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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

So far as it has been reported in detail in the Press of this country, General de Gaulle's Unity Policy is simply the Electoral Campaign, the policy of the Union des Electeurs of Quebec, practically complete and without modification. We wish it every success as a starting point to the cleansing of the Augean Stables of French politics. The Communists (*i.e.*, the Sanhedrin) are clearly alarmed by it.

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The Constitutional issue will be the dominating factor in such activities as lie outside the shadow of "in war or under threat of war," for the next few years, and in relation to it the following extract from "Bevin" by Trevor Evans (1946) is particularly significant as an indication of the prescience of Sir Alfred Mond and the skill with which ideas were injected into the Trades Unionists at the Mond-Turner Conferences:

"This scheme, it was suggested, should be operated by a Joint Committee of employers and workers under a Special Minister. It crystallised that *trinity* of State, employers, and employed, which was the cardinal principle of the philosophy held independently by Bevin and Citrine, and applied so effectively by the former when he became Minister of Labour and National Service." (our emphasis).

"The worst is the corruption of the best."

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There can be few people who have given sober and unbiassed consideration to the state of the world without reaching a reasonably sound apprehension of the root cause of its parlous plight. It is not in any one thing in itself, such as industrialism or even finance as a device. It is the devilish ingenuity which is applied to each and all of these, the perversion of good ideas to bad uses, the misrepresentation of information in itself beneficial or harmless, in short, the real, conscious wickedness which governs our affairs, to which we have to look. That is why it is absolutely vital to clear our minds of cant. It is not in the opinions of the majority that policy is formed today, and it is not by attempting to change the Cahmon Man and forming him into a Party that salvation can conceivably come because it is not in the Cahmon Man that the wickedness is conscious. The Cahmon Man is just average, and just average is not good enough in what it takes to battle with uncommon, conscious, Incarnated Wickedness.

'Know your enemy' is the first axiom of survival, and your Enemy's first concern is to divert your attention in the wrong direction, and his second, to make you work and fight for your own undoing.

Bearing all this in mind, it is easy to understand that the drive for "Full Employment," "More Exports," "Work or Starve" means one of two things and can mean nothing else. Either it is a preparation for war camouflaged under re-capitalisation (new tools, *etc.*) or it is a threat of war if the perversion of industrialism is not pursued in this country for the benefit of the . . . States. There are no other alternatives; considered *in vacuo*, the policy is so insane that only a diseased imagination in *delirium tremens* would contemplate it with a moment's complacency. As to war, not the merest fraction of the world's peoples desire it, or even now are conscious of what it implies; and if it comes, it will be because we have not localised and obliterated that mysterious little body of men to whom Rathenau referred as the three hundred who rule the world, and appoint their successors.

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A curious feature, almost amounting to hypnosis, is the general inability to realise the fact, and the implication of the fact, that the National Debt is preponderatingly a debt *from* individuals *to* corporations and that the effect of a debt *to* a corporation is exactly opposite, both socially and economically, to the effect of a debt *by* a corporation *to* an individual, while a debt from an individual to another individual is both socially and economically different from either. Most of the desperate nonsense which is emitted about money (including everything which has been said on the economics of the Nelson pension) and in particular about "usury," is abysmally oblivious of these differences which are of the very elements of the subject. Debts from corporations (including the State) to individuals are highly desirable; debts held by corporations (including the State) against individuals are almost uniformly vicious.

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We have no doubt that when the devils who were cast out, doubtless as refugees from Hitler's tyranny, entered into the Gaderene swine, they proceeded without delay to convince the swine that it was now the done thing to be Progressive. The poor swine, who, up to then had been feeding peacefully, turned sharp Left, but, as a recent letter-writer remarked, found that there was no future in it.

One of the many remarkable achievements of Left Wing propaganda is the indisputable success with which it convinces its dupes that they are in the forefront of intellectual achievement. Considered as systems, Socialism and Communism belong to the Early Bronze Age. Their exponents were swept away before Roman Militarism and Mediaeval Feudalism as the Red Indian with his bow and arrow before the Winchester rifle. Superimposed upon modern industrialism they foster war, intrigue, graft, and waste. The only explanation of their political success, which is, if temporary, indisputable, is that they minister to the worst vice of pseudo-democratic—envy. There is quite a

considerable body of evidence to show that it is the mis-fit who is the natural raw material of socialism—a real excuse, because the over-developed factory system breeds mis-fits. But the Socialist remedy is worse than the disease, like many quack remedies.

