

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 15. No. 10.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1945.

6d. Weekly.

From Week to Week

The Grouped Railways (Bank of "England") have issued an expensively produced book to inform us of the marvellous work done by British Railways in the war. It is felt that the comfort, cheapness, punctuality and cleanliness offered to the civilian public in time of peace have to be experienced to be believed.

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Passengers whose faces are stepped upon while sleeping in railway corridors should remember that no one asked them to lie down.

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Professor Einstein is anxious that the World State should be constituted without delay "before the U.S. monopoly of the atomic bomb is lost." They do find it difficult to keep the word "monopoly" out of it, don't they?

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The only rational explanation of the condition of affairs in these islands—and there is small doubt that it is the true one—is that the war was provoked and waged for the primary, though not the sole, object of wiping out the indigenous culture to make way for the World Monopoly. One of the essential factors to this end is an illusion of scarcity and a breathless call for "efficiency" to save us from starvation. Of course there is no scarcity. There is the most colossal waste. The rations of tea, sugar, jam and bread, at this time issued to troops in England are a crying scandal. A half platoon of ten men draw *per day* a pound and a half of tea, two pounds of sugar, a pound of margarine, six large loaves, two pounds of jam; and can, and mostly do, get three cooked meals a day at canteens and messes. Anyone who cares to spend a couple of hours on a main road will see, not tens but hundreds of Service transport vehicles travelling *in both directions*, empty save for one or two bored looking soldiers. The average consumption of these vehicles, nearly all petrol-burning, is probably more rather than less than three miles to the gallon.

Parallel to these on the main railway lines, long troop trains crowded with men are also going both ways. Three specials passed through Rugby in an hour and a half chosen at random at the end of October, while the ordinary trains were filled with Service personnel with a mere sprinkling of civilians. "Full employment"? No stage army walking continuously in a circle could hope to equal it.

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"The British class system has never been a caste system, and in every age of our history there has always been an opportunity for exceptional talent to rise to the top—in every age except perhaps the present, when the career seems to be open to almost everything in the world

except talent and when for the first time ability is a bar to success. It is possible that in nineteenth and eighteenth century England talent was sometimes overlooked and stifled—that 'mute, inglorious Miltons' were born to 'blush unseen.' It is possible, but not very probable, for high talent is so very rare in general, and was very flourishing in the days of England's aristocratic rule, that it is improbable that much more of it existed than was brought to light."

—Mr. Christopher Hollis, *The Importance of Amateurs*.

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We are reminded that Mr. Hollis never answered our question put to him when some time ago he indicated his view that the 'corrupt financiers' of an earlier time had become the 'stupid financiers' of the present time. An exactly parallel difficulty attends his views on work done without financial remuneration. Money is not an adequate reward for anything (unless it may be crime—which may account for the ease with which it appears to corrupt good manners); it is a claim to sustentation: the reward (if we must have rewards) is the thing sustentated, or, more shortly, sustained. There is something lacking in an aristocracy which has every talent but the talent to continue.

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"... de Gaulle... has the simple virtue of single-minded honesty." —*Review of World Affairs*.

Just like our Stan! We are not sure that this particular testimonial, in this particular form, about this particular man, does not throw quite a lot of light on the politics of the *Review*.

"Before his death, Archbishop Temple appointed a Commission to enquire into the subject of Evangelism. He expected at least two or three separate reports. He could not believe the large Commission appointed could possibly agree upon a unanimous one. *But they did*. [Our emphasis.] ... It is a humble confession and a penitent return to orthodoxy... the *whole* [emphasis in original] Christian Faith from the doctrine of the atonement [small 'a'] right through to the Second Advent [capital 's' and 'a']." This also is from the current *Review of World Affairs*.

British Israel?

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A demobilised Dundee joiner has written to a newspaper pointing out that the Labour Exchange could not find him a job at his trade.

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An Aberdeen builder was (one of the few) demobilised in Class B. He lay about in a camp for some time with thirty others of his trade, and is now (he believes) on his way to Eritrea to build an aerodrome!

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: October 19, 1945.

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES (TRANSITIONAL POWERS) BILL

Mr. Maclay (Montrose Burghs): ... I would submit that hon. Members opposite and the country should realise that there is a great deal of evidence as to the intentions of the Government and of the party in power. Careful study cannot fail to convince one that many of them believe it would be a good thing for the citizens of this country if their daily activities were firmly ordered by some central planning committee or committees and that these central planning committees should exercise all the faculties of judgment which the individual has been in the habit of making in the past in his own affairs. I would like to quote something in substantiation of that. Towards the end of his speech the right hon. Gentleman the Lord President of the Council during the Second Reading of this Bill used these words:

"We think that this Bill is necessary in the public interest. We believe that it should last for five years. If we do not want it for that period or do not want parts of the Defence Regulations, we will scrap them. They will go. They are not going to last longer than the public interest requires, but if we want them after five years, we shall come to Parliament and produce our Motion to extend the Act for a further 12 months, and, if necessary for further periods as long as the public interest requires. It is the public interest which is going to be the test, and not any private interests..."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, October 9, 1944; Vol. 414, c. 180.]

