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“Coal, the Key” (P.E.P. Slogan)

By C. H. DOUGLAS.

I

One of the difficulties which besets anyone who wishes to understand current events is the prevalence of the dishonest metaphor. That which is the title of this article is an instance of an attempt—on the whole, a successful attempt—to obscure an undisclosed policy by emphasis on a plausible means.

A key is an instrument which produces an unique effect upon a lock. It postulates the nature of the effect, and that the effect is a desired effect. Coal does not uniquely open any lock; and the effect which its use produces may vary, and does vary, from that of baking our daily, rationed and adulterated bread, to the production by Chemical Cartels of high explosives, poison gases, soil sterilisers and the bread adulterants. In order to give meaning to the metaphor, we have first to decide something which is antecedent to coal. Why do we want more, or as much, coal? Would the world have been impossible without coal?

It would be easy, but it would not be realistic, to enter at once into the examination of the economic uses of coal. But it is obvious that policy must precede administration, and it is therefore true, if somewhat surprising, to say, that the primary objective of the use of coal is the coal-miner and his Trades-Union in co-operation with the Chemical Cartel and its financiers. Mr. Will Lawther boasted, quite probably correctly, that his Union was the most powerful political agency in the world, controlling forty Members of Parliament. Does anyone seriously suppose that Mr. Lawther and his miners, with their bell-wether, Mr. Shinwell, would see coal, or the policies which enthrone coal superseded if they could prevent it? Or that, let us say, Messrs. Du Pont de Nemours, and their affiliates, would permit the raw material of high explosive to disappear until they have acquired secure control of atomic energy? Besides, what would be the use of Highland Hydro-electric Schemes without a “coal shortage”? *Vive les racketts!*

If this approach to the problem of coal is correct, it can be demonstrated. And it is much more important than appears at first sight, because its demonstration cuts away the very foundation of Marxian Socialism, that politics are the outcome of economics, and as is so often the case in considering affairs from a Social Credit point of view, establishes the exact opposite. *Demon est deus inversus.* Economics proceed from politics.

Now, so far as the British Isles are concerned, coal has been and still is, the raw material of motive power. Why do we want motive power? To move things, and people. Why do we imagine we want to move things and people?

We pretend that it “raises the standard of life”. What is the “standard of life”? I don’t know absolutely, but everyone knows relatively. We are definitely living on a lower standard of life, measured in general satisfaction, health, security and happiness, than we were fifty years ago, as the result of having moved more things and people than have ever been moved in the history of the world. Our manners and our intelligence have deteriorated, common honesty is a fading memory, our architecture has turned to rabbit-hutchery, and we are steadily ruining our heritage of scenery and soil. But we have greatly increased our exports; and, since we are told every day, and nearly all day, that we live by our exports, perhaps coal is the key to exports. Let us see if we can find out why, since we are said to live by our exports, which are increasing, our “standard of life” is declining.

Parenthetically, let us dispose of the idea that the poor were poor because the rich were rich. The purchasing-power of the pound sterling in basic necessities has been falling for fifty years, *i.e.* the cost of living, measured in the unit of account has been rising.

Now, there is no known method of *uniformly* raising the *standard* of material living other than a fall in the price level, *i.e.*, a rise in the value of the unit of account accompanied by a *pro rata* increase in available commodities. The present Administration, the first declared class Government in the history of the British Isles, knows this, and is steadily *and of set purpose*, raising the price level and taxation so as to bring a larger proportion of the population under control and subject to bribery. The direct effect is to penalise the poor and honest. In this process it is causing a *general* fall in the standard of living. It should be born in mind that taxation is just as much a constituent of the cost of living as any other expense.

A simple instance of this is furnished by the “national ownership” of coal. A comparatively small number of royalty owners, the largest of whom was the Ecclesiastical Commission, derived handsome incomes from the infinitesimal (probably less than a penny *nett*) price paid per ton for the raw material, which was legally theirs. These incomes have gone, and the general public pays 500 times the royalty for worse coal. That is a fall in the standard of material living, *per se*.

To grasp the bearing of this process on the real meaning of exports, the first essential is to eliminate the darling of the Socialist and the bureaucrat-collectivist accounting.

