

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 14. No. 4.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1945.

6d. Weekly.

From Week to Week

The death at the age of 75 of Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas brings to a close a career which, but for a malign fate, would almost certainly have been one of the highest eminence. The third son of the eighth Marquess of Queensberry and the granddaughter of the first Lord Leconfield, he was a brilliant scholar, a fine athlete and horseman, fearless, and loyal. Precluded from a public career, he almost inevitably became a fierce oppositionist, and in 1923, as the result of a speech republished as a pamphlet, he was charged with publishing a libel on Mr. Winston Churchill, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. It is typical of him that, after Dunkirk and Mr. Churchill's defiance of the Germans, he published a magnificent sonnet in his praise, characteristically beginning "I have not loved thee overmuch." In the opinion of many, his sonnets rank with any written in the English language. R.I.P.

The present line of Marquesses of Queensberry derives from one of the most amazing, and certainly most costly lawsuits in history—the Douglas Cause. The senior male line of the House of Douglas having become extinct, the immensely valuable and then undivided Estate of the Dukes of Douglas, Queensberry and Dover became the objective of a large number of claimants ranging from a surgeon in Lockerbie, who came near to establishing his case, to the Dukes of Hamilton and Buccleuch. After seven years' argument, an award, probably more the result of fatigue than legality and logic, gave the Drumlanrig Estates to the Duke of Buccleuch (Douglas-Scott) and the Douglas Castle and Douglasdale Estates to the Earls of Home (Douglas-Home) as representatives of the senior female line. The Dukedom of Queensberry became extinct, but the Marquessate with little else, passed to a comparatively junior branch, the Douglasses of Kelhead, of which family Lord Alfred Douglas was a descendant. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that the award gave satisfaction to nobody except the lawyers.

Collectivism—the argument from the particular to the general. Brown has flat feet; Brown is a man; therefore all men have flat feet. Passed to you, please, for necessary action.

Notwithstanding the much lower costs of construction of hydro-electric plants in America, and immense untaxed and unrated water-powers, coal-fired electrical generating stations produce electricity more economically than water-power plants.

The appointment of Mr. James de Rothschild as an Assistant Minister of Supply is not likely to be a gesture alone, but the public can hardly be blamed if they assume

that Mr. Churchill, having learnt nothing and forgotten nothing, is giving notice that in essence the post-war policy of the early twenties is about to be repeated. It is not likely that anything quite so blatant as the deflation leading up to the re-establishment of the Gold Standard will be attempted—in fact, international financial interests would much prefer that we had a fantastically high price level and a consequent wage agitation, until the general public has been milked of its war savings. But a flag has been hoisted to indicate who is in possession of the citadel; and we can easily anticipate the arrangements which will be made to keep Germany in one whole, and the German Cartels and Trusts in a position to assist the next *agent provocateur*.

We think, however, that one factor has been overlooked. There is a much more formidable body of opinion in this country than was the case twenty-five years ago. It is not likely that the somewhat transparent device of turning a protest against such a policy into an excuse for handing over the baby to Mr. Shinwell and Professor Laski will succeed. There is such a thing as pressing the baby firmly back into the hands of the nurse with the remark that it would be a pity if she lost her character.

Mr. Tom Fraser, M.P., speaking in place of Mr. Werth's weekly boost of Russia at 1-15 p.m. on Sunday on the "B."B.C., said that Marshal Stalin knows industry "upside down and inside out."

We are happy to have our opinion confirmed.

He also said that the Russians haven't very much food, nowhere to live, and cast-off clothes to wear; but the Government Offices are wonderful.

Everything we hear makes us yearn for the spreading of the Socialist sixth of the world.

The lets-be-kind-to-Germany orchestra, with, on my right, gents, the "Economist," and on my Left, Professor Laski, the Dean of Canterbury—you can fill in the rest from memory, Clarence—is trying over its notes and will soon be in full blast. Isn't it nearly time the Communist-Socialists gave up the pretence of working for anything but the Empire of Big Business, coupled with the name of *I. G. Farben*?

We are prepared to wager a modest sum that before many weeks have elapsed, the hoary old myth that this war is due to the Treaty of Versailles, instead of being rendered possible by its evasion, will be dragged out, dusted off, and presented to an apathetic audience who tuned in to hear the Cochabamba Crooner.

Bureaucracies are the fungus of over-developed States, but it is fair to say that the attribution to them of the gran-

diose policies they administer would never occur to us.

The bureaucrat is appointed by careful tests to insure that he has no imagination, or he would not remain a bureaucrat, and it gets less as he matures. His employers prefer him like that. They will supply the ideas. His business is to protect them from the consequences and to obey without question. Being in their earlier stages still human, bureaucracies do, however, tend to develop a peculiar type of negative imagination—an unusual ingenuity in devising reasons why nothing novel should be done. Probably the only characteristic of a Government Department which enables the business with which it is concerned to proceed at all, is that its higher officials cancel each other out, leaving the lower ranks to operate on an established routine.

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A correspondent points out that Rufus (Red) is not a Jewish name. The reference, of course, is to Rufus Isaacs.