That bears very little relation to the first sentence of the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum to the Bill, which reads:

"Some of the powers conferred by existing Defence Regulations will require to be exercised not only for purposes connected with the prosecution of the war but also for certain purposes connected with the period of transition from war to peace conditions."

In quoting the right hon. Gentleman the Lord President of the Council, I may be accused of taking his words out of their context, but right through the Debate there had been the most definite signs that hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite do not look on this Bill as a transitional Bill from war to peace conditions, but as a transitional Bill from conditions of individual thinking and exercising of judgment to State planning. Let us be frank about it. If that is what it is why could not the Government say so? It is called a Transitional Powers Bill.

I would like to quote again very briefly. At an earlier point in the Second Reading is what I regard as the most extraordinary piece of arrogance which this House has yet heard. In the course of an excellent speech the hon. and gallant Member for East Renfrew (*Major Lloyd*) twice postulated the question "Who is to decide what is essential for the well-being of the country." He was met by loud cries, duly recorded in the OFFICIAL REPORT, of "We are." That is most intolerable arrogance. I would remind hon. Gentlemen that this Bill deals with the immediate actions and activities of individual citizens of this country. Surely it is the function of Government to create the best possible conditions under which individuals can go about their daily business and exercise their own judgments as to what is best for themselves? [Interruption.] The experience of countries which have tried the opposite and handed

over responsibility for judgment to their Governments has been pretty unfortunate. I do not propose to continue much longer, but I wish to say that I might not have voted against the Government on certain Divisions had it not been for this suspicion in my mind. I believe that these powers for which the Government have asked are probably necessary for some time to come, but why the Government refused to accept limitation of the duration of the Measure is puzzling, unless the explanation I have deduced from the general atmosphere of the Debates is correct. If that is so, I think that the future for this country is very gloomy indeed.

October 22, 1945.

HOUSING PROGRAMMES

Major Lloyd asked the Minister of Health whether in view of the end of the war against Japan, he anticipates an increase in the late Government's target figure of 300,000 permanent houses by the end of the second year after the end of the war in Europe.

Mr. Bevan: I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the statement I made on October 17 when I said that I would not tie myself to any programme figures.

October 23, 1945.

DIRECTED MINEWORKERS

Mr. Jack Jones (Bolton): ... For 10 months I was chairman of an Essential Work Order Tribunal where some of the Bevin boys who objected to being directed to the mines had to appear. ...

October 24, 1945.

PALESTINE: ARMED VIOLENCE

Earl Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he has now received a Report from the Government of Palestine in regard to the incidents on October 10 when a British member of the Palestine police force was murdered, Arab and Jewish members of the same force maltreated and a Christian refugee suffocated; and if any arrests have been made in connection with that outrage.

Mr. George Hall: The Athlit Clearance Camp is in no sense a penal settlement but merely a staging post for immigrants, legal as well as illegal, and is largely staffed by nominees of the Jewish Agency for domestic, welfare and other duties. At the time of the attack, one Jewish police corporal and 12 Palestinian constables were on guard duty. It is not, and never has been, heavily guarded, and hitherto there has been no reason to suppose that the Jewish community in Palestine regarded persons inside the Camp as imprisoned. Persistent rumours had, however, been published by the Jewish Press in Palestine to the effect that a number of illegal immigrants in the camp were about to be deported. This story was completely unfounded. The police have been instructed to exercise great care and forbearance in the use of firearms, but this does not extend to prompt return of fire if they are attacked. No order has been issued or would be issued forbidding the police to use their arms in any circumstances. On the occasion of the ambush referred to in my reply on October 11 the police immediately returned their assailants' fire. No arrests of the persons concerned in the attack have been made.

Mr. Stokes: May I ask the Colonial Secretary whether,

in view of the instructions to the police, the order prevailing in Palestine with regard to the surrender of arms prior to the murder of Lord Moyne by the Jews, namely, that the Arabs should give up their arms and the Jews should not, has now been altered to an order that both sides must give up their arms?

Mr. Hall: That is another question.

Earl Winterton: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the most serious allegations contained in a letter to me from a number of British members of the Palestine Police Force—all ex-Servicemen—to the effect that they have been prevented from using legal weapons when their own lives were in danger from attacks by murderous mobs of Jews, he will look into the whole matter; and, if I put down a Question in a fortnight's time, will he give an answer, so as to avoid my raising it on the Adjournment, in view of the delicacy of the situation?