When our collusive broadcasting system announces that the month’s exports were so and so, and the month’s imports were thus and such, it is saying exactly what it intends to

say, *i.e.* words which have no value whatever to anyone and give no information which would assist anyone to form an opinion as to our business position. What we want to know, and never do know is: What have we parted with; can we spare it; what did it cost us in *labour and material*; could we have employed the labour and material better from the *point of view of an understood policy*? And, on the other hand, what have we got in return; is it any good to us, or could we have got it better otherwise; how much has it cost us; and *does the complete cycle show a profit*? Fortunately there is an exception to this general lack of information.

(To be continued)

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: June 16, 1947

Elham Valley Line (Closing)

Mr. Baker White asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware that it has been announced that the Elham Valley line of the S.R. is to be closed to both goods and passenger traffic as from 16th June; that this closing down will cause great hardship to farmers, traders and the public in general; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Barnes: I am informed that the Elham Valley line will be officially closed to passenger and goods traffic as from today. The number of passengers using the line averaged only about a dozen a day in each direction, and the district is well covered by bus services. Parcels and "small" traffic can be delivered from Canterbury and Shorncliffe stations. The railway company will continue to provide facilities on the branch for dealing with the small quantity of full truck load goods traffic until satisfactory alternative arrangements have been made.

Mr. White: Will the Minister represent to the railway company that the cutting off of present supplies of coal and agricultural supplies will cause the greatest inconvenience over a considerable area?

Mr. Barnes: I am informed that only six wagons a day come in and only one wagon a day goes out on this particular line, but in any case, I have indicated that the company are going to see that that continues until other arrangements are made.

Privately Owned Industry (Government Policy)

Mr. Stanley Prescott asked the Prime Minister what proportion of industry in the United Kingdom it is the policy of His Majesty's Government to allow to remain in private ownership.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee): As the House will recall, my right hon. Friend the Lord President of the Council made a full statement on 19th November, 1945, in which he gave a general indication of the further Measures His Majesty's Government proposed to introduce during the life of the present Parliament to bring certain essential services under public ownership. I do not think that there is anything which I can usefully add to that statement.

Mr. Prescott: Is the Prime Minister aware that in Canada the Lord President of the Council stated that the Socialist policy was that 80 per cent. of industry in England should remain under private enterprise, and recently on the Continent Professor Laski stated that 80 per cent.—

Mr. Speaker: I think that the hon. Member is not asking for information but giving it.

Mr. Prescott: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman, in view of the conflicting statements made by leading politicians of the Party opposite, if he would consider making a detailed statement of Government policy in order that industrialists, working people, housewives and the middle classes may know where they stand?

The Prime Minister: I think that the general public understand perfectly well the statements made in this House, and perhaps the hon. Gentleman would attend to those and not to reports from persons who are not Members of the Government.

Lieut.-Colonel Dower: Can the right hon. Gentleman say, in order to remove the feeling of uncertainty which is prevalent in the country, which of these industries will not be interfered with, so that they may have confidence to go ahead?

The Prime Minister: Yes, Sir; and I am sure the hon. and gallant Gentleman will help us so as not to have any disturbance in their minds.

Mr. H. Strauss: Does the right hon. Gentleman's original answer mean that the Government are uninfluenced by any experience since 1945?

The Prime Minister: No, Sir.

Betterment Claim, Huntingdonshire

Mr. Renton asked the Minister of Agriculture why his Department refused to give to Mr. P. Humbley, the owner and former occupier of Grange Farm, Steeple Gidding, Huntingdonshire, details of the £2,000 demanded from him by the Huntingdonshire A.E.C. in lieu of a claim for betterment under Section 23 (5) and (6) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous) War Provisions Act; and whether he will take steps to give such details to Mr. Humbley at an early date.

Mr. T. Williams: In accordance with the provisions quoted by the hon. Member, the Committee's offer was based on an estimate, provided for them by a valuer in private practice, of the increased value of the farm as a whole attributable to works of improvement carried out by the Committee. Details of such a valuation assessing betterment—which is no doubt made by a comparison of the over-all value of the farm before and after the improvements for which betterment is due have been carried out—are not given by the valuer.

Mr. Renton: Would the Minister say why, when a man is being asked £2,000 for parting with his own farm, he should not be given precise details of how the sum is made up?

Mr. Williams: As I have already explained to the hon. Member, it is because details are not submitted to the Department. As the hon. Member must know, in default of agreement between the Department and the farmer in question, arbitration is always resorted to.

