application were granted. The House knows how difficult it is, while the war lasts, to get any building done. That means that, in order to show that he could proceed with the work, he would need, in most cases, to produce a licence from some Government Department to

†See *Large versus Small Scale Electricity Production* by W. A. BARRATT.

show that the building was needed in the general interests of the prosecution of the war. Sub-section (3) in effect makes the two months period work the other way round. An application is deemed to have been refused if it is not granted or otherwise dealt with in that period, instead of being deemed to have been granted, if not refused.

The object of Clause 3 is to enable an interim development authority to permit development for a limited period and then to remove the buildings at the end of that period without paying any additional compensation. . . . It would be in the public interest if . . . [temporary buildings which may be necessary] were erected for a set period, whose duration was known in advance, while the permanent reconstruction went on, even if, in the meantime, they were placed on sites which are finally destined for a road, or an open space or used for some other purpose. . . .

Clause 4 gives power to the interim development authority, with the Minister's consent, to revoke or vary permission for interim development which has already been given. There are two main reasons for this. One brings us back again to the existing building, a creature of peace-time so difficult to fit into the post-war reconstruction period. The effect is that until the Bill becomes law the rights of owners to replacement of existing buildings remains. As Clause 2 is not retrospective, the interim development authorities would be compelled to grant permission to replace existing buildings, however bad that might be from the public point of view. I would remind the House that until Clause 2 is law, permissions for bad use of land may have been, or may be, given by default. It is clear that, with the vast problems of reconstruction facing local authorities and the chance of writing not only on a clean slate, but on a cleaner slate than in peace-time, power to revoke or vary these permissions should exist. The problems of reconstruction which now face planning authorities are so vast as to be insoluble under that rigid peace-time procedure. . . . Safeguards against the abuse of the power to vary or revoke are provided by Sub-sections (2) and (3). Sub-section (4) deals with compensation, which is also later referred to in Clause 7.

I now come to Clause 5. In my view this Clause takes a much-needed step to make control over interim development real instead of illusory, as it now is in many cases. At present the developer, if he applies for interim development permission and is refused, can go ahead in defiance of the interim development authority and can use his land as he pleases. A certain penalty and ultimate sanction may await him, when the scheme comes into statutory operation; though that may be years ahead. . . . when the scheme comes into operation at the distant date, his building may be removed without compensation. . . . when it comes to buildings which are trifling in comparison to the cost of the land [e.g., as for a petrol station, this provision is no deterrent]. . . .

. . . We must give power of effective control during the interim period without waiting for an ultimate sanction at some distant date. That is what the Clause does.

Clause 6 is very important. It gives the Minister of Town and Country Planning new powers of control over decisions of the interim development authorities in regard to interim development. The present position is, that if an interim development authority refuses an application,

there is an appeal to the Minister against the refusal. If the interim development authority decides to grant a permission, there is no power on earth to prevent it. It is obvious that such a position is inconsistent with national planning, because damage can be done by wrongfully giving permission just as by refusing it. . . .

. . . Clause 7. . . gives the right of compensation for abortive expenditure in two cases where the Bill confers power to prevent development which was properly begun or contracted for. . . . Clause 8 makes important provisions with regard to joint committees. There are large numbers of these bodies in the country, and they are doing, on the whole, excellent work in planning up and down the country under the powers they have got. Under Section 3 of the 1932 Act, these joint committees can prepare and adopt schemes, but it is held that this does not enable them to act as interim development authorities for the purpose of controlling interim development as we seek to do it in this Bill. Sub-section (1) of Clause 8 enables them to be appointed in this capacity. . . . At present a joint committee can only be appointed at the request of one of the authorities which is to be a constituent of it. Under Sub-section (3) the Minister can appoint a joint committee if he thinks it appropriate without any such request from one of the constituent bodies. . . .

. . . This Bill greatly eases the problems of local authorities with regard to planning, and eases them for all time, I hope. It asserts for the first time a measure of control by the central planning authority over their activities. Later legislation will need to be introduced to state the will of Parliament with regard to more positive action to secure reconstruction, and it may well be that, in connection with powers of this positive character, we may require to consider afresh the authorities who are to exercise them. . . .

Sir F. Fremantle: . . . We have our eyes fixed on the Promised Land, the Kingdom of Heaven, which we want to see promoted in our generation. At the same time that is not the opinion of the great mass of the people. They take particular interest in their own objects and desires, but have no idea of general planning, and there is a severe danger from all this planning legislation if it goes ahead of public opinion too quickly.

The Bill depends largely upon the work of local authorities, and that is the proper way of trying to bridge over the gap between the enthusiasts in and out of the House, among whom I number myself, and the common people, who have the decision to make through their representatives in Parliament and otherwise. We have, therefore, to see to what extent the local authorities are really fit people to carry out these measures. . . .

House of Commons: May 12, 1943.

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. P. Smollett)**

Captain Cunningham-Reid asked the Minister of Information when Mr. H. P. Smollett was appointed director of the Russian Department of the Ministry?

Mr. Bracken: Mr. Smollett has been in charge of Anglo-

Soviet relations work in the Ministry since October, 1941, to the great satisfaction of all those concerned with his work.

Captain Cunningham-Reid: Can the Minister tell me what the Gentleman's name was before he changed it?

Mr. Bracken: I do not know, but in answer to the hon. and gallant Gentleman's Question, he might perhaps give me notice of it. He does not seem to like foreigners, at any rate, poor foreigners.

Commander Locker-Lampson: That was a catty question.

Captain Cunningham-Reid asked the Minister of Information how long Mr. H. P. Smollett, of the Ministry of Information, has been a British subject; and when did he take up a permanent residence in Great Britain?

Mr. Bracken: Mr. Smollett has been a British subject for 4½ years. He took up permanent residence in Great Britain in the autumn of 1930.

Captain Cunningham-Reid: Since this gentleman is a Hungarian by birth and since Hungary and Russia are at war, does the Minister consider that his appointment to the important post of director of the Russian section of his Ministry is calculated to show our good faith in the Russian people?

Mr. Bracken: Yes, Sir. I do not know whether he is a Hungarian or not, but he was selected because of his supreme technical qualifications, and, let me say, he has constant dealings with Russian representatives in London, who are entirely satisfied with his work in every respect.

ROYAL NAVY

CONSTANINESCO WATERCRAFT INVENTION

Commander Bower asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the powers granted to the Admiralty by Order No. 1780/1941, paragraph 3 (3), under the Defence (Patents, Trade Marks, etc.) Regulations, 1941, have been exercised in order to obtain the design of the watercraft invented by Mr. George Constaninesco?

Mr. Alexander: No, Sir.

Commander Bower: Why not?

Mr. Alexander: I think the hon. and gallant Gentleman is aware that Mr. Constaninesco has been asked to supply in confidence particulars of his design but has consistently refused to do so. If he wishes, as I am sure is the best method, to let this be of advantage to the country from patriotic motives, we are prepared at any time for experts to examine it under the assurances that I have repeatedly given.

Commander Bower: What on earth is the use of taking powers to acquire particulars of an invention of this sort if they are not used? Surely the Admiralty want to use this thing?

Mr. Alexander: I cannot see how the Admiralty can want to use a thing of which they have been given no particulars.

Mr. Stokes: Is it not a fact that Mr. Constaninesco refused to submit his invention because it had to go to Professor Lindemann, in whom he had no faith?

Mr. Alexander: I have no such information.

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