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BANKERS AND THE BRIEY BASIN

By W. LEECH

The substance of the second part of an address given to the Belfast Social Credit Association

Supposing this Country found it necessary to declare war on some aggressor and the War Minister, being also a realist, issued this manifesto:—

To all Mothers of Britain:

"Madam, I want your son. I want him to defend the honour and glory of Britain. That's what he is here for anyway.

I want him to go to a foreign land and shoot at people he does not know, may never even see. I want him to do this for the nation. In doing so, he may get it in the neck himself, or he may not. He might be attacked by mustard gas, and get his lungs burnt out. He might have an arm or leg blown off and lie groaning in a ditch, for a couple of days, or maybe weeks, and be devoured by vermin, rats and vultures. He might be blinded, or maimed, but if he survives it all, we will send him back to you, whence he will become registered on the unemployed list. Nevertheless, you and he will be proud of the fact that you all suffered—for Britain!"

It would be true. In fact all the glory, and glamour of War is so much nonsense; without the newspapers war would be exposed as stark, mad brutality, and a sin against God and man.

Where is the impulse sufficiently strong to start war, and, once started, to prolong it?

"My country right or wrong" was the cry, which to my mind deluded millions of us (including myself) in 1914, when secret diplomacy, armament manufacturers, and newspaper trusts had succeeded

in hounding us to war with another nation.

The following narrative has been built upon a study of the official investigation made by a number of French M.P.'s and issued in France in 1919.

* * * *

The front line between the Allied Troops of France and Britain on the one side, and those of Germany on the other, ran roughly from Dunkirk on the N.E. Coast of France (opposite Dover) to approximately near Basel a town in the corner of France near the borders of Switzerland.

Down near this southern portion was an important fortified French town called Verdun. It was held, of course, by the French troops. Now the front line ran in front of Verdun swinging through the province of Lorraine.

About 30 miles east by south of Verdun, it ran through a very rich iron ore and coal mining country

called the BRIEY BASIN.

The possession of this area, for its iron and coal, was of the utmost importance to Germany, for she was inadequately supplied with such materials for a prolonged war. She therefore entered the district early in the war, and remained in unchallenged possession of it throughout. The vital necessity for Germany of holding Briey was confirmed by a confidential document addressed to the then German Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg in May, 1915, which said that "if the production of the iron ore, etc., was disturbed for Germany, the war would be lost. That the German Empire could not possibly continue the war, for 70 per cent. of all her iron ore for munition making came from Briey."

Now it is at least conceivable that the French and British staffs were also aware of this—and in fact they did know it.

That being so, it would have

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seemed that a successful prosecution of the War on behalf of the Allies would have necessitated an immediate attack on Briey; to be captured for the Allies use, or destroyed in order to prevent the Germans using it.

But what do we find?

We learn from the officers and men in this area, that this great iron and coal country now in the possession of the enemy, was to be left undisturbed, by orders of the French General Staff! The French in the immediate front of Briey actually had to remain passive and watch the German munition makers at their work. They watched them working full steam ahead, turning out coal and iron, erecting smelting factories, and producing millions of tons of raw materials for munitions at top speed.

Strange as this story may seem, it is stranger still when we remember that had it not been for a mistake at the American Army Headquarters when an offensive launched by the Americans in October, 1918, threatened the German occupation of Briey, we would probably never have heard of this remarkable story. It was the Americans who "spilled the beans."

Prior to this, however, the tranquillity on this part of the front

When does your Social Crediter Arrive?

All subscribers in the British Isles should receive their copies of *The Social Crediter* on the Saturday of each week.

If those whose copies do not arrive until the Monday after publication will let us know and if possible send us the wrappers, we will take the matter up with the Post Office.

Taxation is a negative dividend. It is not true that the poor pay no taxes: the richest are rich because the poor pay most of the taxes.

aroused the suspicions of certain French officers who observing the feverish activity of the German munition makers, immediately ordered a bombardment of the area.

For this patriotic piece of work one might expect these officers to be applauded, but again what do we find? Monsieur Barthe, at the official investigation testifies:—

"I affirm that during the War a General was officially reprimanded for having bombarded Briey. That the military Chiefs forbade the disturbance of this area, and among those officers who not wishing to give in to these orders, and observing the activities of the Germans went and bombarded it, a number have been severely punished."

Monsieur Albert Thomas, the French Minister of Munitions, testifies as follows:—

"That at the end of 1916, during Briand's second ministry, I demanded the bombardment of Briey several times. The War Minister announced that he had transmitted these orders to the General Staff, but that they had not been executed, the reason given being the insufficient number of guns and aeroplanes. To which I replied, that as there were sufficient for open towns there must be sufficient for Briey."

This peculiar behaviour, one minister arguing with the other, went on until February, 1917: 27 months of war—when owing to the determined demands of some artillery officers outside Verdun, the General Staff gave way and permitted a bombardment over Briey.

Deputy Eynac testifies as follows:—

"These orders for the bombardment of Briey were established under a secret document, and the raids placed in charge of an officer, sent to us by the General Staff, named Lieutenant Lejeune. It transpired that this officer so skilfully commanded the bombing operations, that NO damage to Briey was accomplished at all!"

Could there be a more ironical

situation?

Here you have a French officer under the directions of the French High Command actually preventing the destruction of the Briey Area, where he knew that Germany secured 70 per cent. of her iron resources.

At this point let us estimate the cost in blood of this action of Lieutenant Lejeune and the French High Command. The nearest sector of any importance from which I am able to get casualty lists for Briey is Verdun. During the five months February to June, 1917, after Lejeune's treachery—the French lost 179,000 men killed and missing (not including officers) and 263,000, a total of 442,000 men.

* * * *

Who was the unseen hand behind the French General Staff?

Well, let us find out who owned Briey.