Mr. Hall: The right hon. Gentleman was good enough to send me the letter referred to just an hour or so before I came into the House. I received it at 12 o'clock to-day. The letter contains very serious charges, and I shall certainly take up the matter with the High Commissioner of Palestine and get his comments upon it.

Mr. Gallacher: Is it not very undesirable, Mr. Speaker, that a Member, on the basis of a personal letter, should try to arouse serious anti-Jewish prejudice?

Earl Winterton: I would like to raise a point of Order, and to ask for the protection of the Chair against the charge made by the hon. Gentleman opposite. The letter reached me in a perfectly proper way. I did not say whether or not I made myself responsible for the allegations. It was sent to me by eight members of the Palestine police force.

Mr. Gallacher: Further to that point of Order, I would say that everyone knows that there is a very serious situation in Palestine and much violence has been displayed, but I would ask you, Sir, whether an hon. Member—*[Interruption]*.

Mr. Speaker: The noble Lord has asked me a question on a point of Order and all I can say is, that he is perfectly in order in sending on the letter to the right hon. Gentleman and asking him a question upon it. The hon. Member for West Fife (*Mr. Gallacher*) should try to restrain himself.

Mr. Gallacher: Further to that point of Order—

Mr. Speaker: We have now finished with the matter.

October 25, 1945.

REQUISITIONED HOUSE, CHISWICK (RENT)

Sir H. Webbe: Am I right in understanding that local authorities may charge rents above the standard rents, whereas private individuals may not?

Mr. Bevan: Yes, Sir.

WAYS AND MEANS: BUDGET PROPOSALS

Mr. Boothby (Aberdeen and Kincardine, Eastern): ... But the tax on whisky is savage and unconscionable, and a gross injury to the people of Scotland. I propose to move a reduction of the whisky duty during the Committee stage of the Finance Bill, and I rely confidently on the support of the majority of Members of all parties to remedy this great injustice. ...

Sir Waldron Smithers (Orpington): ... The situation in Britain and in the world is perilous and so fraught with danger. Never has mankind been faced with problems so vast. In broad principle, to my mind, there is only one solution. We have to return as soon as possible to those principles of government, economics and finance which made us great in the past and which made Britain, and, later on, the Empire, the greatest influence for good the world has ever seen. Our policy must be a maximum of free enterprise and a minimum of State control as soon as possible. ...

There is a good deal of talk about social services and security, but, as Hecate said in "Macbeth":

"Security is mortals' chiefest enemy."

The first job this country has to do, and that quickly, is to secure next week's bread and butter. ...

The war against Japan and Germany is over, but is the victory won? The *Daily Sketch* to-day has, as usual, a remarkable article entitled "Has the War Made Us Completely Selfish?" I commend that article to the attention of hon. Members. I ask hon. Members of the Committee to look round the country to-day. What do we see? Unofficial strikes—and I read worse news about them on the tape this afternoon—and frustration and delay in industry and demobilisation, because of the continuance of bureaucratic control and an attempt to run our private lives and our businesses from Whitehall. A working man on the railway said the other day, "What is wrong is that there is a lack of discipline in the country." I would say that this discipline cannot be imposed by the Government. It must be self-discipline, self-imposed by free men. Already, the Government, now that they have the responsibility of office, have found that it is not possible to put into operation a full-blooded Socialistic programme, because they know that it would ruin the country. For six years, we fought, not for any material gain, but for the sacred cause of liberty and freedom. We fought to remove the shackles from other countries, and a full Socialist programme means that the Government will be busy fastening the same kind of shackles on the people of Britain and with the same inevitable result. ...

In spite of all the abuse that is often poured on the City of London—it is called a capitalist show—its banks, its insurance companies, its exchanges and commodity markets were the biggest asset this country possessed before the war, mainly because of the integrity of the men who ran those businesses and the confidence they inspired all over the world. ...

Successive Governments have always put the cart before the horse. They offer material benefits and the mass bribery of the electorate—

Mr. Montague (Islington, West): What about the City of London?

Sir W. Smithers: That is the old jibe. I am sure of this, that the assertion of people's right will never provide that people with bread. The performance of their duties alone can do that. Only a free people who are willing and able freely to shoulder, each one individually, their responsibilities and use to the full their God-given talents can save the situation. The collapse of Germany was the inevitable result of National Socialism. It is Germany whose fate we are in danger of repeating for what shall it profit any

(continued on page 8)

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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. 15. No. 10.

Saturday, November 10, 1945.

Social Credit

We say, with adequate foundation, that Social Credit is applied Christianity, and it is therefore especially necessary to be able to give an intelligent answer to an enquiry for a definition of Christianity in everyday life. It must be remembered that while it is so no longer, England was once a Christian country, and during that period there was evolved a system of Law, known as Common or Natural Law, which was definitely Christian in intention, and surprisingly so in achievement. It was wholly distinct from Roman Law and entirely opposed to the Legislation by Departments which is struggling to kill it.