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While the threepenny edition of the *Daily Worker* is careful to insist that it does not publish a Sunday Edition, the *Sunday Times* evidently feels that it must uphold the associations sometimes erroneously attributed to it.

In an article on the political situation in Canada, it mentions every political party excepting Social Credit, and conveys the impression that the C.C.F. (Socialist) Party is growing steadily in influence, and is the alternative to another Liberal Government led by Mackenzie King.

History has no more amazing spectacle than this Socialist-Communist-Finance-Ring-Trades-Union-Cartel combination which has deployed in the last fifteen years. Frankly, we do not see the end of it, without much more tribulation.

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One of the factors in this world plot is the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which has about as much resemblance to Robert Owen and the Rochdale pioneers as Russia has to the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. It stands out a mile as one of the tools of high and international finance, and the bleak deadness with which it contrives to invest any village on which it fastens its grip is an earnest of the brave new world to which it belongs.

It, of course, commands access to unlimited funds; it enjoys tax privileges; and its officials boast openly that they will drive every independent trader out of business—if necessary, by buying him out at any price. As in the case of other components of the New Order, it appears to be immune from Parliamentary control, and it awaits the outcome of the Socialist War.

The Impossible Mixture

(From Our Correspondent)

Canberra, February 26.

It seems that the bureaucrats are being somewhat handicapped by their tools: there is a frightening naivety and enthusiasm about engine drivers and stokers. An earlier message from me informed you concerning the formation of a Liberal Party, intended to unite opposition to Labour Government. It has now won its first seat in a bye-election. Menzies is the leading spokesman, and there is 'big money' behind the move. Menzies's attitude to bureaucracy is

reminiscent of Roosevelt's towards the banks at the inception of the "New Deal." The Australian scene shows by comparison the potency of the 'inevitability' technique.

The State Medical Service issue is developing, and there are some not unpromising signs. The profession can be easily defeated only through its most centralised organisation, and here that has not a high status. Otherwise there are signs of improvement also. Naval personnel visiting the country are making a difference. I write now of Sydney. There is a welcome return to a sense of dignity and decency, and the standard of admission to the better hotels has been raised: the street women now stay on the street.

I promised some further passages from the (Sydney) *Telegraph's* article by G. L. Schwartz. The point is the insistence upon the view that there was no impending breakdown of the economic system, confused, it is true, by the writer's use of the phrase 'system of free enterprise' as synonymous. "The economics [of the inter-war period] were a miracle." The instability was political, not economic.

The relative paragraphs are as follows:—

"Whatever planning may be, it cannot be destined to substitute order for chaos, since the chaos is largely in the minds of the planners. Nothing is more fantastic than the suggestion that the system of free enterprise was on the verge of breakdown in 1914 and that the war just toppled it over. The British cotton industry was not on its last legs in 1913; its exports in that year were the largest on record. The British coal industry was not going from bad to worse, nor have its workers always been the most abused and most exploited section of industry. Before 1914 the coalminer was one of the aristocrats of British labor. . .

"How could anyone deduce from [import and export figures] (1) the unworkability (2) the inherent instability, and (3) the impending breakdown of the system? There is something comic and pathetic in the frantic search for a prime cause of the economic instability after 1918; it was nothing else but political instability, the aftermath of the Great War. 1919-39 represents a failure in world statesmanship, not in economics. The economics were a miracle which can only be explained by the fact that under private enterprise the ordinary man, without waiting for a lead from the centre, in fact often in disregard of the lunacy at the top, sets about the task at hand and proceeds to reduce not enhance scarcity. Two centuries of individualistic business have taught him initiative, and on the morning after an air-raid has destroyed or dislocated communications, he trudges miles to his office and starts damning not the enemy but the Post Office. He has turned up, and so should the mail. It is a gross abuse of historic diagnoses to make the economic disorders of 1919-39 a cause and not an effect; it is a gross error of post-war planning to assume that political stability waits on economic stability. The exact reverse is the case. The system of free enterprise, they say, works harshly. For one thing, it gives rise to extreme inequalities, and planning is called upon to modify this state of affairs. Poverty and the deleterious effects of age, sickness, and unemployment have to be alleviated; hence the Beveridge proposals, again elevated to the dignity of the Beveridge plan. Now what is there revolutionary about the Beveridge Report? In what way is it inconsistent with a regime of free enterprise? The best way of summarising the Beveridge Report is to recognise it as the latest version of the Elizabethan Poor

Law. If the Beveridge scheme is planning, so was the Act of 1601..."

"That alleviation of hardship and distress on a large scale is not inconsistent with a regime of free enterprise is confirmed by the report itself, which shows that between 1910 and 1939 the total benefits paid under social insurance and assistance schemes in Great Britain increased from £14 million to £336 million. And this despite the ravages of a world war. Sir William's very insistence that his large proposals are well within the means of this country is a tribute to the wealth and productivity achieved under a system of free enterprise... Some planners have actually attributed a measure of post-war instability to the increasing part of output represented by luxuries or semi-luxuries, the demand for which tends to be more variable and capricious. I know of no more perverse case against private enterprise than this, that its success in delivering the goods has introduced somewhat greater uncertainty into the process. As well condemn education for going beyond the three R's, because it introduces complications into the curriculum. I am not condemning the populace for choosing the so-called minor luxuries at the expense of the so-called necessities. I am one of the few people west of Pei-ping who do not know what is good for the other man, what he should eat, and what he should put on..."