Briey was French territory and we find that this area was owned by a huge industrial corporation in France called the Comité des Forges. The guiding hand and controller of this huge concern was a French "gentleman" called François de Wendel, who was also an M.P., and a director of the Bank of France.

Now François had a brother, and before the war it was considered advisable for this brother to become a naturalised German. This was duly accomplished and what was more important—he also became an M.P., in Germany.

During the official investigation it was discovered that a gentleman's agreement existed between François de Wendel and Herr Thyssen, the great German industrialist, to the effect that all the profits arising from the Briey Area would in the event of War be shared fifty-fifty.

Thyssen was also a member of the management committee of the German Reichsbank. He also had a son for whom it was arranged that he should become a naturalised Frenchman.

There is the solution of the

mystery of Briey, perhaps one of the greatest mysteries of the World War. Two bankers, one in France and the other in Germany, so powerful that they could bring influence to bear upon the General Staff of France and actually prevent the destruction of that which they regarded as the source of huge profits—the Briey Establishments. Generals and officers who were sufficiently patriotic to disregard G.H.Q., were degraded; at least 179,000 French soldiers died.

The officer who so skilfully planned the raids over Briey, Lieutenant Lejeune, was an employee of the Comité de Forges and admitted as such by De Wendel at the investigation.

Let me conclude with the words of Monsieur Barthe at the investigation:—

"I affirm that in order to safeguard private business and banking interests our military chiefs were ordered NOT to bombard the establishments of the Briey Area which were being exploited by the enemy. I affirm that our aviation service received instructions to respect the blast furnaces in which the enemy steel was being made and that a general who WISHED to bombard Briey was severely punished."

The youngster who collapsed before the enemy in fear was shot—for desertion; De Wendel got away with it.

The address—"The Futility of War" was built up from a study of the following publications:—

"The Assassins of the People" by C. K. Streit; a series of articles published in this country in "Foreign Affairs" 1920; three articles in June, 1916 by Max Hirschler in the "Temps"; article in the Paris "L'oeuvre" May 22nd, 1917; statement by Deputy Eynac in the French Chamber on February 14th, 1919; a letter in "L'information", a Paris financial journal, in February 16th, 1919; statement by Deputy Barthe in the French Chamber on January 24th, 1919; statement by M. Viviani, a former premier, on the same date; statement by M. Albert Thomas, French Minister of Munitions in the French Chamber when the inquiry into the Briey Legend was being debated January, 1919; etc., etc.

CRISIS

Two authentic and recent conversations—

(a)

Gentile: "Come now . . . is there anything in these sensational stories about an attempt at world domination by you Jews?"

Millionaire Jew: "Of course there is. Within a very few years we shall have finally achieved it. *Nothing can stop us.*"

(b)

Another Millionaire Jew: "A war within six months is an absolute necessity, or we Jews are finished. England is becoming Jew-conscious."

You pays your money, and you takes your choice.

* * * *

There have been five suicides specifically attributed to B.B.C. "panic" news broadcasts.

The News Bulletins are "Copy-right by Reuters, Press Association, Exchange Telegraph and Central News."

Try that over on your piano. Notice anything?

Spanish Loan?

A Reuter message from Amsterdam last Saturday, published in the English press, states "on the best authority" that a group of international bankers, including Mendelssohns and Company, of Amsterdam, have been approached by the Spanish Government regarding a possible loan.

But no negotiations had begun.

Messrs. Mendelssohn were one of the 62 international banking and financial institutions which subscribed the share capital of "Sofina." (See *The Times*, February 5, 1929; April 30, 1934; April 25, 1935; April 17, 1936).

M. Van Zeeland, is in Paris on his way to Burgos. According to *The Times*, he is acting on behalf of a group of Dutch, French and Swiss bankers in reference to a loan to the Spanish Government. £20 million is mentioned.

"Outside Britain [?] the corruption of Freemasonry has long been accomplished. The Grand Orient Lodge, the servant of the Soviet and certain powerful Jewish groups determined on world domination (but by no means unopposed by powerful groups of their co-religionists) is the execution headquarters for disseminating revolutionary order with a very complete obedience to those orders by unwitting disciples all over Europe. Two of its chief centres in Europe to-day are Paris and Prague." (*Interrogation inserted*).

"Though many of these Jews of the International Bolshevik group are forced to operate in the open or have unwillingly been brought into the limelight, the majority operate through firms of Gentile appearance or through Gentiles on whom they have some lever . . ." "*The Spanish Arena*," *Foss and Gerahty*.

A bob on each horth, pleathe.

"The masses cannot be won without a highly developed, carefully carried out and well organised system of flattery, lying, chicanery and political jugglery."

Lenin, "Against the Current."

"The Middle classes can be left to destroy themselves."

"How can we accomplish a revolution without shooting?"

"The masses must know that they are entering on an armed, sanguinary and desperate struggle. The ruthless extermination of the enemy will be their task."

Lenin, *Speech 1920, Moscow*.

"Provided that the telling phrase, full of high-sounding phrases and fine promises is spoken to the masses that is the principal thing. The opposite of what has been stated can be done afterwards; that is of no importance."

de Poncins, "*Secret Power behind Revolution*."

Forward the spellbinders. Let's forget all we've learnt since Magna Carta and hand over the country to modern fellows, trained in the school of New York gangsterdom, with up-to-the-minute views like Comrade Lenin. Begin by billeting every house.

*Mrs. Palmer's Page***PROPAGANDA AND PRACTICE***

The Labour party's proposed "levy on wealth" has given rise to a lot of technical argument. Last week I tried to explain that we couldn't understand the real meaning of the proposal unless we knew the difference between money and real wealth. There is just about as much difference between them as between the home-made plum-cake which you put in the centre of your tea table, and the order which you write out for your grocer.

