

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## From Week to Week

In 1883, the publishing firm of Macmillan brought out *Enquiries into Human Faculty*, the author of which was Francis Galton, a relative of Charles Darwin's and the advocate of "Eugenics", a movement, the merits of which were thought to be made more acceptable by advertising the fact that it was "recognised by the University of London, and has its home in University College." (Readers of these pages will be familiar with our view that the press work in connection with most of the movements of the Nineteenth Century is a fruitful object of study.) Among Galton's *Enquiries*, was one into the more objective phenomena of mental imagery—an enquiry which traced "so far as could be gathered from their respective statements," what people mean when they talk about the "lines" followed by their thought. We are not by any means condemning the enquiry, which seems to have been conducted with exceptional care. Certainly there seems to have been no discrimination against any individual competent to answer Galton's questions faithfully, and the returns upon which he relied were furnished "by 100 men, at least half of whom are distinguished in science or in other fields of intellectual work." That Galton does not refer in his essay to the vast literature in one way or another associating "form" with "number" on the one hand and "ideas" on the other, from Pythagoras onwards, which concerns itself noticeably with manifestations of the "harmonic" principle, is neither here nor there. Pythagoras was a member of neither the French Institute nor the Royal Society. Whether Albert Pike (1885) was distinguished in any "field of intellectual work" other than Freemasonry is a matter unknown to us, as he in his turn may have been unknown to Francis Galton. Nevertheless, it is a fact that Galton, under the heading of "Number Forms", gives three text figures and two plates of, in all, forty-five other figures representing the various ways in which the individuals he consulted "pictured" the behaviour of figures represented serially to their consciousness, besides a number of colour associations with both numbers and sounds. It seems to us not without some significance, the nature of which it is not our present purpose to unveil, that not one of Galton's illustrations in the remotest degree resembles the peculiar 'thought patterns' of the Judaic backers of Mr. Attlee's government.

Unless a race of men discloses itself which naturally thinks in terms of the hendekaglyph, and the double hexagram, we shall advise the public rigidly to set aside as fantastic any and every suggestion that the attachment of occult symbols

to public documents can possibly be anything but premeditated, and the work of Satan.

The Hebrew letter 'Shin', Clarence, is also the distinctive symbol of Lucifer.

Since the disappearance from its imprimature of the list of more or less Conservative members of the Houses of Parliament said to be the originators of the Imperial Policy Group, Messrs. Ridgway, Courcy and Company's *Review of World Affairs* has become less reserved along certain lines. The devotion of two pages to eulogy of Mr. Hore-Belisha, the gentleman who "as a matter of facility added the name of his step-father" to his own, "and thus became Leslie Hore-belisha," seems to be connected with the prophesy that Lord Woolton "too, may soon be involved in competition." Presumably the line was written before Lord Woolton's conversion to 'Conservatism' was known. But anyway, Mr. de Courcy has a 'scoop' in announcing Mr. Hore-Belisha's.

If anything can defeat the resolution of the housewives now it will be the blessing of the 'free' Press.

We are not surprised to learn from a report of a Birkenhead conference of bakers that the scheme now proposed for application was that pigeon-holed by Lord Woolton for use in "extreme war emergency": nor that the scheme is designed to save only 5 per cent. of current consumption.

## For the Times

And in all ages, since the people shut  
With the blank seal of death the inspired lips  
Of Socrates—since that yet darker hour  
When blood-stained Calvary owned their sovereign power,  
And nature groaned in Earthquake and Eclipse,  
Has that fierce voice, at some loud babler's nod,  
Been lifted in blind rage against the voice of God.

The late Sir J. Noël Paton, *Spindrift*.

## Bread Rationing Proposals

London Social Crediters who cannot find employment in the measures now being taken to oppose the rationing of bread in their own locality are advised to offer assistance to Mrs. Lovelock, Selhurst Vicarage, S.E. 25.

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, June 24, 1946.

### Poland (Elections)

*Professor Savory* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the Polish Provisional Government has now suspended the Polish Peasant Party in six of the most densely populated areas where it has large followings; and whether he will point out to the Polish Provisional Government that this attempt to force Mr. Mikolajczyk to join a single election bloc is inconsistent with the free and unfettered elections guaranteed by the Yalta Agreement, for which the British as well as the Polish Provisional Government is responsible.

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Recalling, as he does, the solemn undertakings given by the Polish Provisional Government in January last, and regretting the increased tension in Polish political life at the present time, my right hon. Friend is gravely concerned by the delay in holding elections in Poland, and by the signs that this delay is being used to undermine one of the principal parties permitted by Polish law.

