

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 15. No. 14.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1945.

6d. Weekly.

### From Week to Week

Out of the ruins of Fig Tree Court, Temple, close to Fleet Street, a young fig tree has appeared, and is growing vigorously.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near."—Mark, XIII, 28.

An outstanding instance of the steady perversion of public information by the Planners is the Empire-wide propaganda to suggest, or even in some cases to state as a fact, that the exhaustion of the soil is connected with private tenure of land.

There is no connection whatever. Exhaustion of the soil is, more than to any other reason, due to systematic attacks on private tenure by taxation, by wheat speculation, and by other financial chicanery, which has made it imperative for the farmer to cut down his manure charges and to crop land which ought to have been fallowed. For a time, this was checked by the landowner, but grinding taxation turned the chief interest of the landowner into relinquishing his land before its ownership ruined him.

A second cause is the use of artificial chemical fertilisers. It will take many years to restore much English and Scottish land to health from the "mining" process to which it has been subjected by War Agricultural Committees under the name of "good husbandry." And almost identical Bills are adumbrated in Canada and this country to perpetuate bureaucratic control of agriculture.

Lord Rosebery, son of the Earl of Rosebery and Hannah Mayer de Rothschild, considers that the North of Scotland Hydro-electric business has not been smoothly handled. It is just a matter for a good Public Relations officer. Well, they had Mr. Thomas Johnston.

Current D'markrazi. 1st English M.P. "What is this Garry Tunnel that the Scots don't want bored?" 2nd English M.P. "Dunno. Time the railways were improved anyway. Got to vote for it."

Consistently with Mr. Attlee's opinion that British Generals ought not to be rewarded for their part in the War, the best part of Culzean Castle, Ayrshire has been given to General Eisenhower for winning it. This is better than giving him the whole castle, because it leaves the cost of upkeep on the British public. The rumour that the remainder of Scotland has been given to Benjamin Cohen, Jr. (ex U.S.A.) for winning the peace for Benjamin Cohen, U.S.A., is probably premature. Perhaps the North of

Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, or the Tennessee Valley Authority have some information.

"Sensation. Two houses built." *Sunday Express*, November 25, 1945.

"Twenty-three thousand Germans are to be provided with temporary housing built with British Army materials, in Hamburg, this winter."—"B."B.C., November 26, 1945.

Dr. Schacht has asked for Mr. Jeidels, at the moment an American Jew, as a witness in his favour.

"Jeidels was born an insider, the son of an old Frankfurt Jewish banking family."... After a period in New York, "By 1908 he was back in Germany with Dr. Alfred Merton's Metal Trust.... In the twenties, Jeidels was boss of Germany's No. 1 Investment Bank, the *Handelsgesellschaft*, was one of Schacht's closest cronies.... One stock holder of the *Handelsgesellschaft* was Paul M. Warburg.... who tried to help Germany's comeback.... Hitler let Jeidels be his deputy at the famous Standstill Agreement.... he satisfied the British by keeping debts unrepudiated, and the Nazis by keeping them frozen...."

Going to America in 1941, he stated that "The U.S.A. must adapt herself to world competition by centralising its industries" and "Anti-Semitism is the century's No. 1 over-rated issue.... Now he is a partner in the Manhattan firm of Lazard Frères.... Jeidels, who is a friend of Montagu Norman, has access to choice Continental pipelines into Hitlerism." — *Time* (New York), July 3, 1942.

"The whole Scottish Acts of Parliament, down to the Union are contained in three duodecimo volumes. And yet, in these three little volumes is to be found more of the spirit of real freedom, more wise resolution and practically beneficial legislation, and better provisions for the liberty of the subject.... than in the whole thirty quarto volumes of the (British) Statutes at large."—Sir Archibald Alison, historian and lawyer.

The Spanish *Republican* (i.e., *Communist*) prisoners who have been interned in this country were captured in German uniforms, fighting against France and Great Britain. Now laugh that off.

This weeks *BIG Laugh*: "For the first time, a millionaire joined the 'Labour' Party. Nathaniel Victor Mayer Rothschild, 35-year-old third Baron Rothschild, British [ha! ha!] head of a family which has amassed more than £400,000,000 in 100 years, has long had Leftist leanings. [Waal, waal, waal] ... At war's outbreak joined the Supply Ministry.... and worked with the Chemical Warfare Department. — *News Review*, November 23, 1945.

## The Right Hon. Sir James Grigg Notwithstanding

THE CIVIL SERVICE "...the virtues of the Civil Service..." "...the best in the world and the envy of all countries other than our own." "...incorruptible—in spite of some lowering of standards due to its war-time dilution." "...rarely if ever fails to carry out adequately the policies laid down by Ministers and Parliament." "...loyal and impartial... and just to all members of the public whatever their circumstances." "...and it is astonishingly meek..." — Sir James Grigg in the *Sunday Times*.

