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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

SELECTED PRAISE FOR THE CHOSEN. "I know that ye are Abraham's seed . . . I speak that which I have seen with My Father; and ye do that which ye have seen with your Father . . . ye do the deeds of your Father . . . ye are of your Father, the Devil . . . He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it."

We trust that the slightly "anti-" or "negative" nature of this comment will not jar on the new management of our Canadian contemporary.

The new managing editor of the *Canadian Social Crediter* is Mr. Gordon Taylor, M.L.A. While Mr. Taylor is, or was, a frequent speaker at Communist meetings, he is, of course, nominally a Social Crediter, and sits in the Provincial Legislature as Social Credit member for Drumheller, a constituency which has the reputation of being the "reddest" in the Province.

We have neither the desire nor have we had at any time the intention to comment other than with the greatest sympathy on affairs in Alberta; but it is evident that Communist infiltration is active, and we do not propose to allow Social Crediters elsewhere to be under any misapprehension in regard to the situation.

While the Stock Market crash of October, 1929, was part of a concerted plan, probably the most immediate responsibility can be assigned to Eugene Meyer, the head of The Federal Reserve Board, who incidentally wrecked the Hoover Administration by refusing to modify his policy when asked to do so by President Hoover; thus asserting the supremacy of Finance over the American Government. The world-history of the past eighteen years is the direct result of his actions. We are happy to notice that the Congressman from Mississippi, Mr. Ranken, in a speech to the House, pressed for an enquiry into Meyer's activities, alleging that he made himself rich by speculation when head of the Federal Reserve.

The fact that 1948 is the centenary of 1848, when the wave of revolutions confidently prophesied by D'Israeli twenty-five years before they occurred, broke out, as the work of the "Secret Societies," should not be dismissed as merely a matter of historical interest. Anyone who possesses the most elementary knowledge of "Plans" knows that it is essential to fix dates and calculate times, and the Great General Staff of Beelzebub, or Bernard Baruch or Whoever-is-it, are not immune from the necessity. For this reason, amongst many others, we are confident that 1948 is a most critical year. We can see—indeed, anyone can see—indications of a co-ordinated, massed assault on civilisation the whole world over. The forces of evil have been stealthily (and, recently, not so

stealthily) capturing the key positions, the Central Banks, the key industries, the War Offices, the broadcasting organisations. Unless we are much mistaken, and it is easy to be mistaken in these matters, the whole Plan will be touched off by "Operation Palestine"; and Operation Palestine can hardly be deferred after the late spring of this year.

New Year's Humour. ". . . We have the "B".B.C., controlled neither by the Government, nor by private interests, affording a platform for free and unfettered controversy." —Mr. Attlee, the Prime Minister, broadcasting on January 3.

STELLA, Marchioness of Reading, Vice-Chairman "B".B.C. was seen to smile discreetly.

Mr. Attlee, turning from gay to grave, delivered what is described as a denunciation of Russia. In this connection, the Washington (U.S.A.) *Times-Herald*, in its leader of December 11, 1947, observes "Soviet Russia has an unjustified reputation amongst Americans for having ended persecution of the Jews. . . . From the earliest times till to-day [December 11, 1947] the Russian people and Government have been and remain the consistent enemies of the Jews. . . ."

So, of course, the Americans and the English will have to fight Russia.

We are glad to notice that Mr. Solon Low brought to the attention of the Canadian House of Commons the case of Mr. Henry Dennis, a farmer, of Poslingford Hall, Suffolk, who planted buckwheat against the orders of the Agricultural Committee. The buckwheat, a valuable poultry food, was ploughed in by an agent of the Committee and thus wasted. The Socialist Leader, Mr. Coldwell, was not amused.

At West Suffolk Quarter Sessions on January 6, Mr. Dennis was fined £100.

The jury refused to convict; but, as this would have meant a new trial, and still further expense to Mr. Dennis, he pleaded guilty.

In a letter addressed to, and published by, the National Economic Council, Inc., 350, Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., Mr. Benjamin Friedman, a New York Jew, attacks the Zionist Movement with a competence which evidently comes from close familiarity. In the course of this long survey, Mr. Friedman remarks "Soviet Communism will succeed in its attempt to conquer the world in direct proportion to the support which America gives to Zionism. This may sound startling, but it is grimly true."

We wonder how long it will take for the populations of this planet to realise their plight and their inevitable fate from centralised manipulation.