*Professor Savory*: I feel sure that the right hon. Gentleman will realise the intensive form of intimidation which is being carried out to prevent free and unfettered elections, guaranteed by the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements.

*Mr. Sydney Silverman*: In view of the continued use, both in the Question and answer, of the words "Polish Provisional Government," and in view of the misunderstanding which has already occurred in that matter, will my right hon. Friend make it clear that there is nothing provisional in His Majesty's Government's recognition of this Government and that His Majesty's Government recognise them, *de jure* and *de facto*, as the only Government?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Yes, of course, Sir, but we recognise them on condition that there should be free democratic elections at which the long-term constitutional system of Poland should be settled.

*Vice-Admiral Taylor*: In view of the fact that the Polish Provisional Government have not carried out the conditions of recognition, how long is that recognition going to continue?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: I have made a strong and considered statement on behalf of the Government, and I do not think I had better add to it. The Polish Government are fully aware of our views.

### Growing Orders (Financial Loss)

*Major J. Morrison* asked the Minister of Agriculture what right of appeal is allowed to farmers and smallholders where crops are grown by compulsory order under conditions which are certain to involve the grower in financial loss.

*Mr. T. Williams*: There is no statutory right of appeal against directions given to farmers to grow specified crops, but committees are always ready to give careful consideration to any representations made to them, subject to the overriding necessity of production of the particular crops required to maintain supplies essential to the well-being of the community. In any case I am not prepared to accept the implication that directions are given which are certain to involve the grower in financial loss.

### Wheat-growing (Exhausted Land)

*Major J. Morrison* asked the Minister of Agriculture what provision the Government are making to compensate farmers who have been ordered to grow wheat on land which is already exhausted or on marginal land and where the growing of it must result in financial loss.

*Mr. T. Williams*: Under the instructions given to county agricultural executive committees farmers should not be ordered to grow wheat on land which is already exhausted or is quite unsuitable for that crop. No question of compensation should therefore arise.

### Railways

#### (Sleeping Accommodation)

*Mr. Teeling* asked the Minister of Transport why the G.W.R. has only first class sleepers on the two night expresses to Penzance, when first and third class sleepers are provided on the L.M.S. expresses covering similar distances.

*Mr. Mikardo*: Is my right hon. Friend aware that throughout the whole of Glasgow there are widespread allegations of serious irregularities on the part of the staff who issue these permits?

*Mr. Barnes*: I do not think widespread allegations should be made without hon. Members submitting evidence to me.

### Bank of England (Assets)

*Mr. Birch* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is now in a position to state the value of the assets of the Bank of England on the date of acquisition by the State.

*Mr. Dalton*: No, Sir.

House of Commons, June 25, 1946.

### Information Officers

#### (Function)

*Mr. De la Bère* asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the increasing control that the Government are exercising throughout the country as a result of their nationalisation of many industries, he will give an assurance that the Government will refrain from introducing Government views and Government news by the utilisation of the publicity agents which are attached to all Government Departments.

*The Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee)*: If the hon. Member means that information officers should not function for the issue of news and comments on matters concerning their Departments, the answer is: "No, Sir."

### Food Situation

*Mr. McGovern*: Is the hon. Gentleman [The Secretary of State for War] aware that the general impression is growing in this country that the people of this country, on the food situation, are being taken for a ride, and that the reports coming from all quarters are, that the food situation is not nearly as bad as it is reported to be to the people of this country? Is he aware that the people of this country are becoming very greatly disturbed about these reports?

(continued on page 6)

## Norwegian Farmers Take Action

Inspired by what they have heard of the effort of Sheffield ratepayers before the war to obtain lower rates without a decrease in social services, the farmers at Roros in Norway have formed a Farmers' Action Committee to obtain signatures to the following demand:—

### THE FARMERS' DEMAND

It is our aim that the people be provided with the purchasing-power necessary to enable the people as consumers to obtain the agricultural products they need. The choice of goods must be free, and the farmers should be freed of all unnecessary control so that they will be able to comply with the existing demand. But this must be done in such a manner that there is no increase in taxes, debt, or prices of goods.

The advantages to be gained by the farmers through the fulfilment of the demand are that they will be better able to exploit the local possibilities of production, and that new markets will open up, just outside their doors, so to speak.

This will enable the farmers to make full use of their means of production, and the foundation for continuous and steady progress will have been laid.