There are plenty of cakes to be had, or materials for making them. But we are not allowed to write the orders; someone else does that, and rations the orders so that we all go short. If you approve of this state of affairs, you may be ready to join the Labour Party, who believe in the rationing of cake, or wealth. But most women, I believe, have got enough common sense to know that there is enough wealth for all, that we are living in an age of plenty, and that there is no reason why we should not be allowed to order goods as long as the grocer has enough to supply. When one cake is eaten another should be brought out of the cupboard.

In the course of conversation someone suggested it was a question of education. People have got to be taught these things, elementary economics and so on. He agreed that the practise of social

credit would be democracy, and it was necessary to teach this also. There were clubs now for education in citizenship, and if we began with the children, things might be better in twenty or thirty years time.

Wherein, of course, he was entirely mistaken. We cannot teach people anything. They can only teach themselves.

Without developing an aristotelian argument as to the purpose of education, which argument, be it noted, has continued for nearly two thousand years, it seems fairly certain that all knowledge of any value to the individual is the result of organic growth. We remember what we want to remember, either because it is useful or pleasant (fundamentally these two aspects are the same). Real education is a natural growth from natural talents and capacities. Any attempt to pour standardised knowledge into the young mind is met with unconscious resentment. The harvest from such a sowing is likely to be very poor, and what is worse, the soil is frequently exhausted in the process. The present day examination system provides us with a painful example.

Some years ago it was quite usual for social crediters to lament the fact that they made slow progress with their "propaganda." People would not listen to dissertations upon political economy; they seemed quite incapable of imagining that there could be such a thing as a defect in the money system, all they cared to do was to cultivate their own gardens. Only here or there was a mind with a natural bent towards these things, and then, seizing upon the new economics as something essential to its own growth, that mind assimilated the new facts as a plant takes nourishment from the soil.

This did not mean that the vast majority of people would never be able to grasp the fact that poverty and the debt system were quite unnecessary and could be abolished. It only meant that the conditions favourable to growth were not present, so that they could not

assimilate these facts into their every day lives.

It was towards the end of 1937 that we began to understand that the time for propaganda, if there ever had been a time for it, was past.

I take 1937 as the turning point because it was in the autumn of that year in Sheffield that we had the first manifestation on a big scale that social crediters had learnt another lesson, and one of such importance that it may with propriety be called the key to victory.

They had learnt that they could only function as members of a group, in association with one another, and in obedience to the laws that govern association.

Most readers of this paper will remember how in September and October of that year a few men in Sheffield realised that they were ratepayers as well as social crediters. They proceeded to act with their fellow ratepayers. They could not go beyond what their companions wanted, but they made common cause with them in their indignant outcry against the proposed rates assessment. By acting correctly themselves, they set the example of correct action, and it was immediately successful because it was in harmony with the growth of opinion and desires among their fellows. They did not act as petty dictators telling inferiors what was good for them. If they had they would have failed and deserved to fail.

Since that time, I think it is true to say that the success we have had has been proportional to our grasp of this principle.

We do not "teach people elementary economics" as my friend proposed. But as members of Lower Rates Demand Associations we are able to make suggestions concerning the cause of high rates and the iniquity of loan charges; and our fellow members will act upon these suggestions if they bear out their own experience. If the conditions for

* With apologies to C. H. D., who wrote on this subject in 1934.

To Meet You

Mrs. Palmer will be glad to welcome friends on Wednesday afternoons from 3—5 p.m., and at other times by appointment at

**4, Mecklenburgh Street,
London, W.C.1.**
(first floor bell)

Seven minutes from Russell Square Station, five minutes from King's Cross.

It is hoped that visitors to London will make a point of calling at that time. Tea and biscuits 3d.

growth are propitious, these facts concerning the money system will be assimilated and acted upon, and the action taken will be the free choice of the members of the association. This is democracy in action. It is the same thing, as the use of social credit.

At Sheffield, the people learned through the example set by social crediters that it was possible to stop increased assessments. In Belfast and Poole, in 1938, they learned that they could stop a rise in rates. Since then, in more than fifty different towns in the country, anger aroused by scandalously high rates and threatened "economies" in social services has brought certain facts concerning the banking system out of the region of vague economic theories into everyday life. The conditions of growth are propitious again—facts can be assimilated. As members of our respective associations we can now state what we know to be true, in the knowledge that what we say will be listened to because it has some practical application—it comes home to men's business and bosoms.

Are we, each of us, ready to seize the opportunity when it arises? Have we the facts at our finger tips, ready to use? Have we done our best to form Lower Rates Demand Associations, and to back up every manifestation of democracy wherever it may appear?

This is our task.

There are other opportunities besides those in local government. Old Age pensioners, weary with the struggle to exist on ten shillings a week, are ready to seize upon the fact that £250 million a year is paid in interest on the National Debt, 90 per cent. of which belongs to the banks, not to private individuals. Owners of property, threatened by a capital levy, if ever the Socialists get their way; will readily grasp that only the banks will be able to buy up the real estate thrown upon the market.

But indignation must not be allowed to go out like a rocket. The social crediters among old age pensioners must help to form associations for demanding pensions at sixty. Property owners, who are threatened not only by a levy on wealth but by compulsory billeting

acts, must be reminded that the Parliamentary system is the one mechanism which exists at the moment by which the will of the people can be made to prevail, and futile as it may seem to be, it could very soon be galvanised into action by a concerted demand from householders that suitable evacuation quarters be provided by the government, without the penalising of individuals and the seizure of their property.

The point I have been trying to make is that social crediters must act as members of groups, in harmony with those with whom they are associating, not as teachers, propagandists, or spreaders of intellectual light.

My space has gone. I must write about "education for citizenship" next week.

B. M. PALMER.

WEDDING CAKE

Is there a shortage of any one of these ingredients? Will some banker friend explain why every Whitsun bride cannot have a cake worthy of the occasion?