"But to-day the most momentous fact in the whole world situation is that Russia and the Moslem world are finding something in common. By our almost incredible stupidity

in backing political Zionism, we are driving the Moslem into the welcoming arms of the Soviets."—Benjamin H. Friedman, *Op. cit.*

President Truman is determined to strangle the Bolshevik menace, and will fight it to the last Greek soldier.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: December 18, 1947.

Inspectorate

Commander Maitland asked the Minister of Education to indicate the size of His Majesty's Inspectorate; and whether the numbers in 1947 have increased or decreased compared with those in 1946; and to what extent.

Mr. Tomlinson: The strength of His Majesty's Inspectorate for England and Wales on December 1, 1947, is 507 and the corresponding figure on December 1, 1946, was 424.

Bankruptcies

Mr. Edward Evans asked the President of the Board of Trade how many persons and undertakings were adjudicated bankrupt between January, 1919, and August, 1939; what was the average number yearly; and how many from July, 1945, to November, 1947.

Mr. H. Wilson: Including bankruptcy orders and deeds of arrangements, the figures are 113,554, representing an average of 5,494 a year for the period January, 1919, to August, 1939. For the period July, 1945, to November, 1947, the total number was 136. . . .

Mr. Edward Evans asked the President of the Board of Trade how many farmers or farming undertakings were adjudicated bankrupt between January, 1919, and August, 1939; and how many between July, 1945, and November, 1947.

Mr. H. Wilson: Including bankruptcy orders and deeds of arrangement the figures are: for January, 1919, to August, 1939, 7,456; and for the period from July, 1945, to November, 1947, 76. . . .

Paper Supplies (Magazines)

Mr. Geoffrey Cooper asked the President of the Board of Trade what facilities are now being granted by his Department for the supply of paper for the publishing of new magazines started since 1945, other than those which are permitted a maximum of 8 cwt. per month.

Mr. H. Wilson: Under the Control of Paper, No. 70 Order, no new periodical or newspaper may be published if it uses more than 8 cwt. of paper in four months, except under licence. Licences are only granted in very exceptional cases, of which there have been six in the last 12 months.

Mr. Cooper: Will my right hon. Friend state what these six are? Can he reconcile the information he has just given with the advertisement in the Press of the magazine *Future*, started, I understand, since 1945, which is advertising with a view to obtaining subscribers? Is a magazine justified in advertising for new subscribers, when it has an allocation of paper of only 8 cwt. a month?

Mr. Wilson: I would like to have notice of the second part of that supplementary question. The six magazines are, respectively, *Instructional Screen*, *Christian Renewal*, *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons*, *International Union of Mineworkers Bulletin*, *Coal and Voice of the Overseas Chinese*.

Dr. Stephen Taylor: Is my right hon. Friend aware that the magazine *Future* is printed in Czechoslovakia, imported into this country, and re-exported, largely for dollars?

Mr. Pickthorn: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that paper might be saved by amalgamating these publications.

Retail Price Index

Mr. Charles Smith asked the Minister of Labour whether he will now publish monthly a full list of the changes in particular retail prices used in compiling the interim retail price index in accordance with the practice followed in respect of the former cost-of-living index.

Mr. Isaacs: I regret that this is not practicable.

Mr. Smith: Will my right hon. Friend state why it is not practicable?

Mr. Isaacs: Yes, Sir. It is necessary to measure price movements and not absolute prices. At the same time, we have to take into consideration the value of the article as well as the price. Therefore, we can only measure the price tendencies, and not the price of specific articles.

Purchase Tax (Refund Claim)

Sir John Mellor asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that Radiomobile Limited paid to His Majesty's Commissioners of Customs and Excise, in accordance with their ruling dated August 14, 1946, sums received as Purchase Tax on car radios before April 1, 1947; that, although such goods did not become liable to Purchase Tax until after August 10, 1947, a refund has been refused by the Commissioners, because payment was made under mistake of law; and what action he proposes to take.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: The answer is "None," Sir.

Sir J. Mellor: Will the right hon. Gentleman say on what moral justification this money is retained, as it was paid over because of a mistaken ruling by the Excise Department, and will he say how the Government can properly retain this money, which the company is claiming on behalf of its customers?

Mr. Glenvil Hall: There has been only one case of this kind. The Government are entitled to retain money received in this way and it would be quite impossible now—going back to 1940—for customers to have this tax refunded to them.

Sir J. Mellor: I asked the right hon. Gentleman on what moral justification the Government were keeping the money, which amounts to £12,000? Is it not sheer, rank dishonesty?