It is quite time someone obtained a clear statement on the subject of the relationship of the people of these islands to a Socialist Administration which, while it was presumably elected here, appears to claim the representation of interests which may, and often do, conflict with ours. If Mr. Attlee represents "India" when Mr. Pandit Nehru wishes to push the British into the sea for the benefit of the Birlas, the Tatas and their Wall Street allies, who represents Dundee, the Jute Industry, the British built Indian Railways and their European and Anglo-Indian Staffs? Is Mr. Attlee taking the same vivid and sustained interest in the life-prisoners, estimated at 20,000,000, of the Soviets, that his administration professes in the welfare and admission to this overcrowded country of "displaced persons," guaranteed when provided at an early date with a vote, to use it against the native born, and in the meantime, to work like ferrets to introduce the beauties of Communism? There are other aspects of the same situation which demand the earnest attention of any Member of Parliament who still retains the quaint notion that it is primarily British, but he might begin with the more obvious.

These are not days which conduce to continuous merriment except perhaps to a spectator on one of the (we hope) saner planets, but we confess to a distinct lightening of the gloom when we read that practically at the same date as that on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer produced the phoniest Budget of all time, Mr. Hans Dambitsch assumed the mantle of British nationality, and in future will be known to all and sundry as Mr. (or should it be Dr.?) Dalton.

Of all the idiotic excuses made by the *soi-disant* Conservative Leaders, that which complains of the "breach of the Party Truce" during the War takes high, perhaps the highest, rank. From Karl Marx or Mordekai, onwards to the sons of the Talmud such as Messrs. Shinwell and Piratin it has been open for anyone to read the instruction to lie, deceive, and rob the Goyim. The primary thesis of the Proctocols is that "great national virtues, like frankness and honesty, are vices in politics" (Proctocol I-xi).

Any Administration worthy of the name would have seen to it that a gang of half-baked Socialists, Trades Unionists, and worse was effectively restrained by a Parliament which had a "Conservative" majority of 135. It is one thing to say (and we agree with it) that politics is a dirty business; it is quite another to stand by tamely and refuse to exercise the power to prevent it from becoming so dirty that the very life of the nation is choked.

"Housewives Today"

We are asked to say that *Housewives Today* is now the house organ of the Bromley and District Group of the British Housewives' League. It is published by Mrs. Gordon-Cumming.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: April 15, 1947.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Dalton): [In the course of his statement]:

COST-OF-LIVING SUBSIDIES

The Ministry of Food estimate shows a large increase of £50 million over last year's expenditure. This is due to the increase in the cost-of-living subsidies, on which, perhaps, I might conveniently interpolate some observations at this stage.

... I am anxious to speak frankly to the Committee about these subsidies. I have estimated their total cost this year at £425 million, of which £392 million are for subsidies to food prices, as against £348 million last year, and £33 million are for subsidies to utility clothing and footwear prices as against 19 million last year. This is a most formidable total, which has grown very rapidly in the last few years. Last year in my Budget Speech I said that we could not go on holding the cost of living steady regardless of the cost. I added:

"We shall have to reconsider this matter next year. We might even have to do so earlier, if prices of our necessary imports, or home supplies, rose steeply."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, 9th April, 1946; Vol. 421, c. 1811.]

We have now reached a point where, in any case, it would be necessary to consider very carefully whether we could face any further increases in the total cost of these subsidies. Otherwise, this element, alone in all the total of our public expenditure, might seem to be passing out of our own control, and we might seem to be dragged along by rises in prices all over the world, independently of our own decisions, and hitched to a most out of date and generally discredited index of the cost of living. This would be a very unfortunate and ignominious situation.

The wisdom of any policy, including this one, is relative both to its practical effect on the one hand, and to the practical possibilities of continuing it unchanged. I have no doubt at all that, up to this point, the policy of stabilising the old cost-of-living index, as we have hitherto known it, has been wise, and has been abundantly justified. It has helped to stop inflationary pressure from becoming an inflationary break-through. It has carried us through the first chapter of this very difficult transition from war to peace with an added sense of social security to the general body of consumers. It has helped the housewife, and it has helped the farmer. It has prevented many automatic wage and price increases from taking place, in cases where wages under collective agreements are linked with the cost of living. Up to now it has, in my submission, paid good dividends.

NEW COST-OF-LIVING INDEX

So far, though the pursuit of this policy of stabilisation has become more and more costly, it has remained practical. But now I have no doubt that we must pause and review it afresh—particularly since, now, the scene changes, in the light of the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Minister of Labour on 20th March, in this House, that the present index number, which has been a natural target for so much criticism, is to be revised. The present index—it is extraordinary that this should be so and while I have no doubt most hon. Members of the Committee are aware of it, I will re-state the present position—relates to prices paid by an average working class family in 1914, for a selection of ar-

ticles of ordinary working-class consumption in the year 1904, nearly half a century ago. This selection of articles included flannelette—then a favoured costume material for ladies' dresses—and candles, by which, in 1904, people lit their rooms. But it did not include either rayon or electric light. We have moved forward since then. This is a fantastic basis for a definition of the cost of living in this year, 1947, and it is now intended by my right hon. Friend to bring the index a generation nearer to the present time, and to base it, as an interim measure, until things have settled down in the post-war period, on the household expenditure of the average working-class family, not in 1904, but in 1938, 34 years nearer today.