- 1 lb. plain flour.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. butter.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. castor sugar.
- 2 lbs. currants.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. finely minced mixed peel.
- 2 tablespoonfuls brandy.
- A little milk if necessary.
- 2 ozs. chopped almonds.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful almond essence.
- 6 eggs.
- 1 teaspoonful cinnamon.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful cream of tartar.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful carbonate of soda.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt.
- No other baking powder to be used.

Method—Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs one at a time, beating five minutes between each. Add the brandy. Sift in the flour, spice, etc., beat well. Add all other ingredients, do not beat again. Line your tin with two layers of well-buttered paper, and place the cake in a well heated oven. Lower the heat slightly when the cake goes in. After an hour lower the heat again. Bake 4 or 5 hours. Have the heat very low for the last two hours.

B. M. P.

"The only conclusive evidence of a man's sincerity is that he give himself for a principle." — *Lowell*.

Rudolf Steiner on Leisure

It is a matter of the soul's own free demand how the spiritual life is received into men, no less than how it comes forth from them. Teachers, artists and others will find that they have an altogether different influence and are able to awaken an understanding amongst the public for what they are creating, when they themselves have a place in the social order which has no direct connection with any legislature or government but only with such as arise from impulses that lie in the course of spiritual life itself; when too they are appealing to people who are not simply *under compulsion to labour*, but for whom an autonomous and independent political State also ensures the right to leisure; leisure which awakens the mind to an appreciation of spiritual values. Here one will very likely be told by someone that his own 'practical' experience (of which he has a great opinion) convinces him that if this notion were carried out—if the State made definite provision for leisure hours and if school attendances were left to people's own sense, it would simply mean that people would spend all their leisure in the public house and relapse into a state of brute ignorance. Well, let such pessimists wait and see what will happen when the world is no longer under their influence. Their line of action is all too often prescribed by a subtle feeling, a secret voice that whispers in their ear, how they themselves like to spend their leisure hours, and the steps that were necessary to ensure themselves having a decent education. Of the *free* spiritual life, of its power to fire and kindle when left to itself within the body social—of this such persons naturally take no account. They know the spiritual life in bondage only, and so it has no power to kindle any spark within themselves."

—*Rudolf Steiner in "Threefold Commonwealth."*

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Liverpool, 2.

REFUGEES

With due regard for existing rights, particularly the rights and interests of the aboriginal Indians, the British Government is prepared to make easy the settlement of refugees in British Guiana, a rich country, larger than Great Britain, with a population, all told, of only 300,000.

The text of Mr. Chamberlain's written statement making clear the Government's intentions appeared in full in *The Times* for May 13. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to begin settlement in the autumn of this year.

The Social Crediter is too small to include between its covers matter easily accessible elsewhere. Instead of the official announcement by the Prime Minister, therefore, it publishes some facts about British Guiana to which reference may be made not only in meeting propagandist arguments designed to make the present proposals abortive but in showing the desirability of an extension of them.

Gossip current during the past week attributes to an industrialist financier, whose ancestors were themselves 'refugees' not so very long ago, the statement that England is fast becoming Jew-conscious and that disaster faced the members of his race which only war, and immediate war, could avert.*

There is no inherent improbability in the story, which is not only completely accordant with what we know of the forces which make for war but is, in addition, a curious commentary on the thesis that members of the Jewish community have enriched the life of the nations among whose people they

* The same story is quoted by another contributor on page 3. The reports were from different sources.

have settled.

The obvious answer to the proposition that 'nothing but immediate war can avert the necessity for adjusting Jewish world policy to the interests of the world in which that policy seeks attainment is:— "very well! then the necessity will not be averted; on the contrary it will, so far as we are concerned be enforced. But we are a humane people, conscious that we may have contributed by indifference to our interests to this situation you have defined. Since refuge in conjunction with association for a common policy is impossible for you, you can have the refuge you want and go without the association you do not want. You have boasted that by your zeal you have made full use of the opportunities we have given you in freedom, and that you have developed your faculties in science, industry and the professions. Here is opportunity to use them to the full."

We must see that those for whose welfare the Government's offer is intended take it: that they go to British Guiana and stay there.

If Jewish estimates of their numbers are correct, British Guiana would still be underpopulated by European standards if all the Jews in the world were there. Our refugees will say it is not a nice place. It is good enough for the officers of several branches of Barclays Bank, and its public health presents no problem that is insoluble if means already available are employed.

T. J.

"Tyrants do not make slaves but slaves make tyrants."

—Trollope.

RULE BY SOVIETS

As reported in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 10th, the Milk Marketing Board, in stopping his supplies because he sent his cheques two days late, has caused the ruin of a young, prosperous dairyman, Mr. John Alfred Thomas, of Wisbech.

The registrar of the King's Lynn Bankruptcy Court is reported to have described it as an "action so arbitrary that it was difficult to express what one really thought about it."

Mr. Thomas had approached the Board, and, through his Member of Parliament, Mr. James Rothschild, the Minister of Agriculture, but had been told that nothing could be done. So he had to go bankrupt.

It is hard to express one's views about it, but, certainly, murder has been done under less provocation. The reaction to such an outrage will be wide and lasting.

It must not be forgotten that the Soviet system of Government, as exemplified above, in the workings of the Milk Board, and other Boards, was introduced to this country, and developed here, by Governments who were dominated by one man, who has since become "Noble." It was he who pledged us to an impossible debt with his American Pawnbroking friends after the war. It was he who, in backing the post-war policy of deflation, took on the political responsibility of the mass starvation of our people, the ruin of our industries, and the intensified destruction of our agriculture. It was he who played such a large part in ridding his masters of the danger to their interests existing in the person of our ex King Edward the Eighth, and it is he who stands out head and shoulders above anyone else in the political game as responsible for the dire state of this country and Empire.