I have quoted lavishly from this article because of its apparent insistence on the view that *laissez faire* plus a planned shortage of money is a workable as well as a desirable alternative to total planning.

PARLIAMENT

House of Lords: March 14, 1945.

BOOK PAPER RESTRICTIONS

Lord Elton rose to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the excessive restrictions on the supply of paper for book publication; and to move for Papers. The noble Lord said: "... this question does lie at the root of the struggle with Germany. What are we fighting for, if not that our ideas may prevail and that German ideas may not prevail? What if, after all the blood and tears have been shed and the last young Nazi fanatic has been disarmed, we should find that our own short-sighted restrictions have put it out of our own power to give our own ideas currency among our fellow citizens in the Commonwealth overseas, or prevented us from occupying with them the vast intellectual No Man's Land which Europe will present when the Nazi tide recedes, or even from communicating them adequately to our own people? If anything like that should happen, however magnificent our victories on the material plane, we should certainly have taken a long stride towards losing the real war.

Something very like that does seem to many of us to be the danger which springs from the inveterate illusion apparently cherished by some of His Majesty's advisers that books are just one more article of commercial merchandise among the many others. I know, but there must be moments when many of us feel that whatever material shortage the war has produced it certainly is not a shortage of paper. The Government are certainly still prolific in their use of that commodity. I expect most of your Lordships in one capacity or another, whether in agriculture or commerce

or in the Home Guard or the Services, have found yourselves inundated with Government forms... Small wonder that the allocation of paper for books in the coming period, which I think opens this month, only reaches 25,400 tons. Small wonder that meanwhile the War Office is getting 50,000 tons and His Majesty's Stationery Office 100,000 tons...

The facts as to the allotment of paper are not so well or so widely known as they should be. Up to the end of last October every publishing house which had been in existence before the war was entitled to an allotment of 40 per cent. of its pre-war consumption. That meant in the aggregate 20,800 tons. In addition there was a small quantity of 1,700 tons which was distributed by the Board of Trade on the advice of a Committee of publishers sitting under the chairmanship of Sir Walter Moberly. That brought the grand total up to 24,400 tons. To get that into proportion, it should be seen against the background of a total distribution to all users for all purposes of no less than 447,000 tons, of which 100,000 tons goes to His Majesty's Stationery Office and 50,000 to the War Office.

I have dealt with these figures in some little detail because of a curious incident which is certainly symbolic, and which it is difficult not to regard also as symptomatic of the curious indifference of the Board of Trade to what I believe to be the true significance of this issue. On September 26 last in another place, the President of the Board of Trade was announcing a concession made at the end of last October. That concession was an increase from 40 per cent. of pre-war usage to 42½ per cent. That meant an increase of 1,300 tons, together with an increase of 600 tons in the Moberly pool—1,900 tons in all. Mr. Dalton was announcing this to the House, and after the exchange of a question or two a Member, either unduly optimistic, or having imperfectly heard or understood, what the Minister had been saying, got up and said: "Does this mean that the allotment is to be increased from 24,000 to 40,000 tons." The Minister replied that the figures "are a little more complicated, but are substantially so." By "substantially so," he was naturally taken to mean an increase from 24,000 tons to 40,000 tons, whereas what had come was an increase of only about 1,300 tons.

Instantly the Publishers' Association was inundated with congratulations from all over the country, apparently, having received ten or twelve times as much paper as in its wildest dreams it could have ever hoped for. Anyone is entitled to make a momentary slip. I am, doubtless, making numerous slips myself all the time I am speaking, but, at the same time, one cannot help feeling that a Minister who did deeply care about the parlous state of the book world could not, even for a minute, have said in his place in the House that he was increasing the allocation by 18,000 tons when he was, in fact, only raising it by a mere 1,900 tons...

Despite a recent deputation from Members of Parliament, the only later increase in the allotment has been one of an additional 1,000 tons for this Moberly pool, which is a selective pool, through which extra tonnage is given to applicants on merit. And that concession was accompanied by a brusque rebuke from Mr. Dalton to the publishing world for producing so many "worthless books." It is supposed that the President of the Board of Trade was referring to light fiction, for which the Minister himself, who spent several formative years at the London School of Economics, probably has very small appetite. But it may well be, I

(continued on page 6)

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: (Business) 7, VICTORIA STREET, LIVERPOOL, 2, Telephone: Central 8509; (Editorial) 49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15, Telephone: Sefton Park 435.

Vol. 14. No. 4.

Saturday, March 31, 1945.

Correction

The levity, not to say fatuity, with which "any jintleman" joins in the complex question of coal is well illustrated by an editorial remark of a weekly contemporary: "... the nation is at last in possession of its mineral assets. Mining royalties and that most spurious of property rights, the wayleave, have been wiped out." The writer has scored a "possible." In four statements in a short paragraph, he has made four errors.

