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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

THE NOTES UNDER THIS HEADING, WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT A FEATURE OF *The Social Crediter*, WILL BE RESUMED IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

Nearer to Fundamentals?

When, in one week, we hear it said in quarters we thought to be inhabited exclusively by the hand-picked, that perhaps after all "as a concession to 'social justice'" the educational butter may have been spread too widely, and may further have turned to margarine in the process; that, after all (but why *after?*), a vote with sanctions attached to its use *might* (new and strange idea!) be the answer to the complete submergence of Quality in *e*-quality; and that india-rubber money is *really* dishonest, we may be forgiven for the optimism suggested by the title of these paragraphs.

At the turn of the year, we think there are other grounds; albeit we have a long way to go.

Among these we should place the scholarly and important article by Mr. Graham Hutton in the January number of *The Nineteenth Century and After* entitled, "Is Communism Like the Early Church?"

Having long held the view that the Gordian knot which corruptly and disastrously unites pseudo-authority to Power is the main, if not the only *real* unsolved question of human relationships, and equally that it is Social Credit alone that can cut it, like Alexander in the tale, with a sword, we are willing to bypass without extended comment Mr. Hutton's distaste for "centralisation and doctrinal authoritarianism." If Power is inconsistent with Freedom, freedom *from* Power is the only condition which can secure Authority. It is not 'our pidgin,' but it doesn't seem to us that Authority and authoritarianism are pure-bred descendants of the same thing. Is it 'authoritarian' to assert with Bishop Butler that "things and actions are what they are, and the consequences of them will be what they will be?" Mr. Hutton warmly seconds the notion, and so do we. But as much as a conviction that things really are what they are, and have any consequences at all what is lacking to-day is any clear statement of what they are and what ensues, *Deo volente*, from their being so. It is not that authority has been *misused*. Authority cannot be misused. While Power cannot be destroyed, but only transferred, Authority can be neither destroyed nor transferred. Any institution which ceases to be the channel, or vehicle, of Authority, or seeks to sever itself from Authority, and the institution of human society is no exception, ceases instantaneously *to be*, whatever report may be made concerning it, at the same time. Thus Authority's voice is heard in the event.

"Looking at ourselves on one side of the Iron Curtain, and at Communism on the other, we may well [as 1950 opens] resolve to think more deeply about our own materialisms, centralisms, monopolisms, collectivisms, syndicalisms, and absolutisms; and, 'having thought taken,' we may well

feel more shy of identifying Progress, The Good Life, and Truth with 'mere multiplication of matter.'" Good; but while the finances of the Church are in the hands of the Rothschilds, the authority of the Church shrinks to the dimensions of whatever it may be that is beyond the touch of the Rothschilds. All the material weapons of militancy "on Earth" are restricted. Those 'things and actions are what they are, and the consequences of them will be what they will be; why then should we wish to be deceived?'

Would that Bishop Barnes might exchange Mr. Hutton for Professor Zuckerman as his Archbishop! However, for our part, we do 'face the other half of the century in good heart' as Mr. Hutton desires us to do.

New Year Opportunities

There is more than something in the following from *Free Britain*:—

"The big opportunities of the New Year, so far as the General Election is concerned rest with the people of two constituencies—Chorley and Dudley.

"In Dudley true Britons are supporting Capt Roy Farran for one reason only. That reason is not because of anything Capt. Farran has said or done. It is simply because of the hostility shown towards him by the Jewish section of the community, resulting in the failure of the Conservative Central Office to accept his candidature.

"In Chorley, Lancs., the candidature of Andrew Fontaine has been adopted by the local Conservatives and rejected by the Central Office. As in the case of Capt. Farran, Mr. Fontaine's candidature has been refused by the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Association Standing Advisory Committee on candidates simply to satisfy the Jews. Mr. Fontaine has bluntly accused the Left Wing of being Jew-inspired.

"The country's greatest need at the moment is to get just one man into Parliament who will get up on every possible occasion and denounce Communism as a purely Jewish racket. That is more important than getting any particular party into power. If Capt. Farran and Mr. Fontaine are the men they appear to be their return to Parliament under any label is more important than what happens in all the other constituencies put together."

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PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: December 13, 1949.

Overseas Food Corporation (Air Contracts)

(The Debate Continued)

Mr. Gage (Belfast, South) [Earlier passages from Mr. Gage's speech were published last week.]

... Finally, in the contract—and this, perhaps, is also a serious matter—with British Overseas Corporation, it was agreed that if the personnel should exceed an anticipated amount B.O.A.C. would be entitled to charter a special flight carrying 39 passengers at £5,000 per plane. If the personnel exceeded the amount set out in the contract, which seemed very likely judging by the rate at which these air journeys are increasing, it would cost the taxpayer, even if only one person went in this special plane, £5,000. Even if the plane was full, it would cost them about £127 per person. I have tried, with the means that are available to me, to be as precise and accurate in dealing with this matter as I can. I think that I am entitled to ask the Parliamentary Secretary either to deny or confirm the facts which I have given. If they are correct, I think that I am justified in saying, as I said at the outset of my remarks, that this is an urgent matter of which an explanation is required. . . .