He is a strong man, and ruthless, but he has never had the courage to fight the hidden enemies who rule our land. It was an easier task to oppress the weak, and it seems to have paid.

J. S. OAK.

BRITISH GUIANA

The Neglected British Colony Offered as a Home for Refugees

British Guiana is the only British possession on the mainland of South America. It is slightly larger than Great Britain, with a population considerably less than one hundredth of this country.

It forms part of the vast territory lying between the Amazon, the Rio Negro, the Orinoco and the Atlantic, and slopes gently down from elevated savannahs on the Brazilian frontier through tropical forests which cover nearly ninety per cent. of its area, to an alluvial belt on the Atlantic coast, where the bulk of its present population are concentrated. It is the Government's intention that the life of this coastal part of the Colony shall not be interfered with by the introduction of a new population, which, it is hoped, will assume great size and influence. The hinterland of forest is wholly undeveloped, a land of legendary wealth and promise, the resources of which were for the first time systematically examined by a series of scientific and technical surveys commenced twelve years ago.

The total area returned as under forest is over fifty million acres, of which only about nine million can be regarded as immediately accessible.

It is an old idea that somewhere in this hinterland there is untold wealth if only it could be reached. But there is no railway to reach it. Sometimes based upon hope rather than upon knowledge, sometimes upon a reasoned calculation of the benefits which a railway would confer, the demand for efficient means of communication is often expressed in the British Guiana Commission Report (1927).

Mr. Chamberlain was doubtless familiar with this demand when he said the Government recognised that the success of any scheme of large-scale settlement requires the provision of arterial communications. He promised that if the prospects of development are good and the capital forthcoming is adequate and bears a reasonable proportion to the cost of providing suitable communication, the Government would be prepared to meet

the needs of the community in this respect.

Under an Act of Parliament of 1928, and an Order in Council thereby authorised, the Colony is governed by a Legislative Council. A measure of autonomy and representative government are promised if, as the Government hopes, successful large-scale settlement warrants such developments.

What opportunity does such a country offer to the members of a community, itself oriental in origin?

The timbers it produces are hardwoods, particularly greenheart, dear to anglers, of which the Colony is the only source in the world. Mora, crabwood, purpleheart and wallaba (for telegraph poles) are other woods produced. Timber does not exhaust the forest production, for there are exported mangrove bark, used for tanning, and balata, a gum resembling gutta percha. The aborigines work the material up into ornamental models.

The horned cattle in the Colony in 1936 was 131,637 which included 54,671 on the hinterland savannahs. Horses were returned at 2,817, sheep 26,310, goats 11,321, swine 22,480, donkeys 5,962, mules 1,225, and buffaloes 95. If stock-owners co-operated a surplus of at least 2,000 head of good beef type cattle would be available for export immediately, while with organisation production could be substantially increased. The coastland belt is reserved, under Mr. Chamberlain's scheme for its present occupants. Thousands of square miles of savannah suited to sheep and cattle raising are, however, undeveloped.

Gold, which forty years ago formed 26 per cent. of the Colony's exports declined from a maximum of 138,527 ounces in 1893-94 to 9,107 ounces in 1925; but later rose steadily to 35,857 ounces. The variation is not due to accessibility of the national supply but to extraneous factors such as the attraction of labour to the diamond fields. The output is from alluvial washing. Quartz milling is believed to be capable of profitable revival at will.

Between 1901 and 1936

diamonds valued at £7,899,441. The output (alluvial deposits) is declining. Valuable and extensive deposits of bauxite, an aluminium ore, are being exploited and among the minerals known but not commercially exploited are magnetite, palladium mercuride, pitch, plumbago and manganese.

Established industries are associated with the country's raw materials, consumable goods and electrical power production.

Agriculture, confined at present to the coastal belt, is concerned with sugar, rice, cocoanuts, coffee, citrus, etc.

To a great extent the surprising climatic difference between West Africa and British Guiana, which both are in the same latitude, is due to the cool sea breezes which in British Guiana blow steadily across the coastlands by day. The temperature rarely rises above 90 degrees or falls below 75 degrees. The variation is scarcely greater in the hinterland. "From personal experience we can say that it would be difficult to imagine a more attractive tropical country, both in its climate and in its scenery than the region round the junction of the Essequibo, the Mazaruni and the Cuyussi, which may one day perhaps become the site of a new and beautiful city, serving as a gateway to the interior." (Messrs. R. Roy Wilson and H. Snell. B.G. Report, 1927).

In regard to health, the diseases prevalent are venereal disease, malaria and hook-worm, all of them preventable.

The relevant facts in regard to malaria are summed up in the late Sir Walter Morley Fletcher's statement as Secretary to the Medical Research Council:—

"We know enough to free a limited area from the disease if enough money be spent."

British Guiana is an area limited by its boundaries.

References:—*The Times*, May 13, 1939; An Economic Survey of the Colonial Empire, 1936; Report of the British Guiana Commission, April, 1927; Constitutions of All Countries, Vol. 1, Foreign Office, 1938.

C3 POLITICS, HEALTH AND STARVATION

By J. SEAMAN OAK

The People's Food," by Sir William Crawford and H. Broadley; Heinemann, 12/6. London.

Professor Latarget, head of the Lyons Institute for Physical Education, reported in December last that only one out of three French boys was fit for military service when called up. (*Daily Express*, Dec. 24th, 1938).

It is no comfort to know that Britain does not stand alone in this kind of thing, though we are probably worse off than the French. Lack of food, and proper clothing, coupled with awful sanitary conditions, and inadequate medical aid, are rapidly ruining our race. This trend is paralleled only by the horrible destruction of our agricultural land—the best in the world—which, there can be no doubt, has proceeded according to the policy of our rulers. Now our morale is being attacked, and shattered, by repeated shocks, and threats of war. Civilisation is on the brink.