Mr. Bossom: Is not the Minister aware that these estimates must be made up from details, and not be just a guess, and cannot he have the details supplied? If not why not?

Mr. Williams: I have already stated that the valuer does not submit details—[HON. MEMBERS: "Why not?"] Because, apparently it is the right thing not to do so. [HON.

MEMBERS: "Oh."] Well, this is the first time this matter has been questioned and I can assure the hon. Member, and hon. Members generally, that the sum of money referred to is far less than the actual cost to the State. Again I repeat that, should there be any lack of agreement, the case will always be submitted to arbitration.

Mr. Wilson Harris: Would not a Minister anxious to do justice between the Department and the individual see that such details were submitted?

Mr. Williams: We are always prepared to do justice.

Mr. Solley: Is not my right hon. Friend aware that it is the practice of surveyors not to give details when estimating a sum by way of compensation and betterment, but to give a lump sum, and in the absence of agreement the matter goes to arbitration?

Mr. Williams: That is the usual practice.

International Refugee Organisation

Mr. T. Reid asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if it will be possible to establish before 1st July next the International Refugee Organisation's Preparatory Commission to take over the work of U.N.R.R.A. and of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees.

Mr. Mayhew: Yes. At its recent meeting in Lausanne the Preparatory Commission unanimously passed a resolution to this effect, and the necessary action is now being taken.

Milk (Old Age Pensioners)

Mr. Morley asked the Minister of Food if he will consider allowing priority milk at reduced cost to old age pensioners.

Dr. Summerskill: I am sorry that my right hon. Friend cannot yet see his way to allow additional supplies of milk to old age pensioners, nor can he provide them with milk at a reduced price.

House of Commons: June 17, 1947

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Old Age Pensions

Mr. Granville Sharp asked the Minister of National Insurance what is the approximate number of women between the ages of 60 and 64 years inclusive, otherwise eligible for an old age pension of 26s. a week, who have had this denied because, though earning less than £1 a week, they worked for more than 12 hours a week; and what action he proposes taking to remove this anomaly.

Mr. Steele: The question whether there is title to the higher rate of pension depends not on the pensioner's earnings, but on the question whether he can be treated as having retired from regular employment. Certain decisions of the Umpire, who is the final authority on this question, are set out in a paper published by the Stationery Office on the application of provisions relating to retirement, copies of which are available in the Library. The number of cases in which the statutory authorities have held that a pensioner in the circumstances indicated in the Question cannot be treated as retired is not known precisely, but it is very small. These decisions turn upon the interpretation of the statute and my right hon. Friend has no power to vary them.

Mr. Sharp: Is my hon. Friend aware that at the time the National Insurance Bill was going through the House, there was no suggestion that a pensioner who was earning less than £1 a week would be denied that pension because he was working more than 12 hours a week? Is he further aware that the Umpire's decision is not based on the facts, but on the regulations which the Ministry has issued? In view of the anomaly that is created, will he consider amending the regulations?

Mr. Steele: As I pointed out, earnings are not taken into consideration at all in regard to decisions about retirement. Retirement itself is decided, and earnings come into the picture only after the person has retired. The regulations are based on the Act. One of the disturbing features of the type of case to which my hon. Friend has referred is that there are people who are working more than 12 hours a week, and who are receiving a pittance of less than 20s. a week.

Mrs. Jean Mann: Does not my hon. Friend consider that in these days of need for increased production, and in view of the fact that the population is growing older and the number of those reaching pensionable age is mounting, the 20s. limit should be withdrawn altogether?

Mr. Steele: We cover the position in regard to inducement to stay at work, in that portion of the new Act which has not yet come into operation. We do not wish to encourage employers to employ people for more than 12 hours a week at less than 20s.

Mr. Drayson: When the hon. Gentleman is looking into these regulations, will he consider the question of caretakers? Many old people take jobs as caretakers, and it is difficult to define how many hours they work a week. They are on the job all the time.

Mr. Steele: Every case is treated on its merits.

Mr. Gallacher: Are we to take it that if these old people retire and then go back to their jobs, they will be entitled to draw their pension?

Mr. Steele: Each case must be treated on its merits.

Mr. Douglas Marshall: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that his answer is in direct conflict with the Prime Minister's request to everyone to work as hard as possible? Will he reconsider this matter?

Mr. Speaker: We have spent a lot of time on this Question.