Whatever may be understood by "the nation," it certainly is not that odd construction, The Coal Commission, which is a Corporation, almost the first objective of which is to evade the Statute of Mortmain. Even the Coal Commission is not in possession, it is in beneficiary ownership—a totally different thing. The colliery proprietors are in possession. To call a wayleave "that most spurious of property rights" is as much as to say that a ticket to the Zoo is based on a fraud. And to say that royalties have been abolished is to say that the colliery companies get their raw material for nothing, and the sum, however inadequate, paid to the original owners, is a gift of public money to the mine owners. It is perhaps hardly necessary to say that the royalties and much more than the old royalties are paid as before, and the public pays them, but gets nothing in return, as it once did.

There is no incident in British history more charged with disaster than the "Nationalisation" *i.e.*, monopolisation of coal. Every aspect of the transaction reeks to high heaven. The embodiment of the rejected Samuel Report in the settlement of the General Strike; the great care taken to preserve and buttress the principle of private property in minerals, while using the coercive powers of the state to alienate it from its owners; the choice of dates in which to stampede the transaction through under cover of war and depreciated currency; and the amazing refusal to publish an "American" report on British coalmining, ought to teach anyone who has any understanding of the position that we have witnessed the culmination of a long attack, and that the bad coal, high prices, and political blackmail we are already enduring are most probably only the beginning of woe.

Most people are beginning to get a little tired of the miners' recurrent threats to hold up the country, but we have little doubt they will go on, encouraged by the Socialist and crypto-Socialist press, so long as they can be used as a flail to winnow a little more corn out of the British public for the benefit of the monopolists. When that process comes to an end, we think it highly probable that their dear friends the chemists and physicists will have a surprise for

them. There are already queer rumours about the progress of atomic energy development.

The aspect of the matter which is so ominous is the sheer inability of a certain type of publicist who must be representative of some kind of public, to recognise the results of the measures with which he is so pleased. If a man sees that the path he is pursuing is turning into a bottomless morass, there is some hope for him. But if he exclaims at the beauty of the quaking bog, and rejoices at the end of the road he has popularised, he is something worse than a blind leader of the blind.

THE POLICY

Three years ago (March 28, 1942) we distinguished the policy then in force and the policy for social crediters as (1) To introduce and entrench Bureaucratic Socialism; (2) To use the National Credit for this purpose; and (3) To use monetary reformers to put this over: (the policy in force), and

(1) To attack and discard Bureaucratic Socialism; (2) To expose the Big Idea behind (and its control of policy in relation to National Credit); and (3) To endeavour to effect the reconstitution of democracy by means of Policy Associations: (the policy of social crediters).

Since then we have seen this issue creep steadily nearer

THE SIZE OF CIVIL SERVICE WHICH
SUITED THE BANK OF ENGLAND IN
1931 WILL SUIT US NOW

REFUSE TO VOTE FOR ANY CANDIDATE
WHO DOES NOT PUT THE REDUCTION
OF THE CIVIL STAFFS TO 20% BELOW
THE 1931 FIGURE as THE FIRST ITEM ON
HIS AGENDA

Pay them if necessary: but don't pay them to
put Great Britain in irons

THE POWER OF THE BUREAUCRACY
MUST BE REDUCED

to a decision. With the end of the war the pace will be accelerated.

You can play your part: (1) By action in the Anti-bureaucratic Canvass now being conducted; (2) By contributing towards the day-to-day expenses of the Social Credit Secretariat; or (3) By a donation to the Social Credit Expansion Fund, which is expended by the Administrators at the sole discretion of Major C. H. Douglas. (Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to *The Treasurer, Social Credit Secretariat*, or to *The Treasurer, Social Credit Expansion Fund*, c/o The Social Credit Secretariat, 49, Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool, 15, according to the intention of the contributor.)

Marshes of Invasion (I)

"There is right in the centre of Europe a very long and broad belt which runs north to south from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and west to east from the borders of Germany to those of Russia. I shall call it the Middle Zone." One must agree with Miss Odette Keun, described on the fly-leaf of her courageous and lively little book *Continental Stakes** as "Cosmopolitan, half Dutch, nearly half French, the remainder Italian and Greek," in other words a very Continental lady, that her 'Middle Zone' deserves much more attention than has so far been accorded to it by the Anglo-Saxon world. Miss Keun presents us with a series of short, vivid historical sketches of the fourteen countries which make up the Middle Zone, but she dwells more especially on recent events of which she gives pride of place to Russo-Polish relations. Fearlessly she takes her stand against the Big Battalions. Her outspoken indignation at the 'diplomatic' silence which Official Britain has observed in each fresh case of Soviet 'unilateralism' is refreshing as a breath of sea air.