Even so, there is comfort to be found here and there, particularly in the evidences of a growing realisation of the terrible facts, which crop up in unexpected places from time to time.

Three years ago Sir John Boyd Orr in his book "Food, Health, and Income," shocked the world with the truth about the widespread inability of people in Britain to pay for their very minimum food requirements. He was scoffed at by the ignorant, the vicious, and the smug, but his story was so true that it caused a sensation which only time has managed to still. Now there have recently come two other writers in the persons of Sir William Crawford, the eminent Advertising Specialist, and his colleague Mr. H. Broadley, who, by virtue of the responsibilities of their business are beyond the suspicion of having supported everything previously said by Sir John Orr through ignorance, malice, negligence, or soft-heartedness. These people, one Professional, and the others Commercial, wrote from entirely different angles, but their

story is precisely the same. Summed up, it is inadequate purchasing power, lack of food, dragging poverty, spread far and wide.

How far reaching are these conditions can be seen in the table hereunder*, from which it will be noted that half the population is affected. True, many could avoid the conditions by a more efficient spending of their income. But efficiency is unnatural, and it is time that the fact was recognised. Why, then, should we expect human beings to be efficient? They are part of Nature, and their right is to enjoy it, not to use it efficiently. The mere talk of "minimum standards" as regards food makes me sick. Why should the very people who have the least chance of knowing how to make the best use of food be those who have the least chance of achieving even the minimum standard of nutrition?

That between 16 and 23 millions of people are slowly starving because they can't buy enough food is a social crime of the greatest magnitude. The crime is not minimised by calling the result "malnutrition."

The survey upon which Sir William Crawford and his colleague based their findings was wide, and well carried out; and the summar-

ising of the conditions found in each grade of society, as regards consumption of each kind of food, is most enlightening, and makes this book well worth studying. The issue is, of course, wrapped up in the greater one of social credit, but there are many people who, while unable to grasp the full significance of our movement, are able to appreciate the lesser. To them this book may have particular value from our point of view. For instance, what about this from the pens of "dyed in the wool" commercialists? "Home cooking can, and does, enable woman to express her creative instincts. In our modern civilisation with its mass production methods there is grave danger of man's creative instincts becoming atrophied. Personality and individuality are being overlaid by habit and automatism. Any activity which reawakens creative instinct, the satisfaction of the craftsman at having produced something by his or her individual efforts, is worthy of encouragement. It may seem a far cry from home cooking to democracy, but it is the maintenance of such relatively small and personal activities which secures the individual against becoming a mere automaton in a regimented system." That sort of stuff can't help doing good.

* This table is based on the "Minimum Standards" of food requirements as laid down by (1) The British Medical Association; (2) Stiebling of the United States of America, (whose standard was adopted by Orr), and (3) the Health Committee of the League of Nations. The present authors have adjusted the figures to up-to-date retail prices, and have recalculated accordingly. The columned figures give the millions of people whose diet is deficient in the various constituents shown at the left hand.

	Year 1933 British Medical Association	Stiebling and Orr	Health Committee of the League of Nations
Calories	15 ...	16 ...	18
Protein	18 ...	10 ...	20
Calcium	25 ...	31 ...	35
Phosphorus	20 ...	25 ...	37
Iron	33 ...	19 ...	34
Vitamin A	37 ...	— ...	44
Vitamin BI	24 ...	— ...	38
Vitamin C	21 ...	27 ...	33

Space reserved by

Secretary: John Mitchell

THE UNITED RATEPAYERS' ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Cardiff Councillors on the Lower Rates Demand

Democracy Described as Impudent!

In comment on the following report of a Cardiff City Council meeting it is necessary only to say that Cardiff Councillors do not yet appear to recognise that it is their function to represent ratepayers. Until they have as a Council resolved to forward the demand and instructed the appropriate institutions, which exist to serve ratepayers, to provide credit on terms according fairly with the costs of its creation and such as are necessary to implement the demand, they have not even taken the first steps which lie within their province and power.

A circular giving advice on how to proceed with recalcitrant councillors has been sent to lower rates associations, copies can be obtained on application to the U.R.A.A.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor R. T. Evans) presided at a meeting of the Cardiff City Council on May 8th, 1939, when the report of the Finance Committee, which met on May 1st, was received:

Cardiff Lower Rates Demand Association

(paragraph 2837):—

A Deputation from the above-named Association was received, and Mr. P. Langmaid, Campaign Manager, stated the views of the Association upon obtaining financial credit for municipal purposes on payment of a nominal annual service charge, and asked this Committee to adopt the resolution attached to the statement submitted by his Association, copies of both of which had been sent to the members of this Committee. The City Treasurer and Controller stated that he had interviewed Bank Managers locally and in London, but could not obtain money on the terms suggested by the Association. To him it appeared that the object of the Association was one which in the first instance should be considered by Parliament.

Councillor J. H. Morgan: Can we have some information as to what the report of the City Treasurer was?

Alderman Turnbull: The City Treasurer did not report at all beyond the statement referred to in the Committee report. His report to the Committee was given verbally. Having interviewed bank managers, he said the whole thing was impracticable, and was a

matter which could only be considered in the first instance by Parliament.

Councillor James Griffiths: Has the City Treasurer sent such a report in writing to the Association? Every member has had a letter saying the eyes of these people are upon us.

Alderman Gough: I have received what I can only describe as an impudent communication from the Lower Rates Demand Association. I think all members of the Council have received a copy, and I look upon it as most impudent. They tell us that the eyes of the country are upon us, and that somebody will be here to see how we vote.

Councillor J. H. Morgan: So much information has been scattered about the City, and we are bound to take notice of it. If we can give the Association some information we ought to. We should not ignore it. The petition had 42,000 signatures.