We therefore expect that this demand will be supported by:

1. The farmers who want to sell more of their produce.
2. Those who distribute the goods who will get more to distribute.
3. The entire nation who want an increase in food production in case of international complications.

If the Norwegian authorities lack the technical experts who can carry through the necessary changes, then we can provide them.

As free electors and tax-payers we, the undersigned, demand:

1. That the freedom and security of the Norwegian people be safeguarded and guaranteed. People without food are neither free nor secure.
2. Consequently the agricultural community must be provided with such conditions as will ensure to the nation its own food from its own agriculture and fisheries.
3. The first step in this direction must be to provide people with sufficient purchasing-power to enable them to pay the producers of food a reasonable wage for their work, but this must not be done in such a way that taxes or debt will increase, or raise prices beyond what is necessary to provide people engaged in production or distribution with a reasonable salary.
4. As electors and tax-payers we intend to repeat this demand till we have been heard.

Members of Parliament and civil servants who are paid by us can equally well be dismissed by us if our demands are not met.

We sign the demand set out above:—

[Space for signatures].

The forms are distributed in a folder bearing information on the economic position.

The most prominent words on the cover are, in Norwegian, "The People's Will is Norway's Law," followed by the instruction: "Choose two interested persons in each parish to lead the campaign. Meanwhile results may be reported to the Farmers' Action Committee, Postbox 2, Roros." Prominently below this is the statement: "This is no party matter. Everybody who has a vote may sign. If you wish to help in the fight for Economic Democracy, get a form and collect signatures."

Elsewhere it is pointed out that while the expert estimate of the needs of Norwegian homes is for the equivalent of 2,008 millions of pints of whole milk annually, Norwegians have been, at one and the same time, exporting a proportion of a smaller production while being exhorted to "Eat more Butter and Cheese."

## Architects of Fortune

In the National News Session at 7-45 a.m., on July 2, 1946, the Hon. A. A. Calwell, Federal Member of Parliament for Melbourne, was reported as follows:

"The Minister for Information and Immigration (Mr. Calwell) speaking at the headquarters of East Sydney Jewry last night, told the meeting that his Department, assisted by a typist and typewriter from the Australian Council of Jewry, had recently rushed through 2,000 landing permits for relatives of Jews in Australia to enable these victims of German concentration camps to become architects of their own fortunes in Australia.

"The Minister said that Australia should become known at home and abroad as a tolerant nation, a land that was eager to welcome all comers at all times regardless of their nationality or previously prescribed immigration conditions. Mr. Calwell said he had dispensed with the necessity of landing-money, on the ground that a citizen without money was as good as one with it."

## Gladiators

"If evolutionists put forward social theories which are unsound or doubtful, it is quite right that they should be controverted . . . It is only the main principle—that the evolutionary descent of man from other forms of life is proved beyond reasonable doubt—which I am not concerned to argue is definite and final and should be unreservedly accepted." (Last words of article, *The Origin of Man*, by H. S. Shelton, in the *Nineteenth Century and After*, July).

"The fossils afford abundant proof of devolution and extinction, but no proof that a major group of animals, be it family, order, class or phylum, has evolved from any other group. So far as it is possible to prove a negative the fossils prove that the evolution theory is not true." (Last words of an article, *Devolution*, by Douglas Dewar, in the *Nineteenth Century and After*, July).

## "The Social Crediter" Index

The Index compiled by a reader, for which subscriptions were invited some time ago, was not sufficiently in demand to justify printing. Copies have been made by duplicator to meet orders, and these will be distributed immediately.

The printed Index to Volume XV for distribution to all subscribers has been delayed by our old enemy 'the paper situation', but is now in the final stages of production. This Index is being maintained to cover future volumes.

## THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, July 13, 1946.

### An Interim Programme

It is suggested in a quarter outside, but not unfriendly towards Social Credit, that something is stirring among the younger members of the community—not merely another orientation of the unconscious mind to propaganda, but something embodying a dawning sense of personal responsibility for what personal results ensue from present courses.