This new index will take account of a much wider range of prices than the old one did; many more articles will be included. For this reason, the new index will give considerably less prominence than the old to food items, because a considerably smaller proportion of the average working-class income was spent on food in 1938 than in 1904. I read in the report that has been published by the committee which has advised my right hon. Friend, that only 40 per cent. was spent on food out of an average working class family's expenditure in 1938 as against 60 per cent in 1904. It follows that any given change in food prices, either up or down, will have a good deal less effect upon the new index than it had upon the old. It follows, also, that the policy of holding the index steady, as we have done, principally by variations in food prices, has ceased to be practical in view of the smaller relative weight of food items in the new index. The new index, covering so much wider a range of commodities, will, by reason of its changed composition, be much less subject than the old index to our present controls, which have, therefore, to be revised and looked at again.

The old policy, of using food subsidies to keep the old index stable, cannot be applied to the new, for the reasons I have given. This means we shall have to devise, in due course, a modified policy, which will no longer aim at an absolute stability, and will, I hope, cost the taxpayer less money, but will still continue, at a lower cost, to exercise a stabilising influence upon the index. In particular, I suggest to the Committee—I make no commitments on this point; it is a matter for consideration in due course—that there is much to be said for carrying further a practice which we have begun in the last year, of concentrating food subsidies—having determined what is a reasonable sum to pay on them—on a smaller number of commodities which will be of greater importance to the housewife, instead of scattering them over a wide range of articles, many of them not of first importance in a household budget. That, I think, is a policy which should be examined.

It is the intention of my right hon. Friend the Minister of Labour to bring this new index into operation in the near future . . .

Mr. Eden (Warwick and Leamington): . . . Nor would any one in this House challenge the Chancellor's ability to state a case. If there is a criticism which we on this side wish to make about him today, it is not that he fails to take credit for what he has achieved, but that he also quite cheerfully takes all the credit for what others have achieved.

For instance, there was his description of the monetary policy. That is not in any way an invention of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer. The cheap money policy dates back to the days of Mr. Neville Chamberlain and to

the first big financial conversion operation which, I think, I am right in saying, took place in 1932. But anyone listening to the right hon. Gentleman today would have thought that he was the first person who had ever heard of the cheap money policy. He spoke about the new social legislation, and invited us to look round at this world and at what we are going to enjoy. But most of it was based on legislation worked out by a previous Coalition Government. He forgot to mention that that ever existed at all. [*Interruption.*] That is a matter of degree, and not a matter of principle. In fact, things like the family allowance were all worked out in the days of the Coalition Government, and nobody knows that better than the right hon. Gentleman. It seemed to me that he went so far as to claim credit for the error of the actuary in respect of the number of babies. . .

Polish Government (Recognition).

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government has accorded, or intends to accord, *de jure* as well as *de facto* recognition of the Polish Provisional Government, notwithstanding the failure of that Government to fulfil the conditions upon which provisional recognition had been accorded by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Mayhew: His Majesty's Government recognised the Government of Poland *de jure* on 6th July, 1945.

House of Commons: April 16, 1947.

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Social Surveys

Mr. Sharp asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he will give details of the work carried out by the Social Survey Department of the Central Office of Information.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: The principal survey made during last year were as follow:

(a) *Survey of Sickness.*—Regular morbidity surveys for the Registrar General which provide the basis for official illness statistics.

(b) *Retail Trade Statistics.*—At the request of the Board of Trade the Survey is engaged in enlisting panels of independent traders who are willing to supply details of their monthly sales to the Board of Trade. This information is used to compile a trade index for independent traders.

(c) *Recruitment to Mining.*—Studies in the main coal-mining regions to determine the main attitudes to coal-mining amongst potential young recruits and to prepare the basis for a recruiting campaign.

(d) *Scottish Mining Communities.*—A study of the social factors involved in the migration of miners from worked-out mining areas to new developing coal fields.

(e) *Shop Hours.*—A study of the most convenient shop closing hours, for a Home Office Committee considering new Shop Acts.

(f) *The Demand for Carpets and Furniture.*—Studies for the Board of Trade working parties of potential demands for these commodities and of public attitudes towards utility furniture.