The following is a letter sent to a correspondent who had asked "the Minister" for information concerning the advantage to himself, in the amount, quality or price of coal available to him, or otherwise, expected, or alleged, to accrue from the transference of the coal mines to himself as a national part-owner. The early letters of this official correspondence we have seen. The question was not answered. The subjoined letter is a reply to an expostulation directed to elicit attention (Editor, *T.S.C.*):—

(COPY.)  
Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
(Coal Division),  
Dean Stanley Street,  
S.W.I.  
14 November, 1945.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of 9 November addressed to the Minister,\* about your enquiry in what way and to what extent you, as one of the prospective national coal owners would gain by the nationalisation of the coal mines, I can only say "it all depends." How much do you use? What does it cost you? What is the size of your house? Is your income derived from investments? Do those investments depend upon coal production, distribution or consumption? Do you mean material gain only? These are some of the impertinent [erased: 'important'] questions you would have to answer before any view could be expressed as to the effect of nationalisation upon your personal coal position.

You will appreciate, therefore, that your question is an unreasonable one, not susceptible of a useful reply and for that reason no reply was, in fact, sent to your last letter.

Yours faithfully,  
(signed) C. H. (?) DE PRYER.

\*Mr. Emanuel (God-with-us) Shinwell.

### The Back Door

A Canadian who is now a British subject will under this act\* continue to be a British subject. A person who is hereafter born a Canadian citizen will thereby also be a British subject. An alien who comes to Canada and is naturalised as a Canadian citizen will similarly become a British subject. The change will be in removing the confusion of conflicting and unrelated definitions that we now have. So far as Canada is concerned the dominant fact will be that of being a Canadian citizen. With it, as a correlative, and important in the commonwealth as a whole, each will also have the status of British subject.—Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State.

\*Nationality, Naturalisation and Status of Aliens Bill (No. 20) Canadian House of Commons, October 22, 1945.

### Names

In the recent Municipal Elections, the following were among the successful candidates in London:—

Rosen, Sokoloff, Shapiro, Greenbaum, Reinstein, Tanaman, Piratin, Barsk, Elbog, Goldberg, Bermel, Weinberg, Mushin, Arnholz, Dvorkovitz, Faldo, Almeyda, Landau, Hamborg, Zeital, Touchard, Blau, Caro, Alergant, Levoi, Jago, Bryna, Saldanha, Littman, Ott, Kangeisser, Immerman, Gulatt, Kilch, Sueffert, Inter, Periotti, Luetchford, Naftel.

Zac and Ogus were unsuccessful!

## BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

The Brief for the Prosecution.....	8/6
Economic Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
Social Credit.....	3/6
The Monopoly of Credit.....	(reprinting)
Credit Power and Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
Warning Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
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.
Social Credit Principles.....	(reprinting)

### ALSO

The Bankers of London by Percy Arnold.....	4/6
Jesus Meets Paul by Dr. Alexander Paterson.....	2/-
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/-
Aberhart: Manning.....	9d.
Southampton Chamber of Commerce: Report of Economic Crisis Committee.....	9d.
The Planners and Bureaucracy by Elizabeth Edwards.....	8d.
Why You Are Short of Coal by Aims of Industry.....	6d.
You and the State Doctor by Charles Mellick.....	6d.
Democratic Victory or the Slave State? by L. D. Byrne.....	4d.
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.
20 Questions About Russia by H. W. Henderson.....	4d.
What are Russia's Ultimate Aims? by H. W. Henderson.....	4d.
The Nature of Social Credit by L. D. Byrne.....	3d.
The Beveridge Plot.....	3d.
Lectures and Studies Section: Syllabus.....	3d.

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## PARLIAMENT

House of Lords: November 22, 1945.

### HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT IN SCOTLAND

Lord Kinnaird had the following notice on the Paper: To call attention to the operation of the Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, 1943; and to ask His Majesty's Government whether they are satisfied that the provisions of Section 9 (3) of the Act are being complied with; and to move for Papers. The noble Lord said:

... Several people have said to me: "You are flogging a dead horse." I want to make it quite clear that it is the future of the whole hydro-electric development in Scotland that is now in question. As to Tummel-Garry, I was well aware, when I postponed my Motion at the request of my noble friend Lord Westwood, that the date for annulment was passed. This has been a test case, however, and it is the future development in which we are interested. It is admitted to be a test case.