We have frequently been reproached for a seeming indifference towards the claims of 'youth' (perhaps the most vulnerable element in the 'democratic' compound) to attention on the grounds of its (really their) freedom from entrenched habits of mind and the fact (which is evident) that they will necessarily replace the agents of social life upon whom responsibility is visited sooner or later. A good deal has been said, from time to time, in *The Social Crediter* about the exploitation of youthful idealism and impetuosity (and ignorance) for political purposes. "When the old stagers are on the point of catching you out, engage the attention of the young ones and flatter them!" This was the technique of the German and Italian youth movements, and it has been copied here. Doubtless a large and potentially dangerous force has already been built up. But, if our advisors are trustworthy and if their observations are as discriminating as we have reason to suppose, the inherent danger in this situation may be less great and certainly less conclusive, than we may have supposed. We adhere to opinions formerly held, and expressed in this paper on more than one occasion, that reliance upon the unsophisticated during the past decade (or two decades) for recruitment of political realists of the order necessary to advance the Social Credit cause would have been a discouraging as well as unprofitable folly. If the population now growing to maturity is any more promising than at any time during the last quarter of a century, it is because a succession of spoilt generations has exhausted the sources of corruption for the time being, difficult as that may appear. Ease has been the watchword; and now, when swift disillusionment has succeeded to the greatest mass deception there has ever been, the harder road may be having a steadying effect upon those with enough character left to realise its implications for themselves and for others. Nineteenth century Liberalism wallowed in subversion. Good workmanship was undermined and discouraged. Every tool was blunted, save the tools of Revolution and subordination of the world's peoples and above all the individual himself, all individuals, everywhere, to a policy overriding all sense of Right validated by the experience of centuries. It is characteristic of all wars, and as true of the non-military engagements of mankind as of outbursts of violence that they take toll of the bravest and the best more heavily than of the less strongly willed and less vital. The phenomenon is one of potential, while all man's problems are involved in a product of potential and direction. Direction is an intangible

in the absence of direct perception of its effects, and this is accessible only to thought, and, on high levels, thought of no mean order. The sheep is a ponderous animal. Lambs make good sheep, and, if a relatively small multiplication is made in their numbers, weigh every ounce as much. A mobile majority of youths can be a more terrible as well as a more pitiable danger than a movable majority of refugees from Hitler's tyranny or any other constituted majority of men nominally adult.

But it is not masses which we have at present under consideration, but individuals, and it seems that a new opportunity is in view for assistance from ourselves. The past ten years have been sterile years. The gap between Social Crediters and the uninitiated has widened. This is in part due to the considerable development of a deeper understanding of Social Credit among Social Crediters themselves; but the non-Social Credit-minded have contributed their share in a definite regression, a loss of integrity. Morale, other than that residuum which characterises all fighting populations, confronted with ever-present and bitter trials, more physical in their aspect than spiritual, has been sapped. We can now try to reduce the gap and restore morale. It has been left to our opponents to draw attention to the sufficiency of the Secretariat in regard to the means available for systematic instruction in the elements of Social Credit, and they have not been slow to understand that the elements of Social Credit are the elements of right association—the elements of a workable society. Our opponents do not desire a workable society, and they do not desire the currency of a knowledge of the principles which must necessarily underlie such a society. Social Crediters have their remedy. During the coming weeks, when, for all of us we trust, recreation and preparation for the months ahead (difficult months) may be at least one of our major interests, plans should be elaborated for utilising more fully than before the instruction available. Under the title *The Elements of Social Credit*, this material is now in the press, and groups everywhere should be instituted for its use systematically in spreading a knowledge that the breakdown of civilization is not inevitable. T. J.

### Mr. Shinwell's Figures

The Editor,  
*The Social Crediter*.

Sir,

Mr. Emanuel Shinwell issues recurrently re-assuring figures about coal-production tonnage. I am informed that the published tonnage is in the nature of a racket. In the bad old days of private ownership the miners were allowed to send to the surface coal containing only 2½ per cent. of slate, as a maximum, but now Mr. Shinwell is permitting over 20 per cent. proportion of slate. Thus his published tonnage should be reduced by about 19 per cent. to get a correct comparison with past production.

Should not therefore your description of Mr. Shinwell as "God with us" Shinwell, be more exactly rendered as "God help us" Shinwell? One feels quite bucked to find that one is now not only a National Coal Owner, but a National Slate Owner as well; for which one is paying a money-no-object price. Funny isn't it?

Yours, etc.,

Barnes, July 5,

W. B. LAURENCE.

## SUMMARY

There are, fundamentally speaking, but two political systems in the history of mankind. Whatever the details of any political system may be, that system is either one promoting slavery or one enhancing individual freedom. The systems are fundamentally opposed and irreconcilable. No compromise between the two is possible. You cannot sit on the fence between them as the fence stretches from infinity to infinity. You are either for or against freedom.