The book is born, as it were, out of the Soviet rupture with the Polish Government in London, for to Miss Keun, Poland, our first Ally, constitutes the 'test case.' The events of the summer of 1943 impelled her hastily to cull the apposite passages from a longer book she is writing on the 'Zone' and to publish this small work which she dedicates 'To the British People.' Far more important than the vast world-schemes proposed by "the Utopians, the Perfectionists, and idealists of every ilk," she considers the observation of the one little commonplace point that "humanity from the outset has recognised as the cornerstone of all enduring relationships between individuals, nations, God, and Man: *keeping faith*." (p. 25.) She denounces with gusto the flagrant faithlessness everywhere exhibited by the political controllers of the Big Battalions, and exposes the ruthless policy of expropriation, deportation and liquidation everywhere pursued by the 'liberating' armies of the Red Czar. In her pungent exposures anyone desiring to 'debunk' that pestilential thing, the Russian Myth, will find useful ammunition. So far so good.

We are given to understand that peace in Central Europe means peace on the Continent, including these Isles, and Miss Keun asks the British people to consider a number of remedies. Her first is a modern version of that Central-European Federation ("Mittel-Europa") which pre-occupied the minds of the Pan-German geo-politicians during the last war, and which some of the Central-European *émigré* London governments tried to realise, while their countries were away, so to speak, and before they parted over the Lublin question. As a model for her Central Union she refers us to 'that magnificent example' the Tennessee Valley Authority, which, as we know, is a New-Deal monopoly embodying the Egyptian idea that he who controls the sluice-gates controls the life of the valley below. Failing the materialisation of this scheme, she elaborates General Smuts's conception of inviting the small nations on the fringes of the British Empire to join that very real League of Nations, the whole arrangement reinforced (a typical 'Continental' contribution) by—an International Police Force. As easy as A.B.C., but no longer the British Commonwealth of Free Nations.

As a general rule one may say that writers who want their world-embracing humanitarian schemes backed by the overwhelming sanctions of an International Police Force (and there is hardly a sociological writer of prominence who does not), can be relied upon to have fairly orthodox views on a problem which may prove the predominant one of our century—the Jewish Question. Miss Keun is no exception. She has one or two references to 'anti-semitic' ('Fascist') administrations and their 'opposites' who are duly labelled 'democratic.'

Now this inattention to a problem which is nowhere more burning than in the 'Middle Zone' which contains most, if not all, of what in Czarist times was known as the Jewish Pale of Settlement, is distinctly odd. It will be remembered that the 'Pale' until recently contained the bulk of the Jewish world population, and that these Eastern 'Marshes of Invasion,' this Yiddish-speaking 'Ost-Europa' was the scene of those innumerable 'atrocities' which have proved so important a factor in the political retrogression of the West as their victims, the uncouth *Polnische Juden* made their numbers and their voices felt wherever their adopted countries gave them a chance of serving the sacred cause of collectivism. It is significant that the brains of 'Socialism' were furnished by the German-Jewish intelligentsia, that the rank and file of Socialist propaganda squads were recruited from the Russo-Polish Ghettos and that the sinews of the 'Socialist' war of world conquest was, and is, supplied by German-American Jewish bankers. It is equally significant that 'Ost-Europa' formed one of the happiest hunting-grounds of the ubiquitous German commercial traveller, as it was, and is, the Grand Objective ('Drang nach Osten') of the German High Command.

While we hope that some of these facts may receive due attention in the weightier volume Miss Keun is preparing, perhaps a few additional notes added to each of the countries grouped under the title 'Marshes of Invasion' may prove useful to the reader who is tempted to accompany the vivacious writer on her lightning trip from the north southwards.

Like the other Baltic countries, *Finland* achieved her Independence in 1919 having first fought with the Czar and then against his successors and murderers, the Bolsheviks. That these Baltic states used their only 'idyllic interlude' to carry out the 'most peaceful, idealistic, and successful social experiments of our generation' (p. 35) is a statement which needs to be modified. The New Finnish Constitution bore a striking resemblance to that of the U.S.A., the Finnish President being invested with large executive powers including the right of declaring war. In 1922 a New York Masonic Lodge granted the right to 'some Finnish brethren' to establish at Helsingfors a Lodge according to New York regulations. There followed American loans, rapid infiltrations of former 'Russian,' now 'Finnish' Jews into the administration; income and property tax introduced; and establishment of the Bank of 'Finland.' At the outbreak of the second phase of the World War, its Governor, Mr. Ryti, was Prime Minister; Mr. Tanner, President of several banks, Foreign Minister; Mr. von Fiantt, an international banker, Minister of National Welfare; and Elder Statesman Paasikivi, General Manager of one of Finland's Three Big Banks. Alone of the debtor nations Finland continued to pay her debts to 'America' in full. In the midst of her successful defensive war against Russia 1939-40 her leading bankers (*i.e.*, 'government') concluded a 'Peace' by which she

**Continental Stakes*, British Continental Syndicate Ltd., London, 1944.

lost some of her richest provinces. At the recent conclusion of her second war against Russia, she had to pay her war-indemnity to that country in American dollars.