Mr. Glenvil Hall: Well, Mr. Speaker, at the Treasury we deal with finance and not with morals.

Hon. Members: Oh.

Mr. H. Strauss: When a Government Department makes a mistake of this kind, is the citizen's belief that they know

what they are talking about, a mistake of fact or a mistake of law?

Mr. Speaker: We are getting rather hypothetical over this.

Earl Winterton: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman to make it clear when he says, "We at the Treasury rely on law and not upon morals,"—[HON. MEMBERS: "No."]—whether he is speaking for himself, or the Treasury?

Mr. Glenvil Hall: I think the noble Lord has rather twisted what I really meant as a humorous aside.

Sir J. Mellor: In view of the cynical nature of the Government reply, I beg to give notice that I shall raise the matter on the Adjournment at the earliest opportunity.

Official Films (Distribution)

Mr. H. D. Hughes asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury which of the major cinema circuits has now arranged to distribute the C.O.I. film *The World is Rich*; what are the reasons given for the refusals he has received; and what steps he proposes to take to secure adequate distribution of this type of film.

Mr. Glenvil Hall: This film has not yet been offered to a major cinema circuit. These circuits get their films from distributors, one of whom, the British Lion Film Corporation, has lately arranged to offer the film to the circuits after it has been shortened. In reply to the last part of the Question, I can assure my hon. Friend that cinema exhibitors are aware of the Government's desire to secure the widest possible showing of official films. The Central Office of Information have an agreement, which they greatly value, with the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association whereby one ten-minute film is made available free of cost each month to some 3,300 cinemas. In addition, longer films are offered through the commercial renters, and I ought frankly to say that a greater readiness on the part of exhibitors to book these longer films would be a very welcome assistance to the Central Office in their task of informing the community on a wide variety of subjects.

Law Costs

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Agriculture in view of the fact that members and officials of war agricultural executive committees are not civil servants, why his Department paid the damages and costs awarded against the defendant in the case of *Odlum v. Stratton*, and the costs awarded against the defendants in *Lindner v. Moon & Ors.*

Mr. T. Williams: The answer in respect of the first case mentioned was given by my right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General, in reply to a Question by my hon. Friend the Member for Maldon (Mr. Driberg) on August 1, 1946. That answer, to which I would refer the hon. Member, applies equally to the second case.

Cereals (Dominion Acreages)

Mr. Wilkes asked the Minister of Food what restrictions on wheat and grain acreage within the British Commonwealth are enforced today by the Canadian, Queensland, and Australian Governments; what representations have been made by the British Government regarding a relaxation of these

restrictions; at what dates; and with what result.

Dr. Summerskill: The Canadian Government does not enforce restrictions on the acreages planted with cereals. An annual Conference of Provincial Representatives held under the auspices of the Dominion Government each December makes recommendations about target acreages, but these recommendations are not binding on producers. The Canadian Wheat Board has powers to regulate the rate at which growers market their crop, in order to regulate the flow of wheat during the early months of the marketing year. In Australia neither the Dominion Government nor the Queensland Government restricts the planting of wheat. There is a system of licensing but the total area licensed commonly exceeds the Government's target acreage. Since the 1945-46 season efforts have been made to increase wheat production in Australia, but they were hampered by adverse weather conditions until the present season. There have, therefore, been no grounds on which representations on the part of the United Kingdom Government would be useful.

Germany (I.G. Farbenindustrie Gesch.)

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take against I. G. Farbenindustrie Gesch. and to investigate the methods used by the German Government prior to the war through that firm's international arrangements and connections and control of patents to cripple the war capacity of this country.

Mr. Mayhew: This Question concerns complicated matters which have been the subject of much inter-allied discussion. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

House of Commons: December 19, 1947.

Public Health

Medical Practitioners Negotiating Committee (Discussions)

Mr. Asterley Jones asked the Minister of Health if his attention has been drawn to premature disclosure in the Press of accounts of proceedings in his recent discussions with the doctors; and whether he has any statement to make on the release of this information.

Mr. Bevan: Yes. In certain newspapers I have been accused of premature disclosure of matters which were discussed by me with the Negotiating Committee of the profession and which it was agreed should not be published before to-day. The discussions in question took place between some 40 representatives of the profession or officials of the British Medical Association, the Secretary of State for Scotland, myself and some officers. So far as my right hon. Friend, myself and our officers are concerned, I can state categorically that no disclosure of any kind has been made or condoned. The motives underlying these statements can only have been to embitter my relations with a profession whose co-operation I am sincerely seeking. Fortunately, I do not believe that many in the profession are actuated by such motives.