Alderman Turnbull: A large proportion of those who signed it did not understand the nature of the thing at all. If you promised a reduction of the rates, who would not sign. The thing is simply impracticable. It would mean a complete change in the financial system of this country. They should go to Parliament. We can't do anything.

Councillor James Griffiths: Send the City Treasurer's report to the Association in writing.

Councillor Mullins: Mr. Pascoe Langmaid could devote his time much more profitably to the

reduction of rents and the abolition of house farming. I don't think we ought to devote any more time to these people.

Councillor Heggibottom: I understood it was agreed that these people should be treated courteously, and they should have a letter acknowledging their communication. I trust that we, as a Council, will give them a civil reply.

Councillor R. T. Evans: If any of you are supporters of these people, it will be quite right for you to put down a notice of motion and publicise their opinions. But on the report of the interview with the Committee, we should drop the matter.

This concluded the discussion, it being understood that a letter of acknowledgement would be written.

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DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN BRADFORD

COUNCILLORS YIELD TO PRESSURE

As a result of the Demand for Lower Rates in Bradford, signed by over 25,000 ratepayers, the Bradford City Council made tremendous efforts to keep the rate increase down to a low figure. They were at first faced with an increase of 3/9 in the £, but this was kept down to a 9d. increase after much discussion in Council and in the Press. Unfortunately, this was only accomplished by drastic cutting in the social services. One of these cuts was the closing of three Cottage Baths used by people with no bathing accommodation in their homes. The closing of these baths aroused considerable public indignation and as soon as the Bradford Lower Rates Demand Association heard of this outcry on the part of the public, steps were taken to marshal it in a concrete form.

A requirement was drawn up

and one or two energetic lady members of the association distributed it in the form of automatic canvassers. Each was provided with a stamped addressed wrapper for return and these were left at the end of streets. Very quickly just under 2,000 signatures were obtained. Time was short as the matter was being brought up at the next council meeting by a councillor friendly to the association.

The following is the text of the letter on the subject sent to the councillors:—

Closing of the Cottage Baths at Dyson Street, Greengates, & Tong Street
Dear Councillor,

This Association has been helping the public to voice its protest against the closing of the above baths, and is receiving now the signed protest of hundreds of ratepayers in the various wards concerned.

There is no question that the ratepayers of Bradford are extremely

annoyed at the action of the Council in cutting down health services of the ratepayers in this way.

It must be remembered that the baths belong to the ratepayers, and consequently if they express their desire for the baths to be kept open they should be re-opened.

Trusting you will do all in your power to see that the wishes of the ratepayers are carried out.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. NORTHIN,
Secretary.

Bradford Lower Rates Demand Association, 4, Thornton Road, Bradford.

The signatures were posted in to the Town Clerk with a covering letter to be read at the Council Meeting. The discussion in the Council was very heated but the final result was a victory for the ratepayers in control of their institutions.

Twenty-six councillors voted for the re-opening of the baths and twenty-three against.

G. BAXTER.

“Mystery” Association at Twickenham

The following is one of several similar reports which have appeared in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* recently:

LOWER RATES DEMAND Councillors Unaware Their Names Were on Petition

A good deal has been heard lately about an organisation which has been active in various parts of the borough, the Lower Rates Demand Association.

This week, hundreds of Whitton residents have become acquainted with the efforts of this body, and have been speculating on the significance of the printed petition forms which, according to the association's normal procedure, have been passed round various streets bearing notes on the association's aims, accompanied by a request for signatures. What has puzzled the recipients is the origin of

the association, and the question of whether it is identified with any organisation known to them.

The document takes the form of a petition to Whitton's three councillors, Captain D. D. Jones and Messrs. G. Aggett and R. Howard-Hodges. The petition states prominently: “Councillors need your backing to get lower rates and assessments.” This, we are informed by people in Whitton, had made them wonder if the councillors had approved the publication of their names.

Captain Jones informed us by telephone that he had just heard of the petition for the first time. He also said: “You have my authority to say that I know absolutely nothing about it, that I never authorised any such thing, and would not dream of doing so. I have not authorised the use of my name, and I am quite sure my colleagues would not do so.”

We asked Councillor G. Aggett if he knew anything of a petition which was going round Whitton bearing his name, and he said: “I certainly do not, and have not given any authority for the use of my name.”

Councillor R. Howard-Hodges registered a similar denial, pointing out that the rate increase was subject to the demand of the County Council; that Twickenham, with a committee keeping a watch on expenditure, was very alive to the question of economy, and that petitions, therefore, were unnecessary.”

These Things Could Be Altered

In England a small and selfish group has now learned so to manipulate your domestic liberties that the result is not to safeguard your liberty, but to perpetuate a form of slavery—slums, derelict areas, bad housing, under-nutrition. But these things could be altered, if you had an awakening of the public mind in England and enough men of enough energy to lead the movement, under a democratic system.

—Douglas Reed in “Disgrace Abounding.”

ORDER NOW:-

The Purpose of Politics
By H. E.

The Power of Money
Compiled by J. B. Galway.

Price 3d. each.

Obtainable from the Social Credit
Secretariat,
12, Lord Street, Liverpool, 2.

New Leaflet

Copies of the leaflet enclosed with this issue of the paper, entitled “The Councillors’ of this Town Can Prevent War” can be obtained from U.R.A.A., at 11/- per 1,000; 2/- per 100. Special prices to Quota Associations.