Mr. Sharp: In view of the thoroughly unsatisfactory nature of the reply, I beg to give notice that I shall raise this matter on the Adjournment at the earliest opportunity.

(continued on page 6.)

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Saturday, July 5, 1947.

From Week to Week

"No man will ever be rich enough to buy his enemies by concessions."

Bismarck.

We are not, nowadays, in the way of handling U.S. dollar bills, but we are interested in the statement, which has appeared in several quarters, that the new series, small bills, which came into circulation in 1935, bear a truncated pyramid on the back, with the words *novus ordo seclorum* beneath. If this is correct, it is evidence of great importance. (It is also stated to be the symbol of the British Israel Federation.)

It appears to prove beyond reasonable doubt that someone who could control the design of the U.S. dollar bill was aware of, at least, an attempt to overthrow the present civilisation, four years before the outbreak of the war which was to be the instrument of it. If this is so, then it concerns mightily those millions who have been the puppets of the scheme, to know the identity of that very well informed prophet, and what he is doing now.

Whether the insolence of Mr. Emanuel Shinwell is merely in the common beggar-on-horseback tradition, or whether, as may well be the case, it is the reaction of a frightened Jew to a sense of impending disaster, it is informative.

The product of that festering cesspool formed by "Liberalism" in the mid-nineteenth century, the East End of London, and early inducted into the Jewish sweat-shop garment industry which also formed the University of Revolution for his opposite number, Schmuel Gilman, better known as Sidney Hillman, whose World Federation of Trades Unions is a growing headache, it is doubtful whether the Minister of Fuel and Power has done a useful day's work since he deserted garment-making for the fomentation of industrial disorder on the Clyde. Please note we do not say he has been idle—anyone who has contacted the typical East End Jew of Polish, Lithuanian, or Russian extraction, and still characterises him as idle, has wholly misapprehended the problem he presents.

The Colorado beetle is a most industrious little pest; but it is only from the point of view of the enemies of this country that he can be said to do useful work.

Now, it should be noticed that Mr. Shinwell loses no opportunity to arrogate not merely control of Fuel and Power, but of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Broadly speaking, Good consists in belonging to a Centralised Trades Union or Labour Monopoly voting for Shinwell and his friends and

holding up the public to ransom; Evil consists in being a parasite (a Colorado beetle) and "rendering no social service." We have often indicated, and we state it again without qualification, that the claim of the Shinwells of this world to be the Judge of Good and Evil is in our opinion the unbridgeable gulf between Jewish Socialism and Social Credit; and we believe that it is also the root of the venomous hatred which Socialism and Communism display to Christianity and its outcome, European Culture.

"Consider the lilies, how [do] they grow. They toil not, neither do they spin; yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Shameful, isn't it, Mr Shinwell? Could't some of your Chemical friends distribute a lily exterminator?

It might appear at first sight that the problems with which humanity is faced are so varied and are growing in number so fast, that the situation is hopeless. It may be so, but there is in fact one feature which appears in various forms in all of them. Every threat of disaster to-day contains in latent or active form the threat of MONOPOLY. It has been pointed out in many quarters that there appears to be just so much political power in the world. If one country has more, another has less. It is not difficult to see that the problem is to emasculate concentrated, centralised power, not by transference to some other power which will over-ride it, but by devolving it to the individuals from whom it has been usurped.

The T.U.C. has decided to urge the introduction of staggered hours in industry, only twenty-nine years after Major Douglas published curves to show its advantages. Who says our Trades Unions aren't in the forefront of progress?

Wordsworth's "Protest Against the Ballot (1838)"

(The verses, composed and published in 1838, were omitted by Wordsworth from editions of his poems after 1842—*Editor, The Social Crediter.*)

Forth rushed from Envy sprung and Self-conceit,
 A Power misnamed the SPIRIT of REFORM,
 And through the astonished Island swept in storm,
 Threatening to lay all Orders at her feet
 That crossed her way. Now stoops she to entreat
 Licence to hide at intervals her head
 Where she may work, safe, undisquieted,
 In a close Box, covert for Justice meet.
 St. George of England! keep a watchful eye
 Fixed on the Suitor; frustrate her request—
 Stifle her hope; for, if the State comply,
 From such Pandorian gift may come a pest
 Worse than the Dragon that bowed low her crest,
 Pierced by thy spear in glorious victory.