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Mr. Lindgren): . . . The hon. Member stated, in all good faith, that these 2,500 people are being carried by B.O.A.C. at £72 10s. I accept the figure, because I do not know what it is. The hon. Member then went on to say that this is below the normal rate for the journey, and that it means a loss for the Corporation. That is not the case. If the amount is £72 10s., it is additional revenue for the Corporation. For every passenger carried the deficit of the Corporation is reduced by that amount. A normal scheduled service runs on this route between this country and Africa. To put it in transport language, this is a "fill-up" load. Any vacant seats that are available on these aircraft are taken up by these people at the reduced rate. It means that where there was previously a 60 per cent. load factor, there is now a 100 per cent. load factor, and that this extra 30 per cent at the cheap rate is a contribution towards reducing the Corporation's deficit.

There is nothing new about this. It is the normal method of running a transport undertaking. . . .

Mr. Lennox-Boyd (Mid-Bedford): . . . What was the position? The Hunting Air Travel Company got a contract which ran from November, 1948, to 31st October, this year, to transport a large number of people—many people might think that an incredible number—consisting of 2,500 workers for the Corporation and the contractors to or from East Africa. It was a contract subject to three months' notice. Hunting Air Travel did very well indeed. In a letter telling them that they were not to have the contract renewed the secretary of the Overseas Food Corporation wrote:

"The manner in which the contract has been performed has given every satisfaction to the corporation."

Surely that includes the conditions under which the contract has been operated? How could it have given every satisfaction to the Corporation or the Ministry of Food if the pilots or other workers had been treated harshly? The Hunting Air Travel Company, on 27th July, 1949—only last July—received a letter asking them to continue to carry

out this contract until 31st January, 1950, in order to give the Overseas Food Corporation time to look at the matter again. They were to have an extension of the contract. Does that suggest that their conditions of employment were improper? The Overseas Food Corporation is rightly jealous of decent living conditions for Europeans and Africans alike, and they asked the company to continue to carry out the contract until 31st January next.

What in fact happened? Before 31st January, many things may well happen. On 29th July, 1949, the Hunting Air Travel were told by the Overseas Food Corporation that the contract would not be renewed. At the same time Airwork Limited, another highly reputable firm, who had asked what was the last date to tender and had had no answer to that request, received a telephone message to the effect that the contract was not going to be given to any private firm. They had tendered on the actual day, 29th July, when Hunting's received a letter saying that their tender was not to be accepted. The Minister talks as if this was a smooth and normal change-over, but it happened suddenly within two days of Hunting Air Travel being asked to carry on until 31st January, 1950. Those circumstances alone are exceedingly suspicious and we are entitled to press here or in another place for a fuller explanation.

The hon. Gentleman says that all this was done for the finest commercial reasons. The first charge we make is the story of how this has developed, and our second charge relates to his argument about commercial considerations. What have been the consequences? My hon. Friend has dealt very fully with the old successful contract of Hunting's the one which it was said gave every satisfaction to the Corporation. Hunting's offer for the new contract was £59 18s. a seat at 100 per cent. load factor to Dar-es-Salaam, rising if the load factor diminished to 90 per cent, to a cost of £66. On the other hand, Airwork tendered in a different way. Their tender was never even considered. They got a telephone message on the very day they sent it out that it had all been settled between the two powerful Corporations before their tender was even considered. Their tender was £67 with no minimum number of passengers carried on each flight but a minimum number of passengers carried throughout the year.

There we have the two tenders—£66 at a 90 per cent. load factor from Hunting's and £67 from Airwork. B.O.A.C. tendered—I shall come in a moment briefly to the circumstances of how they tendered—£72 10s. to Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi. They got the contract. But their contract was more, leaving out altogether how they got it. It is a grossly improper story, but on the figures alone their contract was more. What has been the result to the hard-taxed people of Great Britain? B.O.A.C. are carrying these passengers at a loss.

Mr. Lindgren: No.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd: If they are not, what comes of all the calculations we tried to make about how these companies operate? Through the courtesy of the chairman of B.O.E.A., some of my hon. Friends and I have today been down to Northolt and have been given a clear picture of how the load factor, capacity ton-miles and other calculations are arrived at, and we have inspected the methods by which this is done. We understand that it costs B.O.A.C. to fly anybody in this House—any ordinary person—to Nairobi the sum of £122 10s. We arrived at that figure by using the machinery which the Minister, and so far as we know, the Corporation,

uses. The average cost per capacity ton-miles, which is published, is 58.9d. Assuming 10 passengers to a ton, that gives a cost per capacity passenger-mile of 5.89d. Multiply this by the distance to Nairobi, and the figure is about £122 10s. But B.O.A.C. are taking these people for £72 10s. How can it possibly be argued that that is an economic proposition?