Estonia (like Latvia) was outside the 'Pale.' Jews are fairly recent arrivals and number a couple of thousand, but are sufficient, apparently, to make their mark in the counsels of that small nation. "The Land Reform of the 1920's eliminated [exactly as in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and everywhere else] the great estates," "the National Labour legislation adopted the principle that the State authority... should organise the relationship between employers and workers" and "the Ministry of Social Welfare was placed at the head of a network of Labour inspectors."† Friendship-pacts with Russia notwithstanding, Estonia was incorporated in the Soviet Union in 1940; her "progressive" labour legislation was supplanted by 'Soviet Labour legislation and state insurance,' but, so slowly did the central Muscovite Bureaucracy work, that when the Soviet was driven out a year after there was still no edition of the 'Labour Code of the U.S.S.R.' in the Estonian language. There followed the German occupation and, this will surprise our 'anti-Fascist' friends, 'some Soviet acts were not annulled.' The worker continued as under the Soviets (and the 'British' Ministry of Labour) to be tied to his place of employment. In the autumn of 1944 the Russians proclaimed the impending 'liberation' and the Estonians, remembering the last one, when some 60,000 persons out of a population of slightly over a million had been deported, fled in large numbers, in any available vessel, to the Swedish shores. "All frontiers are being heavily guarded, and postal communications with foreign countries have not been resumed."‡ The 'Pale' has engulfed Estonia.

Lithuania was the one point where the 'Pale' touched the sea, and its many Jews appear to have played a prominent part in over-all administration. Various termed the Council of Three Lands or Four Lands, the so-called 'Lithuanian Council' was an important body whose delegates were in the habit of holding preliminary meetings at that Jewish key-city, Brest-Litovsk, before appearing in the general councils of the 'Pale.' The Jews of Poland and Lithuania were taxed in a single body long before the Union of Lublin, 1569, when the two countries were federated. Of the Socialist Jews from the Lithuanian part of the Pale who are at the moment influencing the 'Councils' of the West, may be mentioned Mr. Sidney Hillman whose contribution to the recent World Trade Union Congress has still to be appraised. At Paris, in 1919, Lithuania was represented by Mr. Rosenbaum, a Jewish advocate from Kovno. Like her sister republics of the former 'Pale,' Lithuania emerged from Versailles only as a quasi-sovereign state: the minority rights principle authorised the Council of the League to intervene 'to protect the minority' which it did in 1924-25, the minority whose safety was imperilled being the Jewish minority.

—B. J.

(To be concluded)

†*Labour Legislation and Social Insurance, 1920-1944* by Endel Aruja in 'Nineteenth Century and After,' November, 1944.

‡*The Weekly Review*, February 8, 1945.

THE ISSUE

Electoral Canvass for an Anti-Bureaucratic Representation.

K.R.P. Publications, Ltd. Id. each, 3/6 a hundred.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

should imagine, that some of your Lordships have sometimes whiled away an agreeable escapist half hour in war-time with volumes which the London School of Economics—never, I understand a frivolous body—would be unlikely to prescribe in its curriculum. And it is at any rate certain that the three Services have recently and urgently demanded a very great increase in supplies of precisely this kind of book. The Publishers' Association, I understand, has commented very adversely on this transaction, seeing something like an approach to the beginnings of the principle of censorship in this concession of a considerable increase of scope to the selective pool, accompanied by an indication—I fancy that the correct Whitehall phrase may be "a directive"—as to the class of book which finds ministerial favour. So to-day the position is that we have a total allocation of 25,400 tons for book production, out of 447,000 tons allotted to all users in the aggregate.

Well, no one is going to expect that book production should flourish in war as in peace; but thus excessively pruned, under severe restrictions of this kind, the book cannot possibly play its due part in the war effort. Only yesterday, I was looking at an American journal which contained a book advertisement under the very appropriate heading: "Books are Weapons." Unless the book world is soon more generously treated we shall find ourselves in real danger of being unable to play our due part in the world after the war or of reaping the full fruits of victory, for mere lack of the means of communicating our ideas to the world.

Liberated Europe—and there is ample evidence of this—is already thirsting for British books. They need British books to fill a five years' gap in their own libraries. They need them to discover how the British lived and thought during these five years, and they need them to take the place of Germany as the primary source of text books for the Continent. This is surely an urgent need—that the laboratory and metropolis of political freedom should not put it out of its own power to make its voice heard in the sudden silence which will fall when the lights go up again in Europe. It is an urgent need, but with the present dispensation, I have not the slightest doubt that it will not be met. The Empire also desperately needs British books. Already, American books are flowing in to fill the artificial vacuum created by our own restrictions, most markedly in South Africa, in Australia and in New Zealand. It would be disastrous if at this psychological moment in Imperial relations we should set up this palpable barrier between ourselves and our fellow-citizens overseas...

There is a particular dearth, I understand, of the kind of book which sets out to explain and comment on current affairs and international relations...

The Earl of Huntingdon: ... The Army Education Plan, I understand, is going to need 3,500,000 books, and the noble Earl, Lord Munster, I think stated this year that the Services would need 3,000,000 cloth-bound books and 5,000,000 paper-covered books. That will be beyond all possibility unless we cut down on other book supplies.