My noble friend Lord Airlie, when giving evidence at the inquiry, made a remark which caused a great deal of comment. He said: "We have reached a parting of the ways." When the Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Board said that we had reached a parting of the ways, it seemed to me that this was obviously a suitable opportunity to consider how the operation of the Act was proceeding. Lord Airlie will perhaps tell us what exactly he meant by that phrase and in what way his path leads him. I want to examine whether the intention of Parliament and the intention of the Act are in fact being carried out. The lines of development were laid down in Parliament, as were the safeguards. I would refer first of all to the powers of the Board, and I would remind your Lordships that the Board was based on the findings of the Cooper Committee. That Committee made it quite clear that a new public service corporation for the North of Scotland was to be brought into power, and it was done in the formation of the Hydro-Electric Board. Section 2 of the Act which followed made it very clear that the Board were responsible for initiating and developing hydro-electricity in the Highlands. You might ask, why is there any doubt as to who is responsible or who is the power in control? Now a Government inquiry, as your Lordships know, was held in Edinburgh, and that inquiry raised the question of the powers conferred on the Electricity Commissioners by the Act, and they left the question undecided. I am therefore asking His Majesty's Government to define the position. The intention of Parliament, I think, was quite undoubted: that the Board were to be the body in control.

Now I would refer to the Report of the Committee. In paragraph 25 it says:

"Parliament has conferred wide powers upon the Electricity Commissioners in the Act and it is well that the extent of these powers should be realised."

Paragraph 26 says that no appeal is open to the Board against the veto of the Electricity Commissioners. Therefore by the power of veto the Electricity Commissioners can control the whole development policy of the Board. In paragraph 28 the inquirer discussed whether the Electricity Commissioners were acting *ultra vires* and he said his Committee was not competent to decide that point. Para-

graph 29 says "If then, as we must assume, the Electricity Commissioners were acting within their competence..." I emphasise the words "as we must assume." In paragraph 30 he reaches the conclusion (and I would ask your Lordships to pay attention to this) that the Hydro-Electric Board we constrained to carry out the wishes of the Electricity Commissioners and that the conclusion cannot be avoided that the Board had little option but to follow the course so plainly indicated to them. On that assumption—which he says his Committee is not competent to decide—he formed the basis of the opinion on which he decided this case.

I therefore feel that your Lordships may agree with me that it is important that we should know what the position is. Definite lines were laid down by Parliament...

... My noble friend Lord Airlie may tell me that I am talking nonsense and that the Board were responsible for the selection of this site. My point is that Sir John Kennedy, the Electricity Commissioner, giving evidence at a Government inquiry, emphasised the fact that the Electricity Commissioners had insisted upon this site. That is a precedent for what is going to happen if this power of veto is going to be, shall I say, abused. Any scheme which the Board puts forward can be turned and the Electricity Commissioners can make it quite impossible for the Board to carry out the duties laid upon them and understood by Parliament....

... The noble Earl, Lord Airlie, with his great civility, came to us and told us that he had 102 schemes. That gave us a shock, and we said "Why put Tummel-Garry as No. 2 if you have 102 schemes?" We took a very reasonable view, however, and we said, "If you will, after further consideration, come back and tell us that there is no alternative, we will consider withdrawing our objection; but until we can be assured that there is no alternative, we can do nothing but object..."

As your Lordships know, the matter was pressed in Parliament, and at last the Secretary of State said that owing to public interest he proposed to make the report of the Amenity Committee public. I would call attention, however, to the date. He said that it would be published immediately the period for the laying of objections was over. That is an astounding statement; the recommendations of the Amenity Committee are not to be made public until it is too late to lay objections...

*The Earl of Haddington:* My Lords, I have much pleasure in supporting the Motion of my noble friend Lord Kinnaird. I do so as representing two bodies in Scotland which are intimately concerned with the protection of the scenery—namely, the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland. Apart from that, my interest is simply this, that I am a Scotsman, and, like thousands of others in Scotland and elsewhere, I do not wish to see our greatest heritage—our glorious mountains, rivers, and lochs—irretrievably ruined if it is humanly possible to avoid it.

Perhaps your Lordships are already aware that in Scotland there is a very large body of opinion, drawn from all classes of the community, which is gravely perturbed at the activities of the Hydro-Electric Board. It is easy enough to raise the popular cry of "Electricity for the Highlands" and to say that all opposition comes from vested interests,

(Continued on page 7)

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### A Major Issue

It may have appeared to many of our readers, and particularly to those overseas, that in devoting so much attention to the affairs of the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board, we are introducing a parochial issue into our columns. This opinion has been cleverly stimulated in the general press by the over-stressing of the "amenity" issue, which, important as it is, is merely incidental.

We have no hesitation in stating that the real issue is neither more nor less than revolution; and in order to present a clear picture of the situation, it is necessary to recapitulate the facts.