It is in this body of Law that the most tangible structure to which Social Crediters can refer is enshrined, and it is important that Social Credit technicians should have a clear understanding, not of the details, but of the principles which are involved—principles which underlie the whole theory of private property and its corollary—the corporate nature of the family from generation to generation, which have been filched by their simulacra, the limited company and State Capitalism.

Socialism, Communism, and Atheism are all of a piece, as are Christianity, private, decentralised property, and respect for family tradition as part of respect for the individual. There is no compromise possible—either there is no Christ, or Socialism and Communism are of the Devil. The essence of them, without exception, is that the group giveth, and the group taketh away; blessed be the name of the group. Anyone with experience of life knows that the group giveth; yes, in exchange for the soul.

Bombshell Alley

(1) International inspection to prevent atomic bomb manufacture means inspection of everything all over the world. (Professor M. L. E. Oliphant, Birmingham.) And inspection of inspectors? And...?

(2) Six months' work by any industrial country is enough to provide it with 'the secret' now held by 'the allies.' (Professor Oliphant.)

(3) British scientists (excepting Professor Oliphant) have not 'the guts' to make a declaration about the atomic bomb. (Professor Oliphant.) "They are so tied up with the Official Secrets Acts that they are afraid that if they open their mouths they will find themselves in jail."

(4) "We" have to get rid of war or die. (Professor Oliphant.)

One would imagine that a few days in jail would be preferable to other scientists than Professor Oliphant, who,

by the bye, does not appear to have said anything to call down the wrath of officialdom (or big business). But, since all the suggested courses are either repugnant (excepting to big business) or pragmatically impossible, what could he have to say that he might not have said (and didn't) before the war?

An embargo on Tennessee-Valley schemes all over the world (which is practical politics) would apparently reduce producers of atomic bombs to at least temporary impotency.

Nationalisation

The following précis was supplied to the press of the address by Mr. J. O. Gibson in The Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, on October 23:—

"On the purely economic plane production by Private Enterprise *v* Nationalised industrial undertakings may be arguable; but, there are psychological, social and political implications that leave no doubt what our attitude should be.

"Nationalisation is an attack on the right of property. Once conceded the principle of legalised robbery and a government that dispossesses, say, the Marquis of Londonderry, will make short work of John Smith's freehold or Mrs. Brown's wee shop when it gets down to that level. It is all very well to join in a demand to invest the "State" with powers to expropriate dukes—if you are not a duke. It is a very different matter when the scope of the operation widens.

"Stable property tenure is essential to any degree of independence or liberty.

"In the sense in which it is understood by the majority of people Public Ownership means control. Common sense suggests that 48 million people never did and never could control anything. The demand for nationalisation comes from a body of people who plan to secure for themselves positions of power in the administration.

"Without far wider safeguards than are so far indicated, nationalisation leaves the individual no appeal from his only possible employer and so imposes a far greater tyranny for that which it claims to destroy.

"State Ownership is the last phase in centralised control—and that is totalitarianism. Have we fought a long and costly war only to find that, victorious on the fighting front, we have been defeated at our own firesides?"

In addition, Mr. Gibson's excellent exposition contained much to the point as to the potential value to the community of a productive concern, and the comparative uselessness of the material asset—the means of production, the ownership of which Socialism is so determined to claim for the people.

The question as to who should own the tools of production is not a matter of rights at all, but solely a technical one of results, quite debatable, said Mr. Gibson. The question as to whether individuals or the State should control productive plant may demand a different answer according to circumstances, though the weight of evidence appears to be on the side of individual ownership as regards general efficiency. But there can be no doubt at all that the product of a concern—the real wealth produced—is or should be the community's, and it is this potential product that is never put to the community's credit. The asset, broadly speaking, is the shadow, the output, the substance.

The English

English "Literature," and to a great extent foreign and classical literature, as taught-about in schools and represented on the shelves of the literate, is fast becoming a collection of records of opinion and emotion, with a considerable representation of unblushing propaganda, uprooted from its soil. English culture is not dying: it is being killed. We know of several instruments of its assassination. Not one of them, possibly, is effectual alone. One such instrument is the destruction of conscious memory of the reality of past phases of English culture, facilitating the implantation of ideal constructions which are essentially false. A possible corrective is a considerable revival of knowledge of contemporary sources, in which English literature is rich since the time of Caxton and before.

"A Journal of the Plague Year, being Observations or Memorials of the Most Remarkable Occurrences, as well Public as Private, which happened in London During the Last Great Visitation in 1665, Written by a Citizen Who Continued All the While in London, Never Made Publick Before" is one, and doubtless a minor one of such records. It avails in the senses of Emerson's reminder that "It is the thing done that avails, and not what is said about it." The historians (against whom, in our opinion, lies a heavy charge of corruption) say 'about,' whereas at the hands of the author of the Journal, the mind, habits, beliefs, faith, courage of the Individual are presented to the inspection and reverence of the reader, and little needs to be said 'about' anything.