Some copies of Mr. Douglas Reed's *Envoi and au Revoir*, published in *London Tidings* for April 19, 1947, are obtainable, price 10d. post free, from the publishers of *The Social Crediter*.

A Reason for Things*

by NORMAN F. WEBB

The present state of the world, I feel, calls for some thought. So instead of using editorial space to "report progress" since our last issue, I propose, without apology, to give our readers some of the fruits of my thinking, and to ask you to give it your particular consideration, even a bit of hard study.

This is what I have been thinking; that it is not untrue to say that there is at least one point—and to me it seems a very important one indeed—in which the generations that went before had the advantage over this present one, and that is, that on the whole they "got more fun" out of their job, enjoyed their work more than is usual today. So I ask myself, is the work any different? In some cases perhaps it is, but not, I think, in most. The looms in the Weaving Shop for instance, and most of the machines elsewhere, are still the same ones, and the cloth they turn out to be finished is—or at least we hope soon will be—as like pre-war as makes no difference. It must therefore be the conditions that have altered. What has happened to alter them? As I see it—and I have the whole organisation in view, from top to bottom,—what is absent that used to be there is a sense of Purpose; by which I mean the feeling of an urgent reason for doing whatever job we are on, and for doing it as efficiently as possible. Somehow the way things present themselves to us today, the job doesn't appear to matter as it did; what matters is the pay-envelope, and that seems to happen each week whether the job has been efficiently done or not.

But that is only another way of saying that our job is of no real use or importance in the world since it has no direct connection with, or effect on, our pay, or even with the prosperity of the organisation as a whole! There is no purpose in doing it, nor particular fun in carrying it out efficiently; because there *is* no fun in doing a job that might just as well not be done. And there's more in it even than that; for to feel no Purpose in your work, which after all must be the greater part of everyone's waking hours, is to become dangerously near to feeling that Life itself has no Purpose—is no fun, in short,—and that is a definite un-Christian, un-religious, and therefore un-comfortable sensation.

Now the reason for this, it seems to me, may be connected with some quite ordinary facts, which in themselves do not suggest anything usually associated with what we call Religion. Is it not possible that modern business, which is the way in which people organise themselves to produce the things they want to eat, and use, and wear, has been growing gradually bigger in scale and apparently more hard to understand, till all those engaged in it are clearly becoming unable to grasp it, or to feel the direct connection between what they make and what they buy in the shops to consume. As a result of this, our daily existence, of which as was said, our job forms such a large part, has become disconnected in our minds and our thoughts, and seems meaningless. So that (1) there is Work, which in so far as it appears to be

for no particular reason as far as we personally are concerned, and therefore, as we have seen, no fun in itself, is rather like school lessons; and there's (2) Play, which is judged good in proportion as it is as unlike "doing anything useful" as possible, and is coming largely to mean sitting in a seat watching other people work, film actors or football players, or maybe being driven by someone in a car; and then (3) there's Money, the pay-packet, a mysterious kind of thing, mostly bits of paper, which the shops take, nobody stops to wonder why, and for which *in exchange*, they give us the things we want to eat, and wear, and use generally.

But owing to the complicated "bigness" of modern Production, those three facts—Work, Play, Things to Buy—have become quite separate and unrelated in our thoughts. We have ceased to be able to *feel* the close connection and dependence on one another of our particular job and the size of the pay-envelope and the number and quality of the things we can buy with the money in it. You may say that that's a small matter; how can not realising a few facts like those possibly affect the total production of goods? And my answer is that in my experience it's the things that appear small to us that really count the most in Life; and to have lost a sense of its importance to us *personally* of our job, which is what has happened, is not a small thing at all, but a very serious one. There *must* be a Purpose, a Reason for Things, and for us and for our job. If we have allowed ourselves, it doesn't matter from what cause, to lose the feeling that there is, it follows quite naturally that our job, Life itself, will not seem worth a real effort, and then we find we can't make it.