The total energy available from Scottish water power is less than 2 per cent. of present requirements. The Government stated in so many words that it was prepared to risk its existence on it. The economics of electrical generation by water-power are:—(1) high capital charges (not merely monetary but actual), (2) low depreciation and maintenance, (3) low labour running costs. As an economic proposition, therefore, low obsolescence is a determining factor. That is to say, it must be assumed that nothing will replace it for, say, sixty years. The Niagara Falls development has justified itself from the time it was built, but would quite possibly not justify itself *if built now*. Simply considered as an economic problem, Scottish water power, if not developed fifty years ago, is inadmissible now. If atomic energy is contemplated, the waste of effort involved in the proposals of the Board can only be characterised as irresponsible, *if electrical energy is the primary object*.

We propose, however, to show that conspiracy is involved; and, as the Tennessee Valley Authority is an important link in this conspiracy, it is interesting to note that the objective in that case is alleged to have been flood control and navigation as being less vulnerable technically. Since Highland rivers do not lend themselves to flood control and navigation, electrical development had to serve for excuse in the Scottish case. Nevertheless, the official spokesmen, and the politicians sponsoring the activities of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, have repeatedly used the Tennessee Valley Authority to justify their policy, *although the only resemblance between the T.V.A. and the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board is that they are both specifically stated to be the Planning Authority for the region, with despotic powers of dispossession; that these powers are far greater than Hitler ever possessed, and that these powers were usurped without a mandate, under plans prepared before the war and rushed through under cover of war, to the "winning" of which they could make no contribution.*

We are convinced, therefore, that we have here a major issue, concealed under important but nevertheless minor issues. Pending repeated return to it, we suggest to those who are prepared to take action, that they obtain an answer to the following preliminary question:—

"Were any enquiries and/or negotiations conducted in America by or with the promoters of the Tennessee Valley project and the promoters of the North of Scotland Board? If so, was any "Planning" Organisation, or its then Chairman, or its present Chairman, concerned? If so, on whose authority, or with whose encouragement, were these negotiations conducted; and were the people most affected, the residents and property owners of Scotland, consulted?"

We don't want to hear anything about "no vested interests will be permitted to interfere." That is on record. So is the statement that the policy is that of the past and the present Socialist Secretaries for Scotland, *who were not formally in office when it was, we suspect, discussed in America.*

### Australia and the Constitution

(From our correspondent.)

Canberra, November 18.

Probably the key to the situation here lies in the necessity confronting the plotters to overthrow the Constitution. In the meantime, quiet work is being done to maintain and increase the necessary bureaucracy. Thus Man-power retains its organisation, while it gives up the power of direction and becomes 'advisory.' Coal is not being nationalised, but the Commonwealth will take over all coal produced for the next five years, and control its distribution. Evatt seems to be relying on the treaty-making powers of the Commonwealth to get past the Constitutional barrier, hence the importance to him of having the full-employment policy written into the United Nations Charter, the ratification of which by the Federal Parliament adding, in his opinion, that further power to the Constitution. A decision, of course, will rest with the High Court in due course; but apparently there is enough to be said on each side for a decision to be at the mercy of the 'climate of opinion' prevailing in the Court, and that is largely a matter of the latent content of propaganda. The *Sunday Telegraph* to-day has the following:—"In [the Cheyne Row flat of Professor George Edward Catlin] a group of disgruntled Labour Members of Parliament tackled Labour Ministers. . . .

"In the background, smiling sardonically, Labour Chairman Harold Laski kept making donnish cracks. He had given the first indication of the strength of the backbench revolt against the official policy at a Labour Party meeting on Wednesday night in honour of Indian leader Pandit Nehru's birthday."

We seem to be at the stage of dotting the i's and crossing the t's of the protocols. Which train does the Messiah arrive by?

We are to have a Mond-Turner stunt next month—"Peace in Industry." Chifley is calling a conference of Governments, workers and employers. Proposal: (1) Reform of the arbitration system; (2) Establishment of permanent committees of workers and managements; and (3) Establishment of an industrial relations board to advise on production costs,

## "They Toil Not"

By B. M. PALMER.

At the Church Assembly on November 16 the opinion was expressed that a further Measure was needed to relieve the parochial clergy of the heavy burdens entailed by many large residences and grounds that were out of proportion to their incomes.

It is not only the country gentleman who is disappearing, it is the country clergyman who was also a gentleman, and whose house was often larger than the church where he served. When those houses were built, there was ample means to keep them up. It is well to remember that the decay of the great English country houses, which gives concern to Miss Edith Olivier,\* is the other side of the picture of the decay of the country clergyman, and it is a little surprising that neither herself nor Christopher Hollis, who reviews her book in the *Tablet* should have emphasised this fact. But both the book and the review are so near to what may properly be termed "literature" that anything that may be said here is intended to draw attention to something worth reading, rather than to underline evidence of points of difference.