Potato Control Offices, Manchester

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Food if he will state, in convenient salary categories, the number of persons

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The Remedy in Alberta

It is quite possible, and even probable that Mr. Manning, the Premier of Alberta, possesses qualities at least up to, and even above, the average of Provincial Premiers, and we may disabuse the minds of the mischief makers in the opposition political parties of any idea, with which they are toying delightedly, that we should countenance anything so fatuous as a self-contained "Douglasite" party, whatever that may mean, to displace him.

If Social Credit in Canada is not "Douglasite", that is just too bad for Canada.

The same pretty little, but rather shop-worn, scheme was attempted in 1937 against Mr. Aberhart, and we are happy to recall that the whole weight of such influence as we possess was thrown into the scales in his favour.

But Mr. Manning is obviously not Mr. Aberhart, nor is the situation that of 1937, and it is clear that the Provincial Social Credit Government is out of hand, and cannot be allowed—not merely from the Alberta point of view, but also from that of the far wider and deeper interests involved—to become the plaything of external forces which Mr. Manning does not understand, and whose presence even inside his own Administration he is perhaps specially unfitted to identify, by reason of his apocalyptic complex.

We think the remedy is not too difficult. Already the Union of Electors idea has taken root and is developing rapidly. To this, to avoid the fatal *vox populi, vox dei* fallacy, should be joined a Committee composed, let us say of the Anglican Bishop of Edmonton, the Catholic Bishop of Calgary, and the Moderator of the Free Churches in Alberta. These, as representing Christianity in the Province, should arbitrate on any demands of the Union of Electors having in view solely their compliance with the Christian ethic. In particular, the idea that there is some ethic resident in the opinion of a majority, would thereby be curbed.

Subject to such a safeguard, we have little doubt that Mr. Manning could be fortified so as to enable him to pursue the policy to which he is committed by his election speech, but from which he is deflected by the conscious manoeuvring of anti-Christian, anti-Canadian, and anti-British forces he does not feel strong enough to resist.

The origins of the situation in Canada may be judged from the following information which has been received as to the policy of the Alberta Communists (L.P.P.):—

"Our problem is to work to crystallise currents of opposition developing in Social Credit camps, so that they move Left towards our party. We must work to widen the gap between them and reactionary Social Crediters. We must single out the pro-Fascist [*i.e.* anti-Zionist] groups for unrelenting attack."

Development of the Individual

"... he [the Italian] was the first-born among the sons of modern Europe. In the Middle Ages both sides of human consciousness—that which was turned within as that which was turned without—lay dreaming or half awake beneath a common veil. The veil was woven of faith, illusion, and childish prepossession, through which the world and history were seen clad in strange hues. Man was conscious of himself only as a member of a race, [*] people, party, family, or corporation—only through some general category. In Italy this veil first melted into air; an *objective* treatment and consideration of the State and of all the things of this world became possible. The *subjective* side at the same time asserted itself with corresponding emphasis; man became a spiritual *individual*, and recognised himself as such... In far earlier time we can here and there detect a development of free personality which in Northern Europe either did not occur at all, or could not display itself in the same manner... But at the close of the thirteenth century Italy began to swarm with individuality; the ban laid upon human personality was dissolved; and a thousand figures meet us each in its own special shape and dress... The Italians of the fourteenth century knew little of false modesty or of hypocrisy in any shape; not one of them was afraid of singularity, of being and seeming unlike his neighbours."—Burckhardt, *Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy*.

Cricket

"A serious crisis arose in 1860, when the Eyre Estate sold the freehold of Lord's at Public Auction. Darke and others urged the Club to bid, but with a strange lack of vision, they declined to do so, and the ground was bought by Mr. Isaac Moses for £7,000. When eventually the ground became the property of the Club on August 22, 1866, a sum of £18,333 6. 8. had to be paid to Moses for the freehold."—*Lond's*, 1787-1944, by Sir Pelham Warner, p.31.

Gold

The Editor, *The Social Crediter*,

Dear Sir, The following quotations, in juxtaposition, may be considered by you to be worth publishing:—

Lord Apsley in the House of Commons, March 24, 1938: "The shortage of gold of a few years ago had been overtaken, and with the dismissal from office and power of M. Trotsky, who always kept in close co-operation with those who were interested in the production of gold, Russia reversed her policy of keeping her gold mines out of employment and became a great producer of gold."