Then came the most extraordinary statement of all by the hon. Gentleman. They are losing £50 for everyone they take. According to the right hon. Gentleman, the more they take the more they make, but one of the tragedies about civil aviation is that at times the more one flies the more one loses. It cannot be pretended that if B.O.A.C. is going lose £50 per head on every passenger from O.F.C. transported in this way it will end up in the black and not in the red.

There are two other considerations. A Colonial civil servant or a planter travelling back tomorrow from Dar-es-Salaam to London pays £146 to B.O.A.C. Sitting next to him may be an official of the Overseas Food Corporation whose company is paying £72 10s. The Colonial civil servant and the planter, as taxpayers, are subsidising the Overseas Food Corporation official beside them who is travelling for half their cost. What could be more likely to create bitterness against the Overseas Food Corporation in East Africa than this, and what is more certain than that if a large number of our fellow countrymen in East Africa could be allowed to fly home and back for £150, they would come home far more regularly than they do? . . .

The Parliamentary Secretary talked as if there were a large number of vacant seats on B.O.A.C. planes to East Africa and that this was a heaven-sent chance of filling them. That will not do. If there had been 2,500-odd vacant seats to and from Dar-es-Salaam in the last year it would have been no wonder if B.O.A.C. had been in the red, but we all know that it has not. The sequence has been this. The Corporation have, I believe, recently increased ten-fold the flights to East Africa, and have then got a lot of vacant seats. They have then gone to the charter company and said, "Look at our vacant seats," which they ought never to have created, and they have used that as an excuse to drive the charter companies out of this. . . .

. . . It is our definite charge that on 27th July, 1949, B.O.A.C. had a meeting with the Overseas Food Corporation; that on that day Sir Miles Thomas and Sir Leslie Plummer agreed to B.O.A.C. taking over the contracts; that B.O.A.C. officials were told by Sir Miles to visit the Corporation and work out the details; that, as my hon. Friend said, not knowing that Hunting had quoted at that moment, they quoted £80; that then a message came from Sir Leslie Plummer saying that if B.O.A.C. quoted a figure within 10 per cent. of Hunting's they were to get it; that two officers of the Overseas Food Corporation were then told to work out a figure at an 85 per cent. load factor, and that they came back and said it was £72 10s.; that the representatives of B.O.A.C. were then told that this was a figure which, if quoted, would secure them the contract—they were told this on the quiet; that the next day, 28th July B.O.A.C. not unnaturally sent in a quotation of £72 10s. and on the following day, 29th July, Hunting's and Airwork were told they were not to have the contract.

That is the sorry story. My hon. Friend says quite rightly that it is not only the case that the Civil Aviation

Act has been broken—for it has been broken in the most monstrous way—since the Parliamentary Secretary said that the Exchequer grant would not be used for the purpose of undercutting private operators and we believe that it has been used to break the Act. However, our charge tonight is much more than that. It is that a squalid deal has been arrived at between two Government Corporations which has driven out of this business a highly reputable firm whose members pay taxes to the State to enable us to carry out these risky experiments. Because it is a monstrous breach of the Act and a reckless misuse of public money, I think my hon. Friend was justified in raising this quite scandalous story.

[The following extracts from earlier Debates contain points of interest:—]

House of Commons: November 4, 1949.

Expiring Laws Continuance (No. 2) Bill

Considered in Committee.

Mr. Eric Fletcher (Islington, East): . . . I put down this Amendment to the Schedule to the Bill to delete the reference to Section 1 of the Aliens Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1919, because I do not think it would be right for the House to continue these drastic provisions for another 12 months unless the Home Secretary is at any rate prepared to enlighten the Committee and the country as to the reasons why it is necessary to take these very wide powers and to explain the principles which he applies in exercising them.

I sometimes doubt whether the country is fully aware of the quite sweeping powers which are retained by the Executive in connection with aliens. . . .

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Younger*): . . . Generally it is no part of Government policy to keep out foreign visitors who wish to come here for business purposes or holidays. Indeed, we try to facilitate such visits as much as we can. The number of aliens who were allowed to land in the United Kingdom in 1948—the vast majority of whom were here for short periods—was 657,661. There were only just over 2,000 refusals of leave to land in the whole of that year. The number of people coming here in any year is considerable, and most of them go away within a few weeks. Unfortunately, we have been in difficulties over the policy regarding visits of people from the countries of Eastern Europe. . . .

In recent months, therefore, we have had really very few cases where people from these countries—usually referred to as countries behind the Iron Curtain—have actually applied to us for purely visitors' visas and possess the necessary facilities from their own Governments to come here and to return. We have had to be rather restrictive in allowing people who are nationals of these countries to come here, because, in general, it has been our experience either that they actually cannot go back because they are refused facilities by their Government to do so, or, if it is not so definite as that, at any rate they are, for natural reasons, exceedingly reluctant to go back. Many of these people had in fact the intention of never going back, and we have had to guard against granting a large number of visas ostensibly for visits which were not intended to be visits. . . .

. . . I