Daniel Defoe was sent at the age of fourteen, a year after the death of Milton, to an academy at Newington Green, to be trained for the Nonconformist ministry. The students there "were made masters of the English tongue, and more of them excelled in that particular than of any school of that time." Defoe mastered 'the English tongue,' but he did not become a minister. He became a hose-factor and a hosier. Despite the claim on the title page of the Journal, he was only four years old in the plague year. He wrote *Robinson Crusoe* when he was fifty-eight, and published the *Journal of the Plague Year* when he was sixty-one. With his political opinions we are not here concerned.

FROM DEFOE'S JOURNAL

At the Beginning of the Plague, when there was now no more Hope, but that the whole City would be visited, when, as I have said, all that had Friends or Estates in the Country, retired with their Families, and when, indeed, one would have thought the very City it self was running out of the Gates, and that there would be no Body left behind, you may be sure, from that Hour, all Trade, except such as related to immediate Subsistence, was, as it were, at a full Stop.

This is so lively a Case, and contains in it so much of the real Condition of the People; that I think, I cannot be too particular in it; and therefore I descend to the several Arrangements or Classes of People, who fell into immediate Distress upon this Occasion: For Example,

1. All Master Work-men in Manufactures; especially such as belong'd to Ornament, and the less necessary Parts of the People dress Cloths and Furniture for Houses; such as Riband Weavers, and other Weavers; Gold and Silverlace-makers, and Gold and Silverwyer-drawers, Seemstresses, Milleners, Shoe-makers, Hat-makers and Glove-makers: Also

Upholderers, Joyners, Cabinet-makers, Looking-glass-makers; and innumerable Trades which depend upon such as these; I say the Master Workmen in such, stopt their Work, dismiss their Journeymen, and Workmen, and all their Dependants.

2. As Merchandizing was at a full stop, for very few Ships ventur'd to come up the River, and none at all went out; so all the extraordinary Officers of the Customes, likewise the Watermen, Carmen, Porters, and all the Poor, whose Labour depended upon the Merchants, were at once dismiss, and put out of Business.

3. All the Tradesmen usually employ'd in building or repaireing of Houses, were at a full Stop, for the People were far from wanting to build Houses, when so many thousand Houses were at once stript of their Inhabitants; so that this one Article turn'd all the ordinary Work-men of that Kind out of Business; such as Brick-layers, Masons, Carpenters, Joyners, Plasterers, Painters, Glaziers, Smiths, Plumbers; and all the Labourers depending on such.

4. As Navigation was at a Stop; our Ships neither coming in, or going out as before: so the Seamen were all out of Employment, and many of them in the last and lowest Degree of Distress, and with the Seamen, were all the several Tradesmen, and Workmen belonging to and depending upon the building, and fitting out of Ships; such as Ship-Carpenters, Caulkers, Rope-makers, Dry-Coopers, Sail-makers, Anchor-Smiths, and other Smiths; Block-makers, Carvers, Gun-Smiths, Ship-Chandlers, Ship-Carvers and the like; The Masters of those perhaps might live upon their Substance; but the Traders were Universally at a Stop, and consequently all their Workmen discharged: Add to these, that the River was in a manner without Boats, and all or most part of the Watermen, Lightermen, Boat-builders, and Lighter-builders in like manner idle, and laid by.

5. All Families retrench'd their living as much as possible, as well those that fled as those that stay'd; so that an innumerable Multitude of Footmen, serving Men, Shopkeepers, Journey-men, Merchants-Book-keepers, and such Sort of People, and especially poor Maid Servants were turn'd off, and left Friendless and Helpless without Employment, and without Habitation; and this was really a dismal Article.

I might be more particular as to this Part: But it may suffice to mention in general; all Trades being stopt, Employment ceased; the Labour, and by that, the Bread of the Poor were cut off: and at first indeed, the Cries of the poor were most lamentable to hear; tho' by the Distribution of Charity, their Misery that way was greatly abated: Many indeed fled into the Countries; but thousands of them having stay'd in London, till nothing but Desperation sent them away; Death overtook them on the Road, and they serv'd for no better than the Messengers of Death, indeed, others carrying the Infection along with them; spreading it very unhappily into the remotest Parts of the Kingdom.

Many of these were the miserable Objects of Dispair which I have mention'd before, and were remov'd by the Destruction which followed; these might be said to perish, not by the Infection it self, but by the Consequence of it; indeed, namely, by Hunger and Distress, and the Want of all Things; being without Lodging, without Money, without Friends, without Means to get their Bread, or without any one to give it them, for many of them were without what

we call legal Settlements, and so could not claim of the Parishes, and all the Support they had, was by Application to the Magistrates for Relief, which Relief was, (to give the Magistrates their Due) carefully and chearfully administered, as they found it necessary; and those that stay'd behind never felt the Want and Distress of that Kind, which they felt, who went away in the manner above-noted.