(g) *Recruitment to the Civil Service.*—A survey for the Treasury of attitudes of potential recruits to employment in the Executive and Clerical grades of the Civil Service.

(h) *Road Safety.*—Studies for the Ministry of Transport of the effects of the publicity campaigns.

(i) *Employment of Older Persons.*—A study for the Medical Research Council of the occupations followed by Older Persons and of the social factors connected with their retirement from work.

(j) *Willesden Town Planning Survey.*—A study of the social
(continued on page 7).

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Credit, Social and Personal

Both before and since the Social Credit movement passed from the expository to the actively political stage of its development with the address by Major Douglas at Buxton in 1934 on "The Nature of Democracy," it has been the object of attention from all the socially subversive forces there are, organised and unorganised. From time to time this has given ground for anxiety. It constitutes the main weight of resistance to the spread of Social Credit ideas; but it has not arrested their advancement, and we have the impression that, notwithstanding the power of confusion as a weapon, at least the responsible elements of the community know where the heart of the movement is and, should they desire illumination, where its beat may be felt. The opposition to Social Credit has always been untrammelled by the slightest illusion concerning this matter.

Related doubtless to the progressive deterioration of *morale* in the widest sense, the outline which separates knave from fool has become blurred. Nevertheless it is not impossible for the individual himself, should he embrace the objective sufficiently ardently, to re-establish a dividing line, clear enough for practical purposes, between those parts of himself which are mere blundering innocent and those which he would disfavour should he suspect their effective presence in another. Only the Devil himself is evil from conviction and full intention. The most practically useful suggestion to put before ourselves and others is, in any case, the suggestion that persistence in error will not secure our advance towards our true objective: that as "the wise and witty Francis" indicated, you don't get where you want to get by going the wrong way: that the faster you go the farther you go away from your objective unless you are truly going towards it.

Without attempting to cover the whole ground of error in Social Credit, there is one point which seems to crop up in every trouble, and if we try to elucidate it, we do so in the hope that our observations may be serviceable. It is really quite a simple matter of *Credit*, and the just attribution of *Credit*. Clearly, *Social credit* must have quite a lot to do with credit.

A simple illustration should suffice to make the point clear. We all know enough of the habits of employed persons to know that, in the prosecution of their duties, they develop a strong sense of personal attachment to these same duties and to all that pertains to them. No sooner does Johnny enter the factory than it becomes "my factory." The lathe is "my lathe", the hammer "my hammer." It is (for us) significant that the very first stage towards a notion of the sanctity of instruments, the worth and dignity of materials, is so closely matched by an instinctive and ineradicable sense of ownership. Unless there is something that is truly Johnny's somewhere close to the very core of his employment,

it is high time to attempt the rescue of Johnny from it, for Johnny is being misused in chains which, for all the difference it makes, might as well be visible and heavy. We can all share innocently enough the joy which Johnny has in "Johnny's" new calorimeter (a joy which, by the bye, the march of collectivism is rapidly emptying of its content). At the same time the police take quite another view of it should Johnny transfer "his" property to a new location. We are well acquainted with the notion, which is indeed fashionable, that in this the police, and still more the supporters of the police are greatly to be blamed, and we do not enter into any argument which side is right. All we do is to label the view 'theft' or 'socialism,' whichever the reader may prefer. It isn't Social Credit.

The matter touches us when claim is laid to what is particularly ours. It may not be outside the competency of any individual to make the ideas of Major Douglas "his own." If he should do so the enrichment which ensues is, in the first place, his. The credit which accrues is from the making of the ideas his own. If he unmakes them his own—loses them—he loses so much credit. He has no credit in the idea, gained or lost; but only in the making of it his own. And when he seeks to realise his credit, there is, or should be, a very clear limit to his power (credit-power). When that limit is reached, the overplus may be distributable, but in any case it is social, not personal, credit. Besides the misappropriators—the embezzlers—of Social Credit, there are, of course, the masked dynamitards. Ruffians these, creeping from gutter to gutter, from press to college hole, from college hole to Parliament!

The Case of Mrs. Miller

Under the heading "An English Woman's Home: The League's First Heroine," The British Housewives' League News Letter for November, 1946, gave an account of the case of Mrs. Miller, of Peatlands Farm, Woodham Ferrers, Essex.

The *Essex Weekly News* for April 18, 1947, carries this matter a stage further with the following report:

WOODHAM COUPLE AND COURT COSTS

Essex War Agricultural Executive Committee at Chelmsford Magistrates Court [on April 17] applied for an order against George Henry Miller, and his wife, Charlotte Miller, Peatlands Farm, Woodham Ferrers, for payment of costs.