It is of course, generally recognised now, to quote the words of Mr. Hollis, that "if you had taken all the incomes of all the Victorian country gentlemen and divided them out among the poor, the addition to the wealth of the poor would clearly have been negligible." But it does not seem so patent to him that if the poor are any better off now, in the sense that there is less destitution (the quality of their food and clothing is certainly lower, and they are more regimented) this questionable improvement in their condition, loudly proclaimed as one of the rewards of having fought for "freedom," is certainly not due to the impoverishment of many people who played an exceedingly important part in the social credit of the nation. Looked at in this way, the exorbitant taxation of land and the particular method adopted by the planners and bureaucrats to solve the Tithes problem, are acts of pure vandalism, as of course has already been pointed out in the *Land for the Chosen People*, by C. H. Douglas; and it is all part of the policy to destroy all memory even so recent as that of Victorian England. Mr. Hollis says "the country gentleman played so essential a part in the organisation of society that, if you had suddenly excluded them, all would have fallen into such confusion that the standard of living of the poor would greatly have fallen. . . . It is the function and justification of a country gentleman to be a link between the general culture of the world and his own villages. An absentee squire is as wicked as an absentee clergyman." Of course. But Mr. Hollis forgets that many of the squires became absentees because they were taxed out of existence. They did not merely go aimlessly "wandering about the country" as he suggests because of the invention of cheap and easy railway travel and high-powered motor cars. This was not the cause of the decline of their culture. By far the best and the largest number of them—and especially of those who had been expropriated—were deeply attached to their land, and to their people.

Miss Olivier's account of Miss Anne Moberley, daughter of a famous head of Winchester, and of Miss Barbara

Townsend, who lived for ninety-seven years in the Cathedral Close at Salisbury, reminds us that the lives of these ladies were passed in Trollope's England. There has recently been more than one advertisement in the personal column of the *Times* for copies of Trollope's works, and if a genuine interest in this period is on the increase, it is all to the good. Far more can be learned from the "Barchester" novels about mid-Victorian country life than from almost any other source. Trollope was that present-day impossibility, the *honest* best-seller—he spoke the truth, as it appeared to him, and, strange to say, the English liked it, and he died worth many thousands. Nor did he have the slightest compunction concerning his profits, bless him. His *Autobiography*, and his two novels, *The Warden* and *Framley Parsonage* are good companions on the bookshelf with *The Big Idea* and *The Land for the Chosen People*, for they paint the scenery for the unfolding of the present-day drama.

The mistaken belief of Mr. Hollis that there must inevitably be a "market for the professional" has already been dealt with in *The Social Crediter* for November 10; what we have to get rid of is the idea that anything whatever should be done *except* by amateurs. The claim to sustentation is something entirely apart, and has been set forth once for all in the sublime poetry "Consider the lilies. . . ." Mr. Hollis adds that now "for the first time ability is a bar to success." That is, of course, as he would probably admit, ability allied with integrity. For the able man can get anywhere to-day, provided he does not object to dirty hands and feet.

We are grateful to Miss Olivier for her labour of love—she has set forth with understanding sympathy the lives of these great Englishwomen—none the less great because their names will not be mentioned in the primers of English History and Literature now preparing for our State Schools—great amateurs because they loved and understood their own culture, and were able to live in its service without a thought for the morrow. They were nearer than anyone else has been for the last five hundred years to "choosing one thing at a time." For that reason their environment was marked down for destruction. It has been decided that in future no one shall be allowed to choose.

It is still a mystery why the large and influential section of the population represented by the English squires and clergy allowed themselves to be ruined, in company with the countryside which they so loved, by a vicious and discriminating taxation, while scarcely raising a word in protest. Miss Olivier suggests part of the reason. She says:—(writing of the building of the Wyndhams' family home at Clouds),

"The Wyndhams designed it thinking that it was destined to shelter many successive generations of their family: for if there was any one thing of which the Victorians were more calmly certain than of anything else, it was of the permanence of their own way of life. Progress they accepted as a universal law,—a 'progress slowly broadening down from precedent to precedent.' That had been assured them by Professor Darwin, and by the latest school of historians who built their philosophy upon his doctrine of evolution. Lord Tennyson had raised these theories of science and of history to the level of a poetic vision. People of all schools of thought were now convinced that the world had for ever moved away from the Age of Barbarism. If a war was heard of, it always took place a very long way off, in some remote continent which had not yet come under the

\**Four Victorian Ladies of Wiltshire*, by Edith Olivier, Faber and Faber, 12/6.

beneficent sway of Queen Victoria's sceptre. . . And now the estate of Clouds has become a Garden City for the intelligentsia."