Since the dawn of human history there has been carried on a war between the protagonists of the two irreconcilable systems. At times the war has died down. As other times it has flared up in violent battle. There are many such periods known; but they are mainly instances of clashes between nations of such magnitude that true knowledge of them cannot be suppressed, only misrepresented. The two most formidable clashes are probably the attack on ancient Greece and the attack on the British which we are living through now.

There have been other instances where smaller bodies of men tried to break the power of some tyrant and lost, some of these carefully erased from the records of history. The rise of democratic political systems in ancient Greece and in the British Empire was in each case assisted by geographical isolation from the centres of the dominant tyrannical civilisation. Greece was able to develop a high state of culture and make many experiments in living, before Xerxes, the King of Persia came to a full realisation of the threat to his position as world dictator. The fact that he sent 2,000,000 men against the small and militarily disunited Greeks is evidence of the seriousness with which he regarded the Greek experiment.

As for the British Empire, this became so suddenly a great military and moral power of formidable strength that any attack from outside could not succeed and an internal attack was practically the only means of overthrowing British democracy in its efforts to achieve final results. Treachery in high places has, in fact, been the greatest factor in bringing about the present deplorable state of affairs.

Admittedly slave labour was employed in ancient Greece; however not as a matter of principle but merely as an industrial necessity to enable the full citizens of Greece to enjoy the leisure which is a necessary prerequisite for the development of any culture. Owing to the discoveries in many fields of science and their practical application in industry any such slave labour as a *sub stratum* on which to build freedom has become unnecessary.

The potential abundance of to-day is no doubt greater than it has ever been. But even in ancient Egypt, a land that, apart from its relatively simple irrigation system, possessed hardly any industrial equipment, there was an "unemployment problem," *i.e.*, less than the whole adult fit population was needed to produce all the country's requirements. Egypt, being a bulwark of totalitarian slavery, "work", "full employment" was found for the "idea" and these were directed into the building industry and set to work erecting pyramids of stone which had the great advantage of being of no use to anyone except the high priests of dictatorship. Today, the industrial capacity of the world is so colossal that even the building of pyramids would soon be encroaching on the corner sites of the banks and that

would never do. The modern method of preventing people from doing what they could and want to do is twofold; wars are organised to bring about conscription of men and destruction of wealth proportionate to industrial capacity; and the mass of the people are conscripted into the scribbling industry there to build up mountains of forms. Progress as viewed through Socialist eyes is indeed a queer thing.

In the religious sphere these two philosophies have also been given their distinctive expressions. The outstanding pronouncements on the side of freedom are those of Jesus Christ, although all the great moral preachers have stressed the dignity of the individual. This is, of course, the crux of the whole matter and the New Testament makes it clear beyond all shadow of doubt that the individual must be paramount and that any organization to have a valid existence must serve the individuals who support it. As against this there is the pagan concept that the individual exists to serve some institution, the State, the Church, the Party, *etc.* There is as a corollary on our side the God of Mercy, on the other the arbitrary celestial tyrant, who, curiously enough, can speak only through the medium of the high priest, be he a Pharaoh of ancient Egypt or Adolf Hitler with his intuition.

It must be clear to the meanest intelligence that such words as "the State" relate to an abstraction, and that the State if it can mean anything at all means either the organised sum total of its citizens or an anonymous group of men who hide their identity—with very good reason—behind high-sounding phrases. Louis XIV., was at any rate an honest dictator when he said: "*L'état c'est moi.*" We all remember Mussolini's speeches in which he invariably called on all Italians to make more and greater sacrifices "for the State." As the State in any realistic sense was the sum total of the Italians, there was no need to make sacrifices. In fact the Italians were sacrificed for the benefit of Mussolini's backers, largely unknown to the general public and not facing any war crimes charges. The speeches we hear from British Cabinet Ministers often follow the same lines as Mussolini's.

Judaism is at one and the same time a religious and a political expression of the pagan outlook with its theory of the chosen people, its ritualistic trappings, its *Führerprinzip*. It also happens to be the one pagan policy in the world today that is being actively used by men trying to achieve world domination. The religious and political aspects of Judaism are inseparable except for purposes of propaganda. When its devotees are attacked they claim that the attack is on man's religious freedom, when they act, the result is political and at the expense of their hosts. So long as the mass of the Jews tolerate Judaism and allow themselves to be used as the tool of the power maniacs in their midst, so long will they be hated, despised and sooner or later persecuted by their would-be victims. That many Jews fall victims themselves is merely evidence of the utter ruthlessness of their leaders.