The Economist, November 28, 1942: "The decision to use or abandon gold in the post-war monetary mechanism is one that will not be taken without reference to the immense vested interests affected. However unfortunate such an admission may be, it will be a political as well as an economic decision. Those vested interests can very briefly be defined: the U.S.A. holds four-fifths of the world's stock of gold; the British Empire controls three-fifths of its current production. It would be strange indeed if gold were found to occupy no place in the post-war currency system."

Yours faithfully,

London, January 5.

S. E. FOX.

[*] It is clear that the generic word which Burckhardt's mind is seeking is the word 'group', signifying what is understood thereby by Social Crediters—Editor, *T.S.C.*

Six Lectures on Politics and Political Action*

(I)

Recent events: the two Wars which have marred the lives of a single generation, affecting practically the whole world, the changes forced upon communities in this and other countries such as food rationing, compulsory military service, high taxation, curtailment of ordinary liberty to move about, to spend what money the individual has, to choose his occupation, *etc., etc.*, (the list is a long one): have brought to life politically a large number of people who twenty years ago thought and said they had no interest in politics. Politics and politicians may have affected their lives; but the pressure was imperceptible, or not consciously perceived. Now things have altered, and many people are asking, perhaps rather late in the day, how this comes to be, and how that comes to be; why this should be done, and why that. From one side, which we can identify as in some way 'the enemy', comes the question whether your journey is really necessary, and, from our side, whether the restrictions we are so conscious of, and which we find so irksome, are really necessary; whether they cannot be reduced, and whether life cannot be lived with satisfaction on better terms.

Under cover of superficial appearances, many men and women who would have repudiated any suggestion that politics meant much to them have recently become more politically conscious. Perhaps this applies more particularly to women, and we can trace some at least of the features of the change more easily in relation to women. For many women, politics has meant in the past the sort of thing associated with votes for women. A politically-minded woman, they thought, was one who believed fervently in the advantages to be derived from giving women votes at elections, and anyone who did not respond enthusiastically to the idea of women's participation in elections was held to be not politically-minded. This limits political action to a particular aspect, and how narrow it is shown by a list of actual questions which for example, the Housewives' League has been asked lately.

It will interest you to hear some of these:—

What is the meaning of the Emergency Powers Act?

What are the basic principles of Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, Communism?

Why did both the war-time National Government and the present Government think it necessary to borrow a large sum of money from America?

What is the difference between 'non-party' and 'non-political'?

Why have we to send goods abroad and yet go short at home?

What is a 'closed-shop'?

Do you think trades-unions desirable?

How is it we can spend such large sums of money during the war? Where does it come from?

What has to happen to make a Government fall?

These questions show not only that women are asking questions, but that the questions they ask are directed to very different aspects of political life and Government. One

questioner thinks that her understanding of the problems which affect her would be increased if she knew what it was that really separates the Conservatives from the Communists or the Liberals. So she asks what the root principles are which make a man or a woman claim to be either one or the other. Another questioner is puzzled by a technical point—the meaning of a particular Act of Parliament. Another seems a little suspicious about Trade Unions. She wants to know whether, like our war-time journeys, these institutions are 'really necessary'. Another's attention has been caught by a dispute among trade unionists. She wants to know what it is really about, so she asks for an explanation of the 'keyword', the meaning of a 'closed shop'.

You can easily see that the answers to all these questions will have little in common. They are different *kinds* of question, as well as different questions. Probably, if someone took note of all the questions women, and men as well, are asking in these difficult times, the short list I have read out would very quickly become a much longer list. Remember that the women who are asking these questions are doing so in the hope that, if they receive answers, they will find the answers helpful; that somehow life will become simpler because their questions have been answered. They hope to discover something useful, something which they can use, if only in a small way, but nevertheless something of importance to themselves, which will solve a difficulty, and make it easier to meet the difficulties which beset us all. Women want to do something, and are asking questions in order to find out how to do it. But we must not forget that the right question may not be in the list. Perhaps the really important question has yet to be asked. Perhaps it will be a long time before the right question leading to the right (which means really useful) answer comes to be asked. And this after all is the question and answer we are all seeking, to the exclusion of all others. In any case it seems altogether too haphazard, a kind of guessing competition, just to stand by and hope that someone will light upon the really essential, crucial question which will give opportunity for the problem-solving answer to be given. And, it would not surprise me if someone already deeply engaged in politics, a leading Conservative or an ardent Communist, who might overhear what I am saying, should laugh outright at the very idea that there is any real answer to the root question which troubles us all. He (or perhaps she) might say: "Ah, yes! That's really too idealistic, to imagine that there is any answer to the political question! It's something we've all been trying to solve for ages; but Communism's the only answer (or Conservatism)." And that, of course, brings us back to where we started, and is really all very discouraging, for it leads a sensible person to say, "well, if they really haven't got an answer, what is it they're trying to do, mystify us?" Notice that the very people who ridicule the possibility of finding a real answer to the political question are themselves those who nevertheless make a career of politics. They are Councillors, or Members of Parliament, and yet although they devote all, or much, of their time to the work, they can tell us when we ask for some tangible result only that we are crying for the moon, and that it is inevitable that things should more or less remain as they are or get worse; that they're trying to make them a little better, but not so much better that we can notice any difference. They may then proceed to claim that, by the use of statistics, or by some other method difficult to understand, they can prove to us that they've really done us a lot of good that we didn't notice.