Canberra Gets a Taste of Democracy in Action

By C. BARCLAY-SMITH

The Australian Federal Government proposed to impose a Health Insurance System that would entail £3 millions direct taxation and a further £6 or £7 millions in annual contributions from employers and employees. Australians of all States objected to the Scheme, lock, stock and barrel, and wasted no time in making their will known to their representatives in Parliament. As a result of this pressure the Government dithered and finally "shelved" the Insurance Scheme. The magnitude of the pressure can be judged from the fact that the Government, already committed, will have to pay compensation to friendly and co-operative societies for their expenditure in preparing to co-operate on the scheme. The campaign continues and is intended to continue until the act has definitely been repealed.

The following item appeared in the Sydney *Sunday Sun*:—

"Federal members of Parliament face a future bereft of all comfort if the Ministry yields to the pressure which demands the abandonment of National Insurance.

"This pressure has been applied through the circulation of 'form letters,' which electors have been urged to despatch to their Parliamentary representatives, demanding repeal under the threat of dismissal at the next election.

"Ministers and members have wilted under the blast of these letters.

"Members are asking where it will end, and those whose determination to stand by National Insurance had been weakened by the insidious application of what has been termed an 'imported form of political blackmail' now realise that they have handed over to their enemies a very strong weapon."

The foregoing makes strange reading. The pressure brought to bear upon individual members of Parliament by their electors is called "blackmail," and those who apply the pressure are referred to as "enemies."

What a sorry pass democracy has come to! How totally unused are the Parliamentarians to any general expression of the mind of their electors!

It would appear that the people have not asserted themselves a

moment too soon. As a practical reality, the principles of democracy have long been falling into disuse. We had come to regard them as moth-eaten garments which we took out of the cupboard every election day, and brushed the dust off them.

It would appear that the practice of democracy, the assertion of the people's sovereignty over Parliament, is resented at Canberra. It is a thousand pities, of course, that the recent exhibition of democracy in practice throughout Australia has made Parliamentary life a trifle less comfortable.

But we would remind members of Parliament in general that there is a growing suspicion in the public mind that the comfort of Parliamentarians is in inverse ratio to the discomfort of electors—that whilst politicians have nodded in their well-upholstered seats an enemy within our gates has sold the people into debt-slavery.

Our Parliamentarians have for far too long acted in the manner of defaulting trustees, and have permitted the credit of Australia to be systematically pawned to the merchants of debt, the bankers.

But a profound change has been quietly and unostentatiously taking place. For four years the Electoral Campaign has been teaching the people of Australia the principles of democracy. For four years the people have been learning where they stand in relation to Parliament.

When, therefore, the National Insurance Act made a further threat to their liberties, involving a still further lowering of living standards already too low, the people cried "Halt!" and proceeded to give an exhibition of Democracy

at work.

After long years of playing the role of a circus dummy, Democracy is finding its voice. Democracy is becoming articulate. Democracy is learning its business. Democracy is sensing its power. Democracy is asserting its sovereignty will.

Let the party politicians call it "blackmail" if they like. We call it **Democracy in Action**. They're going to see a lot more of it. To use an American colloquialism, "they ain't seen nothin' yet!"

The voice of an aroused people will not be subdued until the National Insurance Act ceases to menace their few remaining liberties. It will not be subdued until Parliament asserts its sovereignty over the money system.

It will not be subdued until a system of National Dividends gives a real and adequate security to the people instead of the miserable makeshift that was proposed by the National Insurance Act.

(Reprinted from "The New Era.")

Going Abroad?

Will social creditors intending to travel abroad and particularly if visiting the United States, Canada, Australia or New Zealand be good enough to communicate with me as early as possible before leaving?

Much valuable work can be done by personal contact with our friends in other countries who are fighting with us against financial hierarchy, and there are not many places to-day in which such friends may not be discovered.

M. C. BOND,
Overseas Department,
Social Credit Secretariat.

The NEW ERA

Australia's Social Credit Weekly
24 Pages, Illustrated. 12 months, 12s.

The New Era, Radio House,
296 Pitt Street, Sydney, Australia.

The Councillors of this town can prevent war.

THE FACT . . .

Is that **£330 MILLION** of the British consumers' income is spent annually on loan charges on Public Debt—**£100 million of this on the Local Government Debt.**

Most of this money is paid to banks and other financial institutions who created the Debt merely by writing figures in ledgers (the money loaned is not hard cash). Three Government Commissions appointed to enquire into the Money and Debt system have made this evident in their Reports.

THE RESULT . . .

Is that the bulk of the goods which this **£330 MILLION would have** bought off British businesses can only be sold abroad. That is why there is an intensive Trade War going on between the nations, particularly in the Balkans.

War is only an extension of Trade War—the substitution of **military** weapons for **economic** weapons.

THE REMEDY . . .

In over fifty towns in Great Britain ratepayers are at present confronting councillors with a demand for lower rates and assessments with no decrease in social services.

**HELP THIS
CAMPAIGN
by passing this
leaflet to the
house next to
yours.**

This demand is based on the **FACT** that since banks **CAN** and **DO** create credit they **CAN** and **SHOULD** provide it to Local Authorities at a very small charge (one payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 1 per cent is ample). This would prevent ratepayers being continually burdened with an **INCREASING DEBT** and enable **RATES AND ASSESSMENTS TO BE LOWERED.**

Reduction of rates will increase the buying power of the British public and enable them to buy the goods which are now being **exported** and thus lessen international competition—**trade war.**

The ratepayer has made his demand. He has elected councillors for the specific purpose of representing **HIM.** It is the councillors' job to pass a demand on to the Banks for credit on reasonable terms. There is nothing to prevent them doing so. It is, in fact, a simple thing to do. They have no right to obstruct the demand. It is the ratepayer from whom they get their authority; and it is he who will suffer if war comes.

Councillors who obstruct or delay this demand are holding up changes which will prevent war.

**WHAT IS YOUR COUNCILLOR DOING? GET TO KNOW
AND TELL YOUR NEIGHBOUR.**

For a full statement of the facts supplied to councillors apply to:—