A clear understanding of the two opposing forces and their aims, one to enslave the individual to gratify the lust for power of a few, the other to assist the individual to develop himself and his legitimate aspirations, is essential to an understanding of contemporary history. It is the touchstone that distinguishes the true metal from the dross. To test any action or proposal it is only necessary to enquire: "does it assist or does it hinder the individual?" The natural instinct of every man is to develop his own personality; in

the nature of things unique. Once he has grasped the true nature of the two systems and their implications, every sane man will support the Christian-Democratic. Those planning dictatorship must therefore resort to the suppression of facts, the misrepresentation, the miseducation and the crude application of force which is so blatantly being thrust upon us. It is our duty to expose the hypocrisy and to open the eyes of as many honourable men and women as possible; a great, but a noble, task.

H. R. P.

### The Money Power

"Money can only be understood in terms of power. In the hands of the consumer it is power over goods. In the hands of the creative capitalist it is power over the means to produce goods. In the hands of the finance-capitalist, or money lender, it is not only power over producers and consumers, but power as well over nations and their governments." The quotation is from *Menace of the Money Power*, a short pamphlet by A. K. Chesterton which is obtainable from Yeoman Press, 5, Christmas Steps, Bristol, 1; for 1/-. Mr. Chesterton's sources are not all equally sure guides through the mazes of either finance or politics; but the pamphlet is useful.

PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 2)

Hon. Members: Answer.

*Mr. Bellenger*: I think the House will recognise that that Question should not be answered by me. If it is in Order, it should be put to the Minister of Food or to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

#### Government Departments

##### Central Information Office (Coordination)

*Mr. De la Bère* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will take steps, in consultation with the British Government Information Bureau and other appropriate Ministries, to coordinate the work of the paid publicity agents attached to the Departments to eliminate overlapping and to secure a further reduction in the numbers employed, and relinquish the command which they still hold over many important sources of news.

*Mr. Dalton*: Coordination in this field is a normal function of the Treasury, in consultation with the Central Office of Information. I regard the present arrangements as being satisfactory and efficient.

*Mr. De la Bère*: Is the Chancellor aware that substantial sums of the Taxpayers' money are being utilised for producing Government propaganda, which is very often misleading as regards food and many other matters? Would he put a stop to this very undesirable practice in regard to Government propaganda?

*Mr. Dalton*: No, Sir. . . .

#### The Central Information Office

*Mr. De la Bère* asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the total number of paid publicity agents attached to all Government Departments throughout the country on 1st June, 1945; the approximate total cost of their salaries for

the period June, 1945, to June, 1946; and the increase or decrease of numbers employed compared with 1st June, 1945.

*The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Glenvil Hall)*: The information asked for is not immediately available. I will circulate the particulars in the OFFICIAL REPORT at an early date.

*Mr. De la Bère*: Does not the hon. Gentleman agree that utilisation of publicity agents should not only be curtailed but, really, abolished altogether, in view of the widespread abuses that have gone on, especially under this Government with their propaganda? It is all propaganda.

House of Commons, June 26, 1946.

#### Poland (Referendum)

*Mr. Raikes* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that a referendum is being held in Poland before the general election; whether this was provided for in the Potsdam or any other agreement; and whether His Majesty's Government and the Government of the U.S.A. have inquired into the objects and terms of this referendum and have signified their approval of such a measure.

*Mr. McNeil*: A referendum is to be held in Poland on 30th June. It is not required by the Potsdam or Yalta agreements, which, as the House is aware, provided for the holding of free and unfettered elections. . . .

*Mr. Raikes*: Does it not appear to the Minister that this referendum is merely a device to put off holding a free and fair election until Mr. Mikolajczyk's party has been liquidated by the Communists?

*Mr. McNeil*: I could not accept the implication, but it is fair to say that quite clearly, in the view of His Majesty's Government, this referendum is no substitute for a free and unfettered election.

*Mr. Boothby*: Has the hon. Gentleman any information regarding what this referendum is about?

*Mr. McNeil*: Yes, I have some information. It refers primarily to the proposed constitution of a single Chamber, and also asks for an endorsement of the nationalisation measures which the present Warsaw Government are carrying out.

#### Food Supplies

##### Danish Food Parcels

*Mr. Driberg* asked the Minister of Food if he is aware that individual food parcels are being sent from Denmark to persons in Britain and various European countries, such parcels being purchaseable with dollars in New York or in Paris, and containing butter, cream, ham and steak; approximately, what percentage of the total food exports of Denmark is represented by this traffic; and what steps are being taken to secure all available food from Denmark for the world's common stock.