Past experience of the development of "the State" and

*Lectures prepared for and delivered to the members of an *ad hoc* body active in some parts of England and since revised.

society shows that people have been put off by this kind of thing for a long time, perhaps long enough for the rulers of states to effect their designs, but never completely, and certainly at present there is growing resentment. People know "there is something wrong somewhere," and they want to find out, if they can, what is wrong and they want to put it right.

These few lectures start from that point of view, and are an effort to establish a clear idea of what it is we can do, and having found that out to get on with the job.

Now, I think the first thing to get quite clear about is that although Parties occupy so much attention at present, political action, even political action of an astonishingly successful kind, has gone on in the past when there was no such thing as a political party in existence, and if you had mentioned the words Political Party, no one would have known what you were talking about. To make this point as clear as I can, I am going to quote what a very able man, now dead unfortunately, wrote not very long ago in a little book, the preface to which begins with these words: "Some ten years ago, Sir Frederick Pollock published a valuable and interesting little book on the history of political speculation. But the author is not aware that any one has yet attempted to summarize, in a brief, popular form, the record of political action." Now, that seems to be exactly what we are after, and since the late Mr. Edward Jenks tried to make good the deficiency he had noticed, I think it will not be waste of time to tell you something about what he had to say.

Edward Jenks remarks, and we ought not to forget this remark, that "it not infrequently happens that an institution created for one purpose is found to serve quite another." The great institution we are concerned with in British politics is the institution of Parliament, and in the remark I have quoted, there is at least a hint for us that Parliament may not be serving the purpose for which it was instituted, or for which we believe it to have been instituted and developed. When we look into the matter, some curious facts come to light. Take, to begin with, the Member of Parliament. We are beginning to look upon him, perhaps, with some degree of hostility. Until recently he has enjoyed a very enviable reputation in recent times. His job is coveted. It is, or was, considered to be a great honour to be elected to Parliament. It will probably surprise many of us to learn that this was not always the case. In primitive society, if A murdered B, not only A but A's relatives were liable to the relatives of B. Suppose A was a stone mason and that he built B's house, and built it so badly that it fell down, not only A but A's trade guild (in some respects the forerunner of trade unions) was liable to B. If A, being a merchant, owed a debt to B, not only A but A's town was liable to B. Now this is the beginning of political representation. According to our ideas, perhaps, if the king had levied a tax on a village, the liability ought to have been divided proportionately or equally amongst the individual members of the village, according to their gain from the measures financed, and each man should have paid his share. But this was troublesome, and the "king knew a better way." He just sent an officer and seized a couple of the wealthiest and most respected inhabitants, and clapped them in gaol until the money was paid. The village perhaps protested. Very well, let it find the money, and the men would be sent home. The early parliamentarians were literally *hostages* for the alleged debts of the people to the State. Parliament was in no ordinary sense of the term a *popular* institution.

For many years after its appearance it was an intensely unpopular institution, both with the 'constituencies' and with the 'representatives.' The counties hated it, because they had to pay the wages of their members. The clergy hated it, because they did not want to acknowledge the authority of the secular power, and they did not want to pay taxes to the State, because they said they paid them to the Pope, for the support of those purposes for which they had isolated themselves from society. The boroughs hated it because, in England at least, the parliamentary boroughs paid a higher rate of taxation than their humbler sisters. Everybody hated it, because the summoning of a Parliament invariably meant taxation. The Members of Parliament themselves disliked the odium of having to consent to taxes which their constituents would have to pay. Only the most stringent pressure of the Crown maintained the Parliaments in existence for the first century of their life, and, indeed, in those countries where the Crown was weak, Parliament ceased to assemble. "The notion," says Jenks, "that Parliaments were the result of a spontaneous democratic movement can be held by no one who has studied, ever so slightly, the facts of history." Parliament, at any rate the representative part of it, was, in origin, concerned solely with the granting of *money* to the king. Before long, however, demand began to be made for certain things in return for the money. Virtually, the people said, "If we give you this money, will you pass a law confirming this or that custom which has grown up among us?" These demands were called Petitions, and this is the meaning of the Petitioning of the king in Parliament.