Mr. F. P. R. Mallows, for the Committee, said Mr. and Mrs. Miller appealed at the Essex Quarter Sessions against convictions for obstructing officers of the Committee in carrying out the cultivation of Peatlands Farm which had been taken over by the Committee. The appeals were dismissed and Mr. and Mrs. Miller were ordered to pay the taxed costs, which amounted to £32 0s. 9d.

Mrs. Miller: The Committee have confiscated our hay to the extent of £800. Why cannot we get paid?

The Chairman: You can take such proceedings against the Committee as you think fit, but it has nothing to do with this matter.

Mrs. Miller: We have not refused to pay. The Committee are in our debt. They have done thousands of pounds worth of damage and sent me falsely to prison. There must be some investigation.

The Bench made an order for payment of £32 0s. 9d. within a month.

An Introduction to Social Credit*

By BRYAN W. MONAHAN

Part III.—POLITICS.

(6) (continued)

Now if we consider a given Society as an industrial concern—as, in one aspect, it is—we can consider each member of Society to be an equal share-holder. At the same time he is a consumer of the product of the concern—boots, shoes, bread, cars, etc. In his share-holding aspect, he is interested only in the *dividend* which the concern returns him. In his consumer aspect, he is concerned with the *product*. His third concern is with his position as a member of the production hierarchy. In this aspect, he is an expert (to a great or small degree) in some particular aspect of production; but at the same time he is subordinated to the policy governing production. He is a member of a hierarchy; he takes orders from above, and gives orders, or carries orders into effect, below. He has, or may have, three concerns: interest in his work, improving his position in the hierarchy, and discharging his obligation in the shortest possible time.

With regard to this, "The foundation of successful administration, in my opinion, is that it shall be subject to the principle of free association, which will, in itself, produce in time the best possible form of technical administration. If the conditions of work in any undertaking, and the exercise of authority are ordinarily efficient, and there is in the world any reasonable amount of opportunity of free association, such an undertaking will automatically disembarass itself of the malcontent, while being obliged to compete for those whose help is necessary to it.

"On the other hand, if there is no free association, the natural inertia of the human being and the improper manipulation of methods and aims will make an undertaking inefficient since there is no incentive to reform. The idea that administration can be democratic, however, is not one which will bear the test of five minutes' experience. It may be consultative, but in the last resort some single person must decide." (C. H. Douglas, 1936).

As we have already observed, the producer-aspect of the individual is of diminishing importance, since production is overwhelmingly a matter of power and machinery.

The other two aspects, the dividend receiving and the consuming—are complementary. As a shareholder, the individual is interested in the greatest possible dividend; as a consumer, he is concerned with the greatest possible value for his money. His orders as a share-holder to the executive are solely concerned that the administration should be efficient; but he is not interested in or concerned with the methods by which those orders are put into operation. Consequently, the only sanction he requires in this regard is the power to remunerate the executive, and to appoint and dismiss it.

As a consumer, he requires control over the programme of production in the way we have discussed. He requires to be able to prevent production for an export surplus; to prevent the diversion of economic activity to unwanted public works, or to a disproportionate production of capital equipment. There is no reason why the efforts of one generation should be expended on work that will only benefit a succeeding

generation. There is an obvious obligation to leave to the succeeding generation a productive capacity at least as great as that we have inherited; and we may choose to leave it somewhat greater. But it is very necessary to remember that we do not penalise our successors by refraining from such an improvement; we place them in the same situation as we found ourselves in; and they may choose for themselves whether they will or will not extend the productivity of their industry, either for themselves or for their successors. Barring accidents, there are aeons of time ahead, and the sacrifice of present generations to near or remote successors is a ridiculous policy.

(7)

Society as an industrial concern—an organisation for producing goods and services—is only one aspect of Society. In another aspect it can be likened to a Club; for example, a Sports Club, which exists to afford to its members facilities for participating in various types of sports and games.

The organisation of such a club derives from its purpose. The most general purpose in the case under consideration is to afford a choice of various games to sportsmen. This general purpose is represented by a general committee, and it is the business of that committee to see that resources are available to those who wish to play football as well as to those who wish to play cricket or contract bridge. The rules this Committee is entitled to make, therefore, are concerned purely with such general relationships, and are largely concerned to see that the football section does not secure a monopoly of resources.

The rules of particular groups—football, cricket, tennis, etc.—are the concern of those groups, and are the function of special committees. Now as most people, and all sportsmen, are aware, the rules of a game are only very exceptionally either altered or added to; and when they are, it is with the object of making the conditions of the game more congenial to the player. An improvement in the materials with which the game is played may form a justification for altering the rules; and so may the test of a long experience of a particular rule. But such alterations are the particular concern of those participating in the game in question.