*Dr. Summerskill*: My right hon. Friend is aware of the arrangements referred to. I understand that the Danish Government have limited the total amounts of butter, bacon, canned meat, canned milk and cheese which may be used in such parcels to quantities which in no case would exceed one half of one *per cent.*, of the probable Danish exportable surpluses, and in most cases would be a much smaller

percentage. His Majesty's Government is doing all that they can to enable Denmark to increase her food exports. The allocations of the Combined Food Board took full account of these exports.

*Mr. Driberg:* However small the percentage may be, is not this a rather undesirable traffic, in so far as these parcels are not going to really hungry people but to prosperous people in countries where there are adequate rations?

*Dr. Summerskill:* I can assure my hon. Friend that we have made representations. However, he must remember that Denmark is a sovereign country.

*Mr. Gammons:* Can the hon. Lady say why there should be any restrictions placed upon people who want to send parcels of food to this country?

*Dr. Summerskill:* I would remind the hon. Gentleman that the Combined Food Board is allocating food today.

*Mr. Keeling:* In regard to the second part of the Question, is the trouble about buying food from Denmark that they want coal in exchange?

*Dr. Summerskill:* They probably want a lot of things in exchange. We are doing everything possible. We have a commission over there now, and at the moment we are considering long term contracts for bacon, butter and cheese.

### Olive Oil

*Mr. Stokes* asked the Minister of Food why no salad oil is being imported from Italy; and what steps he proposes to take to ensure a plentiful supply in future.

*Dr. Summerskill:* At the present time Italy could supply this country with olive oil only in exchange for other vegetable oils which cannot be spared. . . .

*Captain Noel-Baker:* Will the hon. Lady bear in mind that Greece also produces fine salad oils, and that there are indications of a surplus of oil in that country?

*Mr. C. S. Taylor:* Is the hon. Lady aware that the housewife is not concerned with the large financial dealings of the Ministry of Food with other countries, but feels that this country has contributed a certain amount towards winning the war?

### Miners' Charter (Government Policy)

*Sir Ian Fraser:* In view of the probability that nationalisation will lead to an increase of boards of control and management, will the Minister assure us that it is not the intention of the Government to arrange economic policy in advance of their coming into action, and without regard to the economic consequences?

*Mr. Shinwell:* I do not know anything about an increase in the number of boards associated with the mining industry. There is to be one board and one alone. As regards planning in advance, that is certainly the Government's intention. They have no intention of planning when it is too late.

### Food for Britain (Gift Parcels)

*Mr. Stubbs* asked the Minister of Food if he is aware that gift food parcels from Empire countries are rotting in the King George V Dock, North Woolwich; and what steps he is taking to prevent this waste.

*Dr. Summerskill:* It is true that there are a large number of packages of gift food from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa awaiting distribution at United Kingdom ports. There are no gifts from Canada awaiting distribution. All gift consignments are subject to routine inspection; those lying in the London docks were specially inspected last week. There is no sign of deterioration in their condition, nor, in the past, have any of these gifts deteriorated at the docks. Since the first distribution was made last Christmas, approximately 140 shipments have arrived and 200,000 gift packages have been allocated, the bulk of which have actually been distributed. The quantity arriving in this country has increased substantially during the last few months and approximately 170,000 packages are still awaiting allocation. Every package has been individually allocated, distributed and accounted for, and the allocation and distribution arrangements have involved in consequence a very great deal of work. . . .

*Sir J. Mellor* asked the Minister of Food an estimate of the increase in the staff of his Department necessary for bread rationing; and of the additional cost in salaries, wages and accommodation.

*Dr. Summerskill:* A scheme of bread rationing on the lines at present under consideration would require between 1,500 and 2,000 additional staff at local food offices at a cost of approximately £350,000 per annum. A larger number would be necessary for a month or two at the outset while the scheme was being inaugurated. The increase of staff outside the local food offices would be negligible and only in exceptional cases would additional accommodation be needed.

*Mr. Erroll* asked the Minister of Food why he revealed the first full details of the new bread rationing book to the public of the U.S.A. instead of to the people of Britain; and whether he will make a statement on the matter.

*Dr. Summerskill:* My right hon. Friend did not reveal to the American public details of the possible bread rationing scheme. He simply told them, as he had previously told this House, that plans for a scheme were being made, and in confirmation he showed certain cards which had been printed to provide part of the machinery if the scheme has to be applied.