Yes, the poison had spread far away from the Universities, into the studios of these great amateurs, who lived only *pour cultiver leurs jardins*. They thought that politics was a dirty game, and would always be a dirty game—so why bother with it? They had something better to do. And when the plans for their destruction were finally revealed to them, they had no means of resistance; having neglected their business for so long they no longer knew how to mind it. And beyond this there were, of course, a fair proportion of them who had already entered so deeply into the dirty game, (like Mr. Sowerby, M.P.), that they had no means of extricating themselves, while their very presence there, under the shadow of Sidonia, simply made escape for their fellow victims even more impossible.

Miss Olivier is to be congratulated upon a valuable contribution to the real understanding of the Victorian era, an understanding which shows every sign of developing before it is too late to retrieve at least a part of the treasure.

## The Kingship in Belgium

(Extracts from a letter dated Antwerp, November 4, 1945.)

This Leopold business is a very sad story and the Belgian people really *pleure son roi*. But the politicians have decided "no." I have never been before the war what one might call a *proroyaliste*. I always considered that Crowns, Kings, Royal Families and Royal Corteges were only intended to amuse and arouse the enthusiasm of the more humble *concierges et cuisinières*. But what has been happening in Belgium is the very limit.

They are looking for any dirty trick to get that man down. When one fails, well they find another, and if necessary get the evidence from one of the Nazi war criminals. And the reason? I think they do not want a strong man in Belgium any more than they want General de Gaulle in France or Franco in Spain. Long before the liberation I told people, and General Smuts has said it publicly, that Belgium would become a British dominion. They would not dominate us like Germany but work through a puppet government. Leopold would not stand for that. He has a will of his own like your King Edward, and is going the same way. They tried the same game with de Gaulle. That is why France is at present starving and why in Belgium there is plenty of food. Can you imagine that a man like our Prime Minister, without much culture or education, would dare to fight our King without a strong backing? Do you remember the official declarations of the allies that they would not interfere in the question of the King because it was an internal political matter; that they would not lend him a motor car to travel from Austria to Belgium because people would say that they had interfered in the matter? And now we learn that during all that time they were passing secret documents to our government to knock the King down. 75 per cent. of the people are for Leopold and in Flanders even 95 per cent. They dare not organise a referendum. It would be an overwhelming victory for the King. That is "democracy," or the will of the people. Here in Belgium, if you defend Leopold you are a Fascist; if you go to a manifestation for the

King's return you get beaten up by communists. And people who know on which side their bread is buttered, being afraid of losing their jobs, begin to be very careful about expressing their opinion. I enclose an article from the leading catholic paper. How is it all going to end? I am afraid that if Leopold does come back they will launch general strikes and riots.

That is why you read in the English press that things are better in Belgium. We can even read it in our own papers, but it is all propoganda in order to back up our present government. The food situation is indeed better. Otherwise we have been living for the last nine or ten months at zero and the present economic situation is about 20 per cent. of normal, so the government newspapers pretend that there is a big improvement. The stockmarket has declined 25 per cent.; all private business is at a standstill for the good reason that the government is doing all the import and export business itself. During the last twelve months we have received exactly four cwt. of coal. One should not forget that Belgium has suffered a lot less through the war than Holland or France. During his visit to Brussels de Gaulle received a tremendous reception. I think the allies were rather vexed about that.

The government is preparing the coming elections. They have already taken away the right to vote from all *inciviques* (read royalists). The women do not receive the right to vote until after the coming elections because they are all Royalists. If they go on as at present, only socialists and communists will be allowed to vote. We are living here under perfect dictatorship. The world gang is at its ease in Belgium.

## Yevele, ?1320-1400

"... The nineteenth century was less fitted to understand Gothic life than any period for some fifteen hundred years, but whatever we may think of the twentieth century, it has at any rate wiped the soapy grin off the face of Utopian Progress. Most people are being cured, rather drastically, of the hallucination that all previous periods were part of a steady progression towards the beatific vision of a machine age where the machines coin endless money for the sustenance of an all-knowing Enlightened Humanity. The Dark Ages, when corn was esteemed rather as a food, and even as a divine essence, than as an adjunct to the scenery for the benefit of a rambling townsman's half-holiday; when gold was considered so beautiful that it was worked by the hands of inspired artists into gifts for Kings, instead of being assiduously stored in reinforced and bomb-proof vaults, where no one, not even a King, can see it at all; when the senseless folly of personal combat between professional soldiers with a zest for fighting was preferred to the more magnificent spectacle of total war; these Dark Ages are again finding a few admirers, who are tempted to think that there was something in their spirit worth reviving, and that they possibly were not so dark after all.