There are two vitally important considerations governing the conduct of a sports club. The first is *freedom of association*. Freedom of association means that individuals are free to join or leave the club as they wish, and equally that they are free to participate in one or other or several of its different activities.

It is not fully true that an individual is free to join, in most cases. In general, he must possess some qualification. In the first place, he must be acceptable to the existing members; in the second, he must (usually) be a *bona fide* player, either wishing to learn the game, or able to play it.

As regards leaving a club, this is technically called *contracting-out*. The ability to contract-out of a club, or a section of a club, is of extreme importance, for it is this that safeguards the rights of an individual; it ensures that the conditions governing a particular activity are acceptable to those participating, for if they are not, those concerned will cease to participate, and the activity in question will come to an end. This is the absolutely essential complement to rule-making. The election of a committee to make rules is merely a convenience; what does matter is the sanction which can be applied to that committee; and the ultimate

*Now appearing in *The Australian Social Crediter*. The commencement of Dr. Monahan's essay, publication of which has been interrupted, appeared in *The Social Crediter* on January 25.

sanction is the right to withdraw from its jurisdiction.

"Genuine democracy can very nearly be defined as the right to atrophy a function by contracting-out. It is essentially negative, although, contrary to the curious non-sense that is prevalent about 'negativeness,' is none the less essential for that reason.

"This genuine democracy requires to be carefully distinguished from the idea that a game is a necessarily bad game simply because you can't or won't play it, and therefore the fact that you can't play it is the first recommendation for a chief part in changing the rules. On the contrary, that is an *a priori* disqualification. For this reason, if for no other, a period of discipline in the prevalent social and economic systems in, say, the early twenties, seems highly and pragmatically desirable. No play, no vote. Bad play, Grade 3 vote. But you needn't do either.

"The power of contracting-out is the first and most deadly blow to the Supreme State." (C. H. Douglas: *The Big Idea*.)

The other aspect of this matter is the playing in specific games. Teams for games are not elected; they are selected. And the team itself is under a captain. In matches, we have passed out of the sphere of policy, into the sphere of administration or technique. Consequently, we have the hierarchical form of organisation, and an individual's position in the hierarchy is dependant on his qualifications. And the test is in results, in matches won in competition. As everyone knows those who fail in the test are replaced, until in time the best possible form of technical administration—the best team—is produced.

The second vitally important general consideration is the idea of *sportsmanship*. Sportsmanship is an unwritten code which is *above all particular games*, and is above even the *general* rules of a multi-sports club. In one aspect it constitutes the ethical system of the club; but it also transcends any particular club...

Sportsmanship is an invisible criterion governing admission to a club; and it is a supra-personal standard restraining the capricious use of the power of contracting-out. Again, it circumscribes all the rule-making within the club. No rule incompatible with the code of sportsmanship is conceivable in practice.

A further important principle of a club is its financing. Normally, the revenue of the club is derived from the subscriptions of its members (we are excluding the "club" which really exists to make a business of sport; which employs professionals, and derives its revenue by exhibiting to the public the performances of its employees. But in passing, it may be noted that the existence of genuine clubs exerts a powerful influence on the behaviour of the professional associations.) The income of the members is derived from sources *outside* the club, and *contributed to* the club. The committee has the spending of the funds; but it has to justify to the members generally the rate of subscription proposed in relation to the programme of general activities contemplated. Thus members will not approve of unlimited subscriptions to acquire unlimited playing grounds, nor to pay the wages and salaries of redundant employees; nor to accumulate disproportionate reserves. It is incumbent on the committee to show the advantages expected to accrue to the members generally from contemplated expenditure; and the

power to withhold the necessary funds resides in the members. When a general programme is approved, it falls to the committee to carry it into effect; and a failure is properly rewarded by the dismissal of the committee.

The various activities carried on within the club—the games, the social life, the administration of its affairs—are the *functional activities* of the club. The general pattern of these is derived from the individual desires of the members expressed in their proportional support of those activities. The relative emphasis on one game rather than another comes directly from the number of those who prefer one game to another. On the other hand, one member may participate in several functional activities; he may play two or three games, as well as become a member of the committee. His precise position in the club depends on his choice and on his ability; he may captain the cricket team, but be the first reserve of the football team; he may be the Treasurer, and at the same time "help out" by serving at times behind the bar. The time he spends in various functional activities is determined by his free-will, but conditioned by his "sportsmanship." His submission to his captain is voluntary, but—in the ideal member at least—his discipline—self discipline—is perfect.

It is easy to see that elections play but a small part in the conduct of such a club. For the most part majority decisions are expressed in the actions of the members, as in the playing of various types of game. Provided the cricketer finds the facilities he desires, it is a matter of no consequence to him that perhaps the majority prefer to play tennis. He is concerned only when the majority is so overwhelming that the minority is insufficient to constitute a team. Then he is free to consider the reasons why the majority prefers tennis, and either to give it a trial, or to leave the club, since it no longer serves his specific purposes.