### Transport Charges (Increases)

*Mr. Boyd-Carpenter* (Kingston-upon-Thames): I beg to move:

"That the Railway-owned Harbours, Docks and Piers (Increase of Charges) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O., 1946, No. 846), dated 15th June, 1946, a copy of which was presented on 19th June, be annulled."

. . . It is beyond all argument that increases of this nature constitute an element in the costs of almost every form of industrial production in as much as rail transport forms part of them. It is equally manifest that increases of this nature in passenger fares cannot be without their repercussions upon the wages policy of the Government, although I am not myself clear as to what that wages policy is. . . . That being so, it is fair that the House should have an opportunity of examining the question, and hear the Minister's justification for it. I am certain the right hon. Gentleman will welcome the opportunity to tell the House, in a fuller manner than

was possible to him in accordance with the Rules of Order when he made his statement on the 29th May, why he has taken the action which he has taken, and what will result in this very sharp increase of charges from 1st July. The House has the advantage, which it does not always have when discussing delegated legislation, of having some information as to the reason why this action was taken. . . .

*The Minister of Transport (Mr. Barnes):* . . . The problem arises because we have to meet, in this year, as in previous years, the rent fixed at £43 million which is the payment made to the railways by the Government and with which they repay their interest charges. To that extent we have to make up that deficit, and as that is roughly, the estimated sum, it can be argued that this increase of fares is for the purpose of providing the interest charge on the capital. However, those capital charges would have to be met, whether the railways were in the hands of the State or in the hands of individual shareholders. It is merely a question of meeting the normal, economic legitimate charges which rest upon railway transport.

*Lord William Scott:* There is a lot of doubt in the House on this question, I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to answer a straightforward question,—whether the acceptance or refusal of this Order would make a halfpenny of difference to any shareholder in any railway company? Will the Minister answer “Yes” or “No.”?

*Mr. Barnes:* Certainly not if the hon. Member puts it that way, but I submit that it is an irrelevant way to approach this problem. I put that point quite clearly earlier. The State is under an obligation to meet that charge, and nobody suggests that we should dishonour our responsibility. It is a legitimate charge in this year's railway charges, and must be met by railway users or by the Budget. . . .

. . . I may say that . . . prices have increased largely under the determination of private enterprise. Hon. Members claim that these matters should receive proper consideration, but they are placing themselves in this position. They admit that these increases have occurred over some of the basic commodities of this country, and have entered largely into transport, but they then say it is sound business policy to ignore factors of this description and they advocate generally that we should place these charges on the Budget. In no other industry is that policy followed.—[HON. MEMBERS: “Food.”]—Well, that was not determined by a Socialist Government, but by a Coalition Administration. It has to be borne in mind that the result of the subsidy policy in food, is that the basic supplies have risen far above the level of the controlled and subsidised food supplies. . . .

*Mr. Boyd-Carpenter:* I beg formally to move:

“That the Railways (Additional Charges) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O., 1946, No. 842), dated 15th June, 1946, a copy of which was presented on 19th June, be annulled.”

The House divided: Ayes, 36; Noes, 121.

AYES:—Baldwin, A. E.; Boles, Lt.-Col. D. C. (Wells); Bower, N.; Buchan-Hepburn, P. G. T.; Challen, C.; Cooper-Key, E. M.; Crosthwaite-Eyre, Col. O. E.; Crowder, Capt. J. F. E.; Darling, Sir W. Y.; Davidson, Viscountess; Drayson, G. B.; Foster, J. G. (Northwich); Fox, Sqn.-Ldr. Sir G.; Gage, Lt.-Col. C.; Gomme-Duncan, Col. A. G.; Hope, Lord J.; Jennings, R.; Lambert, Hon. G.; Legge-Bourke, Maj. E. A. H.; Lennox-Boyd, A. T.; Lloyd, Maj. Guy (Renfrew, E.); Low, Brig. A. R. W.; Marsden, Capt. A.; Mellor, Sir J.; Neven-Spence, Sir B.; Orr-Ewing, I. L.; Raikes, H. V.;

Roberts, W. (Cumberland, N.); Scott, Lord W.; Stoddart-Scott, Col. M.; Stuart, Rt. Hon. J. (Moray); Thomas, J. P. L. (Hereford); Turton, R. H.; Wakefield, Sir W. W.; Walker-Smith, D. and York, C.

*Tellers for the Ayes*—Mr. Boyd-Carpenter and Mr. Charles Taylor.

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