Now we begin to see that it must become harder and harder to extract money from the people, even on these terms, and we shall see in the next lecture how the system has developed with the objective, whether politicians admit it or not, of finding a way to get round the increasing difficulties of social organisation which satisfies the practical needs and moral instincts of the people who are being governed. This will bring us straight up against the real nature of the Party System and what is called "majority rule."

PARLIAMENT—continued from page 3.

employed at his office of the Potato Control in Manchester; and what is the turnover of potatoes that they handle on an annual basis.

Mr. Strachey: There are two potato offices in Manchester, a Divisional Office with Divisional Supervisor, three other salaried officers and three clerical and typing staff, and an Area Office with Area Supervisor, four other salaried officers and twelve clerical and typing staff. The Divisional Office was responsible for supervising the distribution of about 900,000 tons of potatoes from the 1946 crop and the Area Office was responsible for handling the detailed trading activities for about 330,000 tons.

Special Surveys

Lieut.-Commander Hutchison asked the Minister of Food if he will define in greater detail the term, "vulnerable groups of the population," used by his Department in relation to certain special surveys which they are carrying out.

Mr. Strachey: In my Department a rigid definition has not been adopted, but the special surveys to which the hon. Member refers are being carried out among various groups of the population which have special nutritional needs, or might

be considered to be potentially vulnerable at a time when the national dietary is being reduced. The term "vulnerable" as usually employed covers expectant mothers, infants, children of school age, adolescents and invalids. The present surveys which are undertaken in association with my right hon. Friend the Minister of Health, include in addition to those groups, the households of workers in the shipbuilding, coal mining and heavy metal industries, agricultural workers, and old age pensioners.

Invalid Diets (Confidential Information)

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Food whether he is aware that a medical practitioner, required to submit to him a certificate, describing in detail the character and prognosis of a patient's illness, asking for invalid diets, found subsequently that these details had been communicated to the local food office; that district nurses were discussing the case on information derived from the food office; and, as statutory medical tribunals regard disclosure to persons unauthorised by the patient of information obtained by the medical attendant in his professional capacity as warranting removal from the medical register, he will revise the procedure of his office which permitted this disclosure.

Mr. Strachey: No, I am not aware of the case to which the hon. Member refers, but if he will let me have particulars I will have inquiries made. It is inevitable that those members of the food office staffs who deal with applications for special diets for invalids should become aware of some of the details of the cases, but they are under instructions not to reveal any confidential information which may be communicated to them.

Statistics

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Agriculture how many farmers there are in each county and the acreage farmed; how many have been dispossessed, or tenancies terminated, by his Department; what acreage has been taken over; how many members there are of the county agricultural committees and their sub-committees and district committees; and how many administrative and executive officials, and persons employed in administrative and clerical work.

Mr. T. Williams: The statistics collected by my Department do not differentiate farmers, but relate to all agricultural holdings exceeding one acre. I am sending the hon. Member a statement showing the numbers of such holdings in each county in June, 1947, with the acreages returned. Up to November 30, 1947, the tenancies of 2,788 holdings in England and Wales have been terminated by notice under Defence Regulation 62, without possession being taken. In addition, possession has been taken under Defence Regulation 51 of 369,632 acres of agricultural land affecting 5,618 cases, many of them individual fields. In many instances, existing tenancies were terminated before possession was taken by agreement to facilitate reclamation and improvement. In some cases possession has now been relinquished. There are 765 members of county agricultural executive committees, 1,769 members of sub-committees and 3,776 members of district committees. County committees employ about 3,400 technical and administrative staff and 6,600 clerks and typists.

Farm Tenancies (Vacancies)

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Agriculture, in all cases of dispossession or termination of tenancy by his Department, what precautions are taken to see that no relative of any member of the county agricultural committee is put in possession of the farm or holding.

Mr. T. Williams: It is an instruction that in such a case no member of a county war agricultural executive committee or district committee should be put in possession of the holding by the committee except with the approval of my Department. It is, I think, generally appreciated by committees that the instruction ought properly to apply also to close relatives of members.