But no member would submit to having the game he would play throughout the season determined by a majority vote in the election sense. Or, what is a variant of the same thing, that he should vote for a committee which would have the power of telling him how much of his time he should spend in the club, and what games he should play in that time.

"Supposing I were to say to you 'I am organising a cricket club. You are all cricket enthusiasts, so I feel sure that you will join my club, and will deposit all your title deeds, stocks and shares, and other valuables with the secretary as a guarantee that you will obey my orders'—you would probably remark that, under the circumstances, you think you'll play golf.

"But supposing you had been brought up from birth to believe that you *must* play cricket, and you must join my club, and that, of course, placing all your eggs in my basket was only a formality. And supposing that, when you were all neatly registered, I were to say: 'This organisation, which we humorously call a cricket club, is really planned for plainer living, higher thinking, and more painful dying, and you can't resign'—you would complain wouldn't you? To which the answer is, 'No, you wouldn't, because you, in fact, don't. Most of you merely say that more people must join the club—"full employment".''" (C. H. Douglas: *Programme For the Third World War*).

(To be continued).

PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3)

changes in Willesden which are involved in the movement of sections of its population to one of the new towns.

House of Commons: April 18, 1947.

Hill Farming Losses

Mr. Drayson (Skipton): The matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the House this afternoon is that of the plight of the hill farmers in the country as a result of the recent severe weather. . .

The full extent of the capital losses cannot yet be calculated. It is variously estimated to be from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the hill flocks, and in some instances, I believe particularly in Wales, they go up as high as 80 per cent., but in my constituency and, no doubt, in many others, the snowdrifts are still on the fell sides and they must be still covering a number of victims of this severe weather. Also many of the breeding ewes which have survived the winter are too weak to reproduce, and in some parts of the country we will be lucky if as much as 40 per cent. of our lambing stocks reach maturity. It is not only sheep which have been affected. There has been a large loss of cattle. I have seen not only dead sheep, but also dead cattle lying on the fell sides in the snow. The loss of cattle will vitally affect the country's milk production later in the year. The point that must be borne in mind is that these hill flocks can only be re-established by their own breeding. These flocks are "bound to the ground." I think that is the term. They are acclimatised to their own particular part of the fell. If new stock is introduced they will wander all over the country, and involve the farmers in a great deal of extra work and trouble. Therefore, the problem with which we are faced is, how the hill farmers are to earn their livelihood while they are building up their flocks, which may take anything from three to five years, or even longer. It is true, of course, that, in the normal process of eliminating the older members of the flock, there will be a certain number of sales, which will take place this season.

The Minister of Agriculture, I know, is fully aware of the position, because only a few weeks ago at Gloucester he said that the hill farmers occupied a key position in our whole agriculture economy, and that we could not afford to see them go under for lack of help in their hour of need. But later, I think in the same speech, he said, referring to the responsibility in this matter, the problem of assuring supplies of feeding stuffs for the hill districts was the first to arise, and that these difficulties were foreseen last harvest, when abnormal losses of fodder crops occurred as a result of the bad weather at the time. The farming community will not forget that they gave ample warning to the Minister. The Minister now repeats that these difficulties were foreseen last autumn. We accuse the Government of not taking adequate steps at the time to ensure that fodder would be made available during the winter months for farmers who had had a bad hay crop. The Minister went on, as is customary, to apportion blame in other quarters—to say that priority in transport was given to fuel. I am afraid that appears to be another case where the Minister of Agriculture has failed to make his point with the Cabinet, for the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Fuel and Power obtained the priority. There are several special points to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government in connection with the country districts. The farmer's wife has had a particularly difficult time during

this bad weather. Owing to the rationing and points system she has been unable to lay in stocks of food, a thing which all country people used to do before the war.

I should like to ask the Government if they could consider some scheme whereby the farmers in isolated districts—some of my farmers have been cut off from market for as long as eight weeks—could be allowed to build up stocks of coal and feedingstuffs during the autumn? Extra rations for self employed farmers is also a vital question. I know we discussed this in the House last night. I must say I thought the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food excelled herself when she suggested that these farmers might all run canteens. Perhaps, if she will come up into the more remote parts of our country, and see how the farmers live, instead of enjoying the more exotic atmospheres elsewhere, she would be wiser. The miners are receiving special consideration with regard to food, and I should like to see that extended to hill farmers.