"There is a special reason why, out of those dark ages of past time, I choose the later part of the fourteenth century. It was the nearest period in English history when our culture, as a whole, was not visibly less balanced, less perfect, than what had gone before. I might have gone farther back, as a poet may seek his inspiration even from Virgil or Homer,

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## PARLIAMENT

*(Continued from page 3)*

or from sentimental aesthetes. But that is far from the truth, because surely everybody to-day will agree that the needs of the people must come first. The public interest must override all other matters if the public interest is strong enough. Few, I think, will quarrel with that proposition. And it is quite evident that the Highlands need electricity. The Tribunal which sat at the inquiry in Edinburgh were satisfied that there is a shortage of electricity in Scotland. Very well, let us accept the view that the Highlands need electricity and that only by the medium of water power can it be most economically supplied. I want to ask the noble Earl, the Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Board, whether his Board have seriously considered any other scheme. Has every avenue been explored by which the waters of Scotland can supply the rural districts and glens of the Highlands with their electricity without the vast upheaval which schemes such as the Tummel-Garry scheme entail? Are all these vast constructional works necessary for the object in view. Has every other way been tried?

Scotland, you know, is not a large country. Its physical features are small compared with those of Continental countries. You cannot compare their conditions. A dam 60ft. high with a power house in the middle which might be inconspicuous in a Scandinavian, Canadian or Swiss landscape, could not fail to be, to say the least, a grave eyesore when planted down in the middle of such a district as Pitlochry. I ask again, has every avenue been explored? Has the Board ever given consideration to smaller or more moderate schemes which highly qualified engineers could tell your Lordships, as they have told me, have proved themselves over a number of years to be economical; schemes which can compare favourably with the larger schemes, and, what is more important from our point of view, can be carried out with a minimum of destruction to the scenery? Such schemes could perfectly well supply the rural districts and glens of Scotland with all the electricity needed for present and future requirements with an ample margin for any light industries that might be brought there later on. Surely this was the object of the Act of 1943—to bring electricity to the rural districts. . . .

There is a definite priority order laid down by the Secretary of State. Let us be quite clear about it—it is consumer first, industry second, and the grid third. And what do we see in the Tummel-Garry scheme? We see the order exactly reversed; the grid first and the rest nowhere. We know now—the Board make no bones about it, they are perfectly frank—that the immediate purpose of the Tummel-Garry scheme is to export current to the Central Electricity Board, the grid. . . .

Whenever this point is brought up, they always give you the same answer. They say: "The Board has got to pay its way. Only by an economical scheme can you pay for the uneconomical schemes. The Board have got to balance their budget over a period of years." But many of us think this: If the Board have got to balance their budget at the expense of our glorious Scottish scenery that is far too high a price to pay. We feel that they should look around and find other means of balancing their budget. We think that it is acting upon a wrong principle for the Board to go down to a particular district and say: "Here we come to put into operation an economical scheme. You have assets which we require for that scheme. Come on, you have got

to hand them over." That is what it amounts to. . . .

The Falls of Tummel—here is a much more serious matter even than the ones I have mentioned—were considered of such beauty that they were acquired by the National Trust of Scotland. They were gifted to the Trust by a public-spirited benefactor by conveyance, and the conveyance expressly provided that this property should be held for the benefit of the nation in perpetuity, that is for all time. Look what has happened. The Falls of Tummel have gone too. There are six other properties of the National Trust which may be affected by the Board's operations as they come within the areas of their future development schemes. . . . What security is there in the future for any properties held by the nation, if they are going to be treated as we have seen the Falls of Tummel treated under this scheme? What security is there? The Board have never given any indication as to how their future schemes may affect the properties of the Trust, although they have been asked by the Council of the Trust for information on this point. Why this secrecy? . . .

My last point is this. It concerns the whole principle of the Board's activities, although it does not actually refer to the Tummel-Garry scheme. The Board have expressed this view, in answer to a letter from the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland on another scheme, the Fenwick scheme, that most of the potential electric power in Scotland depends for its development upon a diversion of water power from one watershed to another. This is surely a very serious matter. Do people quite realise how completely the Scottish landscape is going to be altered in the future—and alas, it cannot be for the better, it must be for the worst? We all know the scars all over the countryside which these dried-up water courses will leave. In any case, I often wonder how these schemes with the diversions of water which they are to entail, will fit in with the requirements of local authorities for water. Scotland has just as great a need of water as of electricity. The rural districts are crying out for water. Would it not have been far better if some comprehensive scheme had been drawn up to start with for the whole of the Highlands in which the requirements of local authorities for water and electricity could have been correlated?