What I am sure we need do for our own sakes, is to think seriously about the matter and try to develop a feeling of the real value to ourselves of the things we are helping to produce, (whether we actually buy them or not), and as a result the responsibility and importance *to us* of our part, whatever it may be, in the producing of them. If it is Household Linens and Furnishings, as it is in our case, we want to *see them*, in imagination, on the tables, and chairs, and windows of households all over the country and the world, being used and enjoyed by the people who are themselves engaged in producing for us the things—bicycles, saucepans, food, radios, or whatever—that we want in exchange. It is this idea, this picture, of exchange that we need above everything, for in it lies the reality, the Real Purpose, of what we spend the greater part of the day in doing, and the impulse behind it—the feeling that makes us want to do it and to do it well—in short, the fun of it. For if you get so much money for a cut of cloth—or a month's clerical work, for that matter—and spend it in the shops, you have in fact, *exchanged* your cloth, or your clerical assistance, for a number of other things with the people who produced them. The cash, the money, is merely the "means of exchange," a wonderfully clever and useful method of simplifying the laborious job of finding someone who makes what you want, and who happens at that moment to want what you make; which represents the actual condition of all commerce.

The truth that we need—need desperately—to re-learn, and which is unchanging in spite of the tremendous *apparent* alteration in methods of production brought in by machinery, is the close connection, temporarily lost sight of, between the quality and effectiveness of the way in which our job is performed and the pay we can expect for it and the ultimate

*An editorial in a works magazine.

quality and price of the things we can buy in the shops. Only by the return of our wandering thoughts; the "binding back", which is the meaning of the word Religion given in the dictionary,—to a realisation of these lost facts, can we get back a proper feeling of Purpose, and Direction, and Enthusiasm into our work and into life in general. So it appears to me, at anyrate, it should be worth trying; for with its return, work would become more fun, more like a game that we play because we want to; and surely it would follow that we would cease demanding that our play should be so much unlike work; and then maybe life will become more what it undoubtedly used to be, and should be in a truly democratic and Christian country, more all of a piece, less divided up and muddled and without rhyme or reason.

Think it over.

PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3)

Aliens (Naturalisation)

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a Return be made showing (1) Particulars of all Aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalisation have been issued and whose Oaths of Allegiance have, during the year ended the 31st day of December, 1946, been registered at the Home Office; (2) Information as to any Aliens who have, during the same period, obtained Acts of Naturalisation from the Legislature; and (3) Particulars of cases in which Certificates of Naturalisation have been revoked during the same period in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 166 of Session 1945-46."—[Mr. Oliver.]

Major Legge-Bourke: On a point of Order, Mr. Speaker. Would it be in Order to ask that this Return should include the ages of the people concerned?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think this Order can be amended. A Question could be put down later on that point.

Question put, and agreed to.

House of Commons: June 18, 1947

PALESTINE

Balfour Declaration (Letter)

Mr. Stokes asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will publish the complete letter from Lord Balfour to Mr. Rothschild embodying the Balfour Declaration.

Mr. McNeil: The letter to which my hon. Friend refers received wide publicity shortly after it was issued and is given in full in a number of standard works of reference on the Palestine question.

Mr. Stokes: Can my right hon. Friend give the date of the letter? Is he aware that his reply will cause a great deal of satisfaction among those people who believe that the whole of this thing was bogus and formed part of a much more comprehensive letter from Mr. Balfour?

Earl Winterton: If the right hon. Gentleman is thinking of republishing the letter, will he also publish the correspondence, some of it confidential, between various high officials and the late King Hussein in order that the public may have an opportunity of understanding the unwisdom of the Government of the time in giving two contradictory statements?

Mr. McNeil: It is not the usual custom of this House to print documents which are easily available, and interested

people, I am certain, can find the letter in a number of publications. The one in which I saw it was the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

Mr. Janner: Will my right hon. Friend confirm that when this letter was published it stated clearly that it was a declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations, submitted to and approved by the Cabinet, and will he be good enough to tell us, so that there may be no doubt in future, what were these documents and submissions?

Mr. McNeil: While I cannot be drawn into a controversy by way of saying "Yes" or "No," the letter went on to discuss certain other interests which must be safeguarded.

Jewish Agency

Mr. Stokes asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the declared intentions of the Jews to use force in imposing illegal immigration into Palestine, he will now take steps to close down the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Creech Jones: My hon. Friend is no doubt referring to a resolution passed by the Elected Assembly of the Jewish Community in Palestine on 22nd May, declaring that the Jewish Community is prepared to use force for the protection of immigration, land settlement, and its own security. I regret the terms of this resolution, particularly in present circumstances. I do not consider that the occasion calls for such action as my hon. Friend suggests against the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Stokes: Does not my right hon. Friend recall that many of the responsible members of the Jewish Agency were directly involved in the St. David's incident, as illustrated in the White Paper; and how does he tie that up with the present threat to the Arabs which he gave in this House last week not to give any incitement to violence or strong measures would be taken? Why not take equally strong measures against the Jews?