One point on which I desire to support the noble Lord is in regard to the export trade. If we do not do something to encourage it we shall lose both our colonial export of books and our export to America, and once these export markets have been lost it is extremely difficult to get them back again. For all these demands, and they are really

gigantic, we have only about 22,000 tons of paper allowed to the book trade. In comparison with that, the War Office has got 25,000 tons, periodicals, I understand, 50,000, and newspapers 250,000 tons, and the only increase that the Government is going to allow is for the Moberly pool under Sir Walter Moberly. I very much agree with the noble Lord, Lord Elton, that it is a bad principle that the only increase should be given to a pool controlled by a committee rather than distributed to the publishers, because that might well be the start of a censorship, and in the end you would only have books which have Ministerial approval. . .

I think it would be a wise thing if the Government investigated all the possibilities with regard to materials for making paper to meet the enormous demand in Europe, in the Colonies, in America and above all in this country, because, although we must study the export trade, I feel that priority of supply is due to our own people. . .

Viscount Long: . . . My noble friend Lord Elton mentioned to your Lordships the Moberly Pool. I wonder if your Lordships realise what has to be undergone by the unfortunate publisher who wants to get into this pool and get a Moberly quota. We all know of forms for Income Tax, of forms for agriculture, of coupons, of forms for rations and all sorts of other things, but I ask your Lordships to listen to this recital of what the publisher has to do. He has to furnish information regarding his own quota and the amount of paper, if any, taken or to be taken from another publisher's quota. He must give detailed information about the uses to which he wishes to put his quota. Then, when he has done this, he has to fill in more forms and to state whether any other publisher has been invited to produce the works from his own quota. That is State control, and I am told on very good authority that the President of the Board of Trade says: "You either accept the Moberly scheme or I will take over the amount of paper you should have and tell you which books you are to publish." I am told that is what in actual fact the President has said. . .

. . . The noble Lord, Lord Elton, told us that the quota was raised last October and that some publishers were given certain figures on which they thought they were going to get a greater allocation and made contracts. One publisher I know made a contract for a number of books to be published in Russia and sent to Russia within twelve months. Any finer propaganda for Anglo-Soviet relations I cannot imagine, but these books—I think 5,000,000—can only be sent out there now at the expense of our own people at home and of our own troops. You cannot go back on a foreign contract.

May I come now to the question of the Minister of Information? That Ministry issues a great number of pamphlets. They are printed on heavy art paper. I should like to know from the Government if it is not a fact that from the paper used for these pamphlets at least two books could be produced. If these pamphlets are to go out in book form, why cannot publishers be asked to do it instead of a State Department entering the field of private enterprise which showed such magnificent results at the beginning of the war. If the Moberly Pool has worked it is due to the publishers' representatives on the committee. If that committee breaks down, as it may do at any moment, I think conditions will be very difficult indeed. I make the suggestion with full knowledge of the trade and its difficulties that after the paper has been allotted by the Moberly Pool for educational purposes the balance should be directly sub-

ject to the publisher, and not just how and when the President of the Board of Trade wants it to be used. That would be a help to the publishers and I am sure would relieve them of some of their anxieties.

Viscount Buckmaster: . . . If I may take two examples from the medical curriculum, your Lordships will see that publishers are now quite unable to supply the basic minimum of books needed by medical students. Take anatomy. I think no one will dispute that this subject is an essential part of the medical knowledge of a doctor. I cannot imagine any one of your Lordships being anxious to undergo an operation by a surgeon who had not a fairly full knowledge of it. The leading work, *Gray's Anatomy* is quite unobtainable. . .

. . . the shortage of journals and periodicals is also great. . . The editor of one of these journals advises me that he has a waiting list of 1,500 doctors seeking to become subscribers, and to obtain copies. He advises me also that he is quite unable to meet the demands for his journal from the liberated countries. . .

. . . the Ministry of Supply have refused the B.M.A. one ton of paper a year for which they are asked for starting a journal on Social medicine. . .

. . . The number of doctors has greatly increased—it is something like 12 per cent. more than it was in 1939. There are 12,000 medical students in schools—4,000 more than in 1938. . .

The Minister of Economic Warfare (The Earl of Selborne): . . . I am advised in the first place that the paper would not at the moment be procurable in America, and that we have in fact acquired all the paper that we can acquire in America. . .

. . . The Moberly Pool disposes of a tonnage of paper additional to that allotted to publishers, and its purpose is to facilitate as far as possible the publication of books which are especially desirable in the national interest, but which the publisher who would otherwise publish them is unable to publish because his paper ration will not permit him to do so. . .

. . . I am advised that partly as a result of the efforts of the committee presided over by Sir Walter Moberly the publication of medical books at this moment amounts to 80 per cent. of what it was prior to control; but if there are the deficiencies of which he told your Lordships I agree with him that that is a matter which requires the most serious consideration, from the authorities concerned, and I will draw the attention of my right honourable friend the President of the Board of Trade to the remarks he made on that question. The Moberly Committee contains representatives of the principle publishers, and is an attempt to get over that sort of difficulty to which noble Lords have referred.

When there is a shortage in publishing facilities you are at once up against the problem of which books shall be published and which books shall not be published. My noble friend Lord Elton complains that the Moberly Committee savours somewhat of censorship, but it is an inverted censorship, because it facilitates the publication of books which would not otherwise be published, instead of prohibiting books from being published which otherwise would be. . .