Looking to the future, schemes which entail diversion of water from one watershed to another are dangerous and improvident, and if the Board are allowed a loose rein to proceed with these schemes in the manner they propose to do, Scotland, far from gaining any benefit from the Hydro-Electric Development Board will only gain a lot of trouble from them. That is why there is so much trouble in Scotland, because the Board with the Electricity Commissioners behind them appear to be the planning authorities for the Highlands and there seems nothing to stop them going ahead and altering the face of the landscape just to suit their own purposes of producing electricity. As the noble Lord, Lord Kinnaird, has said, the Tummel-Garry scheme has passed into law but there are many more schemes of development ahead, and some assurance from the noble Lord opposite that our Scottish scenery and the properties of the nation will receive more respect in future than they have done in the past will be very welcome in this House to-day. Changes there must be; changes there should be. We all know that, but there are good ways and bad ways of achieving those changes. . . .

*The Earl of Airlie:* ... The Tummel-Garry Scheme using, as it will, waters already stored and controlled in Loch Garry, Loch Éricht and Loch Rannoch, will have an extremely low cost of production. It will have, in fact, as you may have seen mentioned in the newspapers, a cost of production lower than a steam power station even if that steam power station were to get its coal free. . . .

I can tell you that the Grampian Company refused our demands for power for the purpose of carrying out this Number 2 construction scheme because they could not supply it to us. They wrote to us—we have the letter in our office—asking us when we were going to get on with the scheme because they were short of power and wanted power from us. . . . although this is perhaps a lesser matter, it will help by increasing the amount derived from rates; it will give a fairly substantial increase up to about £20,000. It will meet the increased demand for power from that area, and it is obvious that that demand must even further increase if that area is to be properly developed by the Grampian Company.

*The Earl of Mansfield:* Will the noble Earl excuse my interrupting to ask, did not the report of the Commission say there has been no direct benefit to consumers in the area?

*The Earl of Airlie:* I will explain what benefit there will be. To anybody who knows that area it is perfectly patent that there must be a large extension of demand there when that company really gets going. Half the houses have not got cookers or refrigerators. It may be that they cannot get the machinery yet, but there will be a demand. At present the company cannot meet that demand. They will want further supplies in the future and we are the only people who can give them to them. Powers are vested in this Board for the generation of water power, and only in this Board. Thirdly, it will help the Highlands as a whole. I do not think it is an idle suggestion when I suggest that we have got to get away from this parochial outlook. One of course sympathises with the area which has suffered, but it is necessary to look at the whole picture. It will help the Highlands as a whole by enabling uneconomic schemes in the Outer Isles and in the far-flung places to be developed which could in no circumstances be developed in any other way because they are completely uneconomic. It will also furnish the moneys whereby a grid can be laid which will distribute electricity throughout the Board's area. Three of the Board's main constructional schemes have already been published. Two of them have been passed, Loch Sloy and Tummel, and the third, Fannich, is before your Lordships' House and another place now. You have therefore the beginning of a Highland grid. . . .

Many of these distribution schemes, as I say, have been prepared, but none of them can be made to pay, and in fact they will actually show a loss collectively which will eventually reach the sum of about £276,000 a year by the fifth year. The figure of loss is likely to stay at that level for some considerable time. The Tummel-Garry scheme, which is undoubtedly the most remunerative scheme in the Board's area for general purposes, will be able to meet the losses on about a third of the schemes a list of which I have just read out. . . . We do not want alternative schemes to the Tummel-Garry scheme; we want more like it. . . .

What is the bravery of the greatest warrior before the firearms in the hand of a slave?—Joseph Conrad.

YEVELE, ?1320-1400

(Continued from page 6)

or a sculptor from Phidias or his archaic predecessors. But to go farther back is to go beyond what is English; the history of all that we can distinguish from its French, Danish, Celtic, or primitive Iberian component parts, begins about the thirteenth century, and the process of transformation was only completed after the Black Death.

"Architecturally, we have been in a mess for long enough, which is a polite way of saying too long. We have tried the principles of Vitruvius, that painstaking if un-inspired Roman, the substitute principles of Palladio, the livelier fantasy of Wren, the massive solemnities of Vanburgh, the stately classicism of Carr and the Woods, the Rococo delicacy of the Adam brothers, the pathetic imitations of Periclean Greece, and the Gothic Revival which was not very Gothic and anything but reviving. Since then there has been an era of the most amazing eclecticism which has ended in the blank despair of the so-called functionalist, whose purpose seems to be to strip life of all those apparently unessential graces which make life something more than existence."—John H. Harvey (Preface: *Henry Yevele, The Life of an English Architect.*)

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