Another point which arises is that of farmers' sons being called up for National Service. Could not that be deferred for the time being? The most difficult type of labour to replace is farm labour and, where there may be only one or two sons on an isolated farm, if they are taken away, then the cultivation and, indeed, the whole success of the farm suffers severely. A small item which has been mentioned before at Question time is that of baling wire which has added to the troubles of the hill farmers. Hay is carted on the fells largely by the use of sledges, and hay which is not baled is very difficult to handle. I ask the Minister whether he can arrange also for additional supplies of timber to be made available to the wheelwrights in the country districts. They have had very great difficulty in effecting the necessary repairs to the sledges used on the mountains during the bad weather.

A minor point which farmers felt acutely was the loss of 4d. per gallon suffered because milk produced in February could not be delivered until March when, as the Minister knows, the price was reduced. In regard to extra rations for calves over six months old, if some of the rations available in the discretionary allowance could be used for this purpose, it would be greatly appreciated. The young stock on the hill farms has suffered great privations in recent months. . . The solution which, so far has been offered, is that of an agricultural fund, to which the Government are to contribute. . . I think that there will be difficulties with the administration of the agricultural fund. It is to be administered in districts by three representatives from the National Farmers' Union and three from the county committees. Would the Minister himself like to be one of these farmers having to administer a fund to his fellow farmers and having to impose innumerable means tests? The National Farmers' Union are afraid that as a result of this they may lose a large number of members. In any case, while we appreciate the generosity of those who have contributed to the fund—and we thank them for that—we fear that the amount of money which it is hoped to raise will be far from adequate. These losses have been estimated to be in the neighbourhood of from £20 million to £40 million. This is a national problem. The small hill man has to meet the cost of rent, fertilisers and seeds for spring sowing. He needs financial help immediately.

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture (Mr. Collick): . . . The preliminary estimates of the losses were that we had lost one million ewes, and 1,750,000

born and unborn lambs which had perished from exposure or starvation. [AN HON. MEMBER: "In the United Kingdom?"] Yes. The greater proportion of them were on the hills. Store cattle were also affected. From further inquiries which have been made it is believed that those figures understate the severity of the crisis. The figures are not known finally but it is believed that in Great Britain the loss of sheep is as high as 1,140,000 and that the lambing losses may be as high as two million. . .

The National Farmers' Union have set up a fund out of which hill farmers may be compensated for their capital losses on livestock, so far, of course, as the size of the fund permits, and the Minister has announced that the Government are prepared to contribute to that fund approximately the same amount as is subscribed by farmers and others. Compensation will be paid from that fund for exceptional mortality among ewes and hogs and also for ewe lambs normally retained on the farms for breeding. . .

The Government have decided to do two things. Firstly, to assist those farmers whose flocks have been seriously depleted, it is proposed to pay the subsidy payments for 1948 and 1949 and perhaps 1950 upon the number of ewes and shearling ewes that were in the flocks in December, 1946. That is, of course, on the numbers as they were before the blizzards. . .

Secondly, it is proposed that the Ministry shall pay in 1947 to those farmers who desire it, an advance of up to 5s. per ewe against the subsidy payable in 1948. . .

Government Advertising

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Prime Minister upon what principle Government Departments issue advertisements in journals; and why the *Jewish Standard*, which consistently attacks British policy, constantly secures paid advertisements from Departments.

The Prime Minister: The space for Government advertising is purchased (through recognised advertising channels) on the principle of securing maximum results from the expenditure incurred. In the selection of media for the Government's various advertisements, regard is not paid to the political or other policies followed by the journals as organs of opinion, and I do not think that it would be the wish of the hon. Member that Government advertising should be placed in such a way as to give preference to journals supporting, rather than dissenting from, Government policy.

The Stevenage Case

On March 22, *The Social Crediter* published the full text of the Judgment by Mr. Justice Henn-Collins in the Stevenage case (High Court of Justice, February 20, 1947). Our reasons for doing so were stated at the time as "the wide interest excited by the Judgment . . . itself and because of its references to the rights of the Subject 'which flow from the Common Law conception of natural justice.'" Our readers have since been informed that the Judgment was reversed on Appeal, and that notice of Appeal to the House of Lords has been lodged by permission of the Court.

Writing from Greta Bank, Graveley, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Stevenage Residents' Protection Association, Mr. Gerald O. Gardner, asks us to assist in the raising of a sufficient sum of money to

proceed with the case, and we have promised publicity for his appeal with this reservation: that The Social Credit Secretariat itself receives no 'stray' financial support—every penny which comes to it is by the whole will and intention of those who give it. In this circumstance, we cannot counsel diversion of potential support to an *ad hoc* body. Perhaps our readers may discover how they can assist the Stevenage residents without infringing this principle. Publicity is an obvious instrument.

BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

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