Benefits

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of National Insurance whether, as it will be impossible for many years to provide benefits in accordance with the provisions of the National Insurance Act, notably in the field of Health Services, he will graduate the amount of the compulsory levy for Insurance under the Act, in step with the actual provision of benefits in respect of which that levy is made.

Mr. Steele: As already announced, the benefits of the National Insurance Acts, 1946, will become fully available subject to the conditions laid down from next July when the contributions required by the Acts also become payable. As regards the Health Services to be provided under the National Health Service Act, although there will be continuous development of these as resources increase, the cost of the wide range of services which will be immediately available from next July will greatly exceed the sums to be provided from National Insurance funds under Section 37 of the National Insurance Act and no reduction in National Insurance contributions would accordingly be justified.

Trade and Commerce, New Publications (Licences)

Mr. Beswick asked the President of the Board of Trade (1) to what publishers, and in respect of what new publications, licences have been granted under the Control of Paper No. 70 Order, since present regulations regarding new publications came into force;

(2) If he will specify the exceptional circumstances which must obtain before a licence under the Control of Paper No. 70 Order is granted for the publication of a new periodical.

Mr. H. Wilson: Applications for licences are considered on their merits but no licence is given where the field is already covered by existing journals; in other cases, the views of the Department concerned with the subject matter of the proposed publication are obtained and licences may be granted on their advice, where the proposed publication would fulfil a function which is necessary to the successful implementation of that Department's work and would not involve the issue of further licences to subsequent applicants in the same or associated fields

I append a list of the licences which have been issued authorising the publication of new newspapers and periodicals using more than 8 cwt. of paper in 4 months since the Control of Paper (No. 70) Order came into force in November, 1945.

Name of Publication and Publisher—

Abstracts of World Medicine, Abstracts of World Surgery and Gynaecology: British Medical Association.

- Current Affairs, Map Review:* Bureau of Current Affairs.
Science Comment: British Council.
Rubber Statistical Bulletin: London Rubber Secretariat.
Betro Review: British Export Trade Organisation.
Brezk-Islnck Vidskifti: British Icelandic Trade Press.
Pegasus Journal: Gale and Polden Limited.
British Journal of Applied Science: Butterworth and Company.
American Outlook: British American Outlook Limited.
R.E.M.E. Journal: R.E.M.E. Magazine.
Look and Listen: Mr. P. Pound.
Christian Renewal: Renewal Press Limited.
Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England: Royal College of Surgeons.
Chiao Sheng Pao (Daily Newspaper): Voice of the Overseas Chinese.
Information Bulletin: National Union of Mineworkers.
Coal: National Coal Board.

Public Social Services (Expenditure)

Mr. Benson asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether he will give the figures of expenditure on public social services in 1945-46 and 1946-47.

[Mr. Glenvil Hall's reply which is in tabular form will be published in *The Social Crediter* next week.]

Palestine (United Nations Plan)

Mr. N. Macpherson asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give the population of each of the seven areas into which Palestine is to be divided under the revised U.N.O. plan, showing it under the following separate headings: Arab, Jewish, other races.

Mr. Rees-Williams: The figures in the form requested by the hon. Member are not readily available. The population of Palestine is classified in official statistics under two heads: (a) Jews; and (b) Arabs and others. The Palestine Government estimate that the distribution of the population, settled and Bedouin together, in the two States and in the area of the City of Jerusalem on December, 1946, was approximately as follows:

<i>Arab State</i>				
Arabs and others	...	...	...	847,000
Jews	...	...	...	10,000
Total	...	...	...	857,000
<i>Jewish State</i>				
Arabs and others	...	...	...	405,000
Jews	...	...	...	498,000
Total	...	...	...	903,000
<i>City of Jerusalem</i>				
Arabs and others	...	...	...	105,000
Jews	...	...	...	100,000
Total	...	...	...	205,000
Total Arabs	...	...	...	1,357,000
Total Jews	...	...	...	608,000
Grand Total	...	...	...	1,965,000

I am asking the High Commissioner for Palestine for an analysis of these figures to indicate respective populations in the different sectors of the Arab and Jewish States and will communicate with the hon. Member when I am in receipt

of his reply.

It will be understood that the above figures relate to the areas within the boundaries described in Part II of the United Nations plan and do not take account of any changes which may result from the instruction in Part I of the plan that these boundaries are to be modified in such a way that village areas as a rule will not be divided by State boundaries unless pressing reasons make that necessary.

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