Mr. Creech Jones: I think it must be obvious to everyone that law and order must be preserved in Palestine and terrorism must be repressed, but in view of the special commitments of the Jewish Agency under the Mandate there is no action at present which can in any way be taken for suppressing the Agency.

Mr. Stokes: I know, but does my right hon. Friend realise that the Arabs do not recognise the Mandate for a moment?

Mr. Blackburn: While I accept the Minister's answer, will he indicate that if any individuals in this country advocate violence in Palestine, as has been recently done in America, they will be prosecuted with the full rigour of the law?

Mr. Creech Jones: That is not a matter for me but for the Home Office.

House of Commons: June 20, 1947

Government Receptions (Hotels and Restaurants)

Mr. A. Lewis asked the Minister of Works what are various hotels and restaurants where Government receptions have been held in the last year.

Mr. Key: Government receptions have been held at the following hotels and restaurants during the past year:

Cambridge's Hotel, the Dorchester Hotel, Grosvenor House Hotel, Gunter's Restaurant, the Hyde Park Hotel, and the Savoy Hotel.

Lord President's Department (Appointment)

Mr. Pickthorn asked the Lord President of the Council what are the qualifications of Mr. S. C. Leslie for the post of chief officer of the Economic Information Section in his department; and what have been his previous employments.

Mr. H. Morrison: Mr. S. C. Leslie has had wide experience in responsible posts concerned with various aspects of publicity on economic matters. His previous employments have been:

- 1922-23.—Lecturer, University of Wales.
- 1924-6.—Lecturer, Melbourne University.
- 1926.—On the staff of Mr. S. M. Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia, for the Imperial Conference.
- 1927-36.—London Press Exchange.
- 1936-40.—Publicity Manager of the Gas, Light and Coke Company.
- 1939-40.—Honorary Publicity Adviser to the National Savings Committee.
- 1940.—Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Supply.
- 1940-43.—Director of Public Relations, Home Office and Ministry of Home Security.
- 1943-45.—Principal Assistant Secretary, Home Office and Ministry of Home Security.
- 1945-47.—Director, Council of Industrial Design.

Aliens (Naturalisation)

Captain J. Crowder asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many naturalisation certificates have been revoked since the war.

Mr. Ede: Three certificates of naturalisation have been revoked since the cessation of hostilities.

Captain J. Crowder asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what record is kept of naturalised persons convicted of fraud and other serious offences.

Mr. Ede: No special record is kept, but the police have been asked to report to me any serious offences committed by naturalised persons which might render their naturalisation liable to revocation under section 7 of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914.

House of Lords: June 24, 1947

National Health Service Executive Councils

Lord Addington: My Lords, I rise to ask the question standing in my name on the Order Paper.

[The question was as follows:

To ask whether His Majesty's Government are aware that Section 14 (d) of S.R. & O. 1947 No. 889 makes no provision for the imposition of a penalty upon persons who do not disclose their interest in contracts, and whether His Majesty's Government will apply the provisions of Section 76 of the Local Government Act of 1933 to all such cases.]

Lord Henderson: My Lords, this provision of the Local Government Act refers to local authorities and provides that

members of those bodies who offend against the provision shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding £50. It does not, however, extend to members of executive councils. No similar provision is included in the National Health Service Act: and there is, of course, no power to create a criminal offence by regulation. It follows that the noble Lord's wishes could only be met by further legislation.

It would, however, be possible to provide by regulation that an offending member of an executive council should be disqualified from continuing to hold office. But the number and type of contract into which an executive council might enter is extremely small compared with those in which local authorities are concerned. Executive council contracts will be limited to such matters as stationery, printing, office equipment and possibly in some cases works of adaptation to an office. It has not, therefore, so far been thought that the danger that members will fail to disclose an interest in contracts is sufficiently great to necessitate a special provision disqualifying those who fail to do so.

The matter will, of course, be kept under review, and if it should be shown in the light of experience that the regulations need strengthening, further provision could be made on these lines.

Lord Addison: I am much obliged to the noble Lord for his answer. This is obviously a question of principle and it does deserve to be carefully watched so that abuses do not arise in these bodies that are extremely similar to those for which Parliament has provided.