. . . Every printer has an allocation of paper to enable him to carry on his ordinary business in providing his customers with stationary, catalogues, price lists, and the

hundred and one other things that printers supply. That is comparable to the allocation of raw materials that many other trades in this beleaguered island have received during the war from the appropriate Government Department, and it must clearly lie within the printer's discretion as to how he uses that paper. The supply he receives is in conformity with his pre-war trade. If the crank pamphleteer can find a printer willing to print his pamphlets then his pamphlet is printed, and the crank pamphleteer sends that pamphlet to noble Lords and to me, to our annoyance. . . .

. . . The new publisher is a specially created *ad hoc* firm, which has found a printer who is willing to print out of his printer's allocation or his pre-war stock of paper the books of the new firm. . . .

. . . I am afraid that so long as we have Government control there will be Government forms. So long as we are socialized as we are socialized at the present moment, there will be forms by which Government Departments issue their instructions to His Majesty's subjects. But I can assure your Lordships that special steps are taken to try to reduce the use of paper by Government Departments to the lowest possible limits. . . .

. . . noble Lords will realize that as soon as the Baltic is open the paper situation in this country will be very different. . . .

'MINED' AGRICULTURE

The Patriot complains that there was little press notice of the meeting in London on March 7 of the newly formed Farmers' Rights Association.

Sir Walter Blount, from the chair, referred to the way farmers, under cover of war necessities, had been bullied and brow-beaten, when not dispossessed by War Agricultural Committees. He said the Ministry of Agriculture "had not encouraged real farming in England, but had 'mined' the agricultural lands at a price they dared not reveal."

Mr. W. M. Bowron condemned the statement made by Mr. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, that it was a complete misconception to say that something like 10,000 farmers had been turned out of their holdings under War Emergency Powers. Mr. Hudson had admitted that 2,897 holdings in England and Wales had been terminated by notice under Regulation 62, these being Landlords' Tenant farmers, but under Regulation 51 the dispossessions of owner-tenants is 6,739, and the two figures combined are not far short of 10,000. According to Mr. Bowron, a nearer figure would be 16,000. He said:—

"Out of all the cases brought to my notice, I have not yet come across one which deserved dispossession. I have not yet come across one bad farmer, but I do know of many who needed capital, machinery, labour, and to be left alone to get on with the work. If these needs had been supplied it would have been in the interests of food production, but the W.A.E.C.'s in many cases absolutely denied these facilities and in others sent the help so late as to make it practically worthless; then they pronounce the farmer to be a bad one, deserving dispossession."

Ten county branches of the Association are said to be already in existence.

POSTAL LOSSES

Compensation paid in respect of lost postal packages from 1939 to 1944 was as follows:—1938/39, £23,143; 1939/40, £23,438; 1940/41, £40,030; 1941/42, £92,698; 1942/43, £104,926; 1943/44, £104,384.

— *Regional Industrial Bulletin.*

BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

| | |
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| Economic Democracy..... | (<i>edition exhausted</i>) |
| Social Credit..... | 3/6 |
| The Monopoly of Credit..... | (<i>reprinting</i>) |
| Credit Power and Democracy..... | (<i>edition exhausted</i>) |
| Warning Democracy..... | (<i>edition exhausted</i>) |
| The Big Idea..... | 2/6 |
| Programme for the Third World War..... | 2/- |
| The "Land for the (Chosen) People" Racket..... | 2/- |
| The Tragedy of Human Effort..... | 7d. |
| The Policy of a Philosophy..... | 7d. |
| Security, Institutional and Personal..... | 6d. |
| Reconstruction | 6d. |
| The Use of Money..... | 6d. |
| Social Credit Principles..... | 1½d. |

ALSO

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| The Bankers of London by Percy Arnold..... | 4/6 |
| The Problem of the Medical Profession by B.W.M..... | 1/- |
| British Medicine and Alien Plans by Andrew Rugg-Gunn, M.B., F.R.C.S..... | 1/- |
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| You and the State Doctor by Charles Mellick..... | 6d. |
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| Large versus Small Scale Electrical Production: The Grid by W. A. Barratt..... | 4d. |
| How Alberta is Fighting Finance..... | 4d. |
| The Dangers Inherent in the Proposed Schemes for International Money Units by R. Gaudin...4d. ea.; 3/6 doz. | |
| The Beveridge Plot..... | 3d. |
| 20 Questions About Russia by H. W. Henderson..... | 4d. |
| What are Russia's Ultimate Aims? by H. W. Henderson..... | 4d. |
| Lectures and Studies Section: Syllabus..... | 3d. |
| The Nature of Social Credit by L. D. Byrne..... | 3d. |
| The Issue: Electoral Canvass for an Anti-Bureaucratic Representation..... | 1d. each; 3/6 a hundred. |
| World Review; The Jeffrey Professor of Political Economy, Etc., (containing Financing of a Long- Term Production Cycle, reprinted from <i>The Social Crediter</i> of November 28, 1942.)..... | 1d. |
| The Representative's Job..... | 1d. |

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