Much about the same Time I walk'd out into the Fields towards Bow; for I had a great mind to see how things were managed in the River, and among the Ships; and as I had some Concern in Shipping, I had a Notion that it had been one of the best Ways of securing ones self from the Infection to have retir'd into a Ship, and mused how to satisfy my Curiosity, in that Point, I turned away over the Fields, from Bow to Bromley, and down to Blackwall, to the Stairs, which are there for landing, or taking Water.

Here I saw a poor Man walking on the Bank, or Sea-wall, as they call it, by himself; I walked a while also about, seeing the Houses all shut up; at last I fell into some Talk, at a Distance, with this poor Man; first I asked him, how People did thereabouts? Alas, Sir! says he, almost all desolate; all dead or sick; Here are very few Families in this Part, or in that Village, pointing at Poplar, where half of them are not dead already, and the rest sick. Then he pointed to one House, There they are all dead, said he, and the House stands open; no Body dares go into it. A poor Thief, says he, ventured in to steal something, but he paid dear for his Theft; for he was carried to the Church-Yard too, last Night. Then he pointed to several other Houses. There, says he, they are all dead; the Man and his Wife, and five Children. There, says he, they are shut up, you see a Watchman at the Door; and so of other Houses. Why, says I, What do you here all alone? Why, says he, I am a poor desolate Man; it has pleased God I am not yet visited, tho' my Family is, and one of my Children dead. How do you mean then, said I, that you are not visited? Why, says he, that's my House, pointing to a very little low boarding House, and there my poor Wife and two Children live, says he, if they may be said to live; for my Wife and one of the Children are visited, but I do not come at them. And with that Word I saw the Tears run very plentifully down his Face; and so they did down mine too, I assure you.

But said I, Why do you not come at them? How can you abandon your own Flesh, and Blood? Oh, Sir! says he, the Lord forbid; I do not abandon them; I work for them as much as I am able; and blessed be the Lord, I keep them from Want; and with that I observ'd, he lifted up his Eyes to Heaven, with a Countenance that presently told me, I had happened on a Man that was no Hypocrite, but a serious, religious good Man, and his Ejaculation was an Expression of Thankfulness, that in such a Condition as he was in, he should be able to say his Family did not want. Well, says I, honest Man, that is a great Mercy as things go now with the Poor: But how do you live then, and how are you kept from the dreadful Calamity that is now upon us all? Why, Sir, says he, I am a Waterman, and there's my Boat, says he, and the Boat serves me for a House; I work in it in the Day, and I sleep in it in the Night; and what I get, I lay down upon that Stone, says he, shewing me a broad Stone on the other Side of the Street, a good way from his House, and then, says he, I

halloo, and call to them till I make them hear; and they come and fetch it.

Well, Friend, says I, but how can you get any Money as a Waterman? does any Body go by Water these Times? Yes, Sir, says he, in the Way I am employ'd there does. Do you see there, says he, five Ships lie at Anchor, pointing down the River, a good way below the Town, and do you see, says he, eight or ten Ships lie at the Chain, there, and at Anchor yonder, pointing above the Town. All those Ships have Families on board, of their Merchants and Owners, and such like, who have lock'd themselves up, and live on board, close shut in for fear of the Infection; and I tend on them to fetch Things for them, carry Letters, and do what is absolutely necessary, that they may not be obliged to come on Shore; and every Night I fasten my Boat on board one of the Ship's Boats, and there I sleep by my self, and blessed be God, I am preserv'd hitherto.

Well, said I, Friend, but will they let you come on board, after you have been on Shore here, when this is such a terrible Place, and so infected as it is?

Why, as to that, said he, I very seldom go up the Ship Side, but deliver what I bring to their Boat, or lie by the Side, and they hoist it on board; if I did, I think they are in no Danger from me, for I never go into any House on Shore, or touch any Body, no, not of my own Family; But I fetch Provisions for them.

Nay, says I, but that may be worse, for you must have those Provisions of some Body or other; and since all this Part of the Town is so infected, it is dangerous so much as to speak with any Body; for this Village, said I, is as it were, the Beginning of London, tho' it be at some Distance from it.

That is true, added he, but you do not understand me Right, I do not buy Provisions for them here; I row up to Greenwich and buy fresh Meat there, and sometimes I row down the River to Woolwich and buy there; then I go to single Farm Houses on the Kentish Side, where I am known, and buy Fowls and Eggs, and Butter, and bring to the Ships, as they direct me, sometimes one, sometimes the other; I seldom come on Shore here; and I come now only to call to my Wife, and hear how my little Family do, and give them a little Money, which I receiv'd last Night.