Probe into the Press

The following passages are from an article signed Philip Faulconbridge in *London Tidings* for June 28:—

"The Royal Commission on the Press has made a most unfortunate start. Had it met in camera solely for the purpose of deciding on procedure its motive would have been understood, but two secret sessions, one each for the National Union of Journalists and the organisation known as Political and Economic Planning, are not calculated to increase public confidence, suggesting as they do that hidden influences have been at work. The National Union of Journalists was responsible for the calling into being of this Commission. One would have thought that the information it had to communicate would be such that it would be glad to shout it from the house-tops. Why should it slink into a secret chamber to whisper into the ears of the Commissioners that which the newspaper industry as a whole, as well as the great mass of newspaper readers, are surely entitled to know? Of what is the National Union of Journalists afraid?

"Even more remarkable was the secret session granted to P.E.P. This body has long aroused comment as an organisation led and financed by fairly large-scale capitalists with Socialist leanings...

"...nobody seems to have been appointed to the Commission expressly for the purpose of pursuing such enquiries [enquiries into the financing of the *Daily Worker*, the control of the *Daily Herald* and into the projected chain of 600 'Labour' newspapers] and so ensuring the emergence of a balanced picture. It is all the more unfortunate, therefore, that there should be secret sessions, since they can only lead to the suspicion, however misplaced, that something is being 'cooked', not by the Commissioners, but by others who wish to create a particular impression unrestricted by

the possibility of public criticism and reply . . .

"While it may be possible for the Royal Commission to make recommendations about distorted news, there is nothing it can do about suppression of news, which is a practice certain to continue until the crack of doom. Papers do not usually suppress news for fear of offending advertisers, but because its publication would be contrary to their own policy, or because the financial interests, which have the power to bring most commercial enterprises to a sticky end, would prefer silence on the subject. What national newspaper during the last twenty years has dared to breathe a word about the havoc wrought in the world by international finance? Not one."

The Conquering Evil.

The Editor, *The Social Crediter*,

Sir,

You say in "From Week to Week" of the 21st inst. that "there is a rapturous conquering evil abroad . . . But the Administration is evil—it is of the Devil."

Need we go deeper for the success of this Evil than the political silliness of the damn-fool English? That is really "The Iron Curtain" behind which that Evil is working and reaping.

Only the other day it was briefly announced in our "Freedom of the Press" newspapers that the coming Property Revaluation is to be taken out of the hands of the Local Authorities and handed over to a Central Authority. No newspaper notice, as far as I am aware, has been subsequently taken of the threat entailed in that programme to the welfare of many persons. Instead the damn-fool English are being fed by the Press with "The Test Match" and all that sort of thing. That is fooled by the Press into inattention.

House assessments are apparently to be raised, but without any corresponding reduction in the poundages. That is to say "your" taxation is to cost "you" more. The result will be that thousands of people who have been and are in occupation of their own houses and are not aware of any factual augmentation of income therefrom will be treated as if they were in the position of those who have come into receipt actually of increased rent. Thus those who have not, will be treated in a most barefacedly impudent way.

In effect and to all practical purposes, therefore, many owner-occupiers will be charged on their present assessments a vastly increased taxation on account of a supposititious change in value, which has, in their cases, no foundation in financial reality. The days when general revaluations of property were placidly accepted by all as a matter of course, irrespective of any personal increase in benefit, have now gone for ever. One would therefore have thought—but for experience to the contrary—that our "Freedom of the Press" newspapers would be wide awake enough to call immediate attention to what is on foot, instead of tamely and almost treacherously waiting until "they" have got us all taped, when the newspapers will no doubt come out with a cackle about "general agreement."

Did not Dalton recently promise Relief in Rates? But, in actuality, is that "Relief" to consist in "your" rates and taxes payments going "up and up and up"—as do the prices of commodities—to the tune of the Rogues' March?

Anyhow, *now* is the time to tear down "The Iron Curtain" from that particular Scene in the Performance, so that

the Ratepayers and Taxpayers can be fully enlightened and given an opportunity of expressing "their" wishes before it is too late; instead of *vice versa* in the impertinent hitherto fashion. We have yet to experience the result of "The Freedom of the Press" newspapers, suppression of the full details of the cost of the National Insurance racket.

Yours truly,

W. B. LAURENCE.

London, S.W., June 22.

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