Poor Man! said I, and how much hast thou gotten for them?

I have gotten four Shillings, said he, which is a great Sum, as things go now with poor Men; but they have given me a Bag of Bread too, and a Salt Fish and some Flesh; so all helps out.

Well, said I, and have you given it them yet?

No, said he, but I have called, and my Wife has answered, that she cannot come out yet, but in Half an Hour she hopes to come, and I am waiting for her: Poor Woman! says he, she is brought sadly down; she has a Swelling, and it is broke, and I hope she will recover; but I fear the Child will die; but it is the Lord!— Here he stopt, and wept very much.

Well, honest Friend, said I, thou hast a sure Comforter, if thou hast brought thy self to be resign'd to the will of God, he is dealing with us all in Judgment.

Oh, Sir, says he, it is infinite Mercy, if any of us are spar'd; and who am I to repine!

Sayest thou so, said I, and how much less is my Faith than thine? And here my Heart smote me, suggesting how much better this Poor Man's Foundation was, on which he staid in the Danger, than mine; that he had no where to fly; that he had a Family to bind him to Attendance, which I had not; and mine was mere presumption, his a true Dependence, and a Courage resting on God: and yet, that he used all possible Caution for his Safety.

I turn'd a little away from the Man while these Thoughts engaged me, for indeed, I could no more refrain from Tears than he.

At length, after some farther Talk, the poor Woman opened the Door, and call'd, Robert, Robert; he answered and bid her stay a few Moments, and he would come; so he ran down the common Stairs to his Boat, and fetch'd up a Sack in which was the Provisions he had brought from the Ships; and when he returned, he hallooed again; then he went to the great Stone which he showed me, and emptied the Sack, and laid all out, every Thing by themselves, and then retired; and his Wife came with a little Boy to fetch them away; and he call'd, and said, such a Captain had sent such a Thing, and such a Captain such a Thing, and at the End adds, God has sent it all, give thanks to him. When the Poor Woman had taken up all, she was so weak, she could not carry it at once in, tho' the Weight was not much neither; so she left the Biscuit which was in a little Bag, and left a little Boy to watch it till she came again.

Well, says I to him, did you leave her the four Shillings too, which you said was your Week's Pay?

YES, YES, says he, you shall hear her own it. So he calls again, Rachel, Rachel, which it seems was her Name, did you take up the Money? Yes, said she. How much was it? said he. Four Shillings and a Groat, said she. Well, well, says he, the Lord keep you all; and so he turned to go away.

As I could not refrain contributing Tears to this Man's Story, so neither could I refrain my Charity for his Assistance; so I call'd him, Hark thee, Friend, said I, come hither; for I believe thou art in Health, that I may venture thee; so I pull'd out my Hand, which was in my Pocket before, here, says I, go and call thy Rachel once more, and give her a little more Comfort from me. God will never forsake a Family that trust in him as thou dost; so I gave him four other Shillings, and bad him go lay them on the Stone and call his Wife.

I have not Words to express the poor Man's thankfulness, neither could he express it himself; but by Tears running down his Face; he call'd his Wife, and told her God had mov'd the Heart of a Stranger upon hearing their Condition, to give them all that Money; and a great deal more such as that, he said to her. The Woman too made Signs of the like Thankfulness, as well to Heaven, as to me, and joyfully pick'd it up; and I parted with no Money all that Year, that I thought better bestow'd.

I then ask'd the poor Man if the Distemper had not reach'd to Greenwich: He said it had not, till about a Fortnight before; but that then he feared it had; but that it was only at that End of the Town, which lay South towards Deptford-Bridge; that he went only to a Butchers-Shop, and a Grocers, where he generally bought such Things as they sent him for; but was very careful.

I ask'd him then, how it came to pass, that those People who had so shut themselves up in the Ships had not laid in sufficient Stores of all things necessary? He said some of them had, but on the other Hand, some did not come on board till they were frightened into it, and till it was too dangerous for them to go to the proper People, to lay in Quantities of Things, and that he waited on two Ships which he shewed me, that had lay'd in little or nothing but Biscuit Bread, and Ship Beer; and that he had bought every Thing else almost for them. I ask'd him, if there was any more Ships that had separated themselves, as those had done. He told me yes, all the way up from the Point, right against Greenwich, to within the Shore of Lime-house and Redriff, all the Ships that could have Room, rid two and two in the middle of the Stream; and that some of them had several Families on Board, I ask'd him, if the Distemper had not reached them? He said he believ'd it had not, except two or three Ships, whose People had not been so watchful, to keep the Seamen from going on Shore as others had been; and he said it was a very fine Sight to see how the Ships lay up the Pool.

When he said he was going over to Greenwich, as soon as the Tide began to come in, I ask'd if he would let me go with him, and bring me back, for that, I had a great mind to see how the Ships were ranged as he had told me? He told me if I would assure him on the word of a Christian, and of an honest Man, that I had not the Distemper, he would: I assur'd him that I had not, that it had pleased God to preserve me, That I liv'd in White-Chapel, but was too Impatient of being so long within Doors, and that I had ventured out so far for the Refreshment of a little Air; but that none in my House had so much as been touch'd with it.

Well, Sir, says he, as your Charity has been mov'd to pity me and my poor Family; sure you cannot have so little pity left, as to put yourself into my Boat if you were not Sound in Health, which would be nothing less than killing me, and ruining my whole Family. The poor Man troubled me so much, when he spoke of his Family with such a sensible Concern, and in such an affectionate Manner, that I cou'd not satisfy my self at first to go at all. I told him, I would lay aside my Curiosity, rather than make him uneasy; tho' I was sure, and very thankful for it, that I had no more Distemper upon me, than the freshest Man in the World: Well, he would not have me put it off neither, but to let me see how confident he was, that I was just to him, he now importuned me to go; so when the Tide came up to his Boat, I went in, and he carry'd me to Greenwich: While he bought the Things which he had in his Charge to buy, I walk'd up to the Top of the Hill, under which the Town stands, and on the East-Side of the Town, to get a Prospect of the River: But it was a surprising Sight to see the Number of Ships which lay in Rows, two and two, and some Places, two or three such Lines in the Breadth of the River, and this not only up quite to the Town, between the Houses which we call Ratcliff and Redriff, which they name the Pool, but even down the whole River, as far as the Head of Long-Reach, which is as far as the Hills give us Leave to see it.

I cannot guess at the Number of Ships, but I think there must be several Hundreds of Sail; and I could not but applaud the Contrivance, for ten thousand People, and more, who attended Ship Affairs, were certainly sheltered

here from the Violence of the Contagion, and liv'd very safe and very easy.

I returned to my own Dwelling very well satisfied with my Days Journey, and particularly with the poor Man; also I rejoiced to see that such little Sanctuaries were provided for so many Families, in a Time of such Desolation. I observ'd also, that as the Violence of the Plague had encreased, so the Ships which had Families on Board, remov'd and went farther off, till, as I was told, some went quite away to Sea, and put into such Harbours, and safe Roads on the North Coast, as they could best come at.

Sultanas

The Editor, *The Social Crediter*,

Sir,

"A civilisation which is on the point of expiring from too much control, is looking only for means of control. It hasn't the nerve to hold itself in check by simply giving itself more line; and there is nothing else necessary."

—*The Social Crediter*, October 20, 1945.

A Grocer has to be registered with his supplier to obtain dried fruits. I have a stock of Sultanas about sixty pounds, which 1. cannot sell; 2. I want to sell; 3. customers want, and 4. customers have money but no points to buy.

Three commercial travellers have offered to sell me sultanas.

Assuming that there are at a very rough estimate 100,000 grocers in England alone, that means, to me, that there are 60,000 lbs sultanas frozen. In addition to this modest estimate, there are surplus stocks of sultanas held by firms, or, why would their representatives want to sell?

— ENGLISH GROCER.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 3)

one of us, if he gains the whole world and Germanises his soul?

Mr. Callaghan (Cardiff, South): ... I would like to say a word on the subject of the staff of the Inland Revenue Department. I am the assistant secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation. I am a paid employee of theirs, and I have their welfare very much at heart. I want to draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Committee to something which I know the Chancellor is aware of already: the heavy overwork from which the staff of the Inland Revenue are suffering and have suffered for some years....

... This question of overwork in the Inland Revenue is becoming a most serious problem. They are suffering from the psychological effect of continuous arrear of post. They are labouring continually in an attempt to catch up with an impossible number of letters arriving from Income Tax payers every day. I think big measures will have to be taken if this jaded and tired staff is to cope with the burdens which will still have to fall on them during the years to come. There is a great shortage of experienced staff....

The Income Tax machine works not because of statute laws and the case law based on them, but in spite of them. ... Where we have fallen down up to the present has been because of the shortage of staff, which has rendered the machine not flexible enough to undertake the changes as they became necessary, as for example, in the case of redundancy in a factory with the work resulting from the dismissal of 500 or 600 employees falling upon the offices

in an uneven flow.

On the question of evasion and avoidance, I think the Committee must face up to the fact that there is considerable "avoidance"—I use the word deliberately—and considerable evasion going on at the present time. It occurs at both ends. The small manufacturer or the small business man, at any rate, is one who is responsible for much avoidance—and it can be described by the word evasion. He does not keep books; he does not have records. He returns a sum which is not certified and the result is that I believe this evasion has reached widespread proportions. As the arrears of work are overtaken, these people will find that the Inspectors of Taxes will become much more close in their scrutiny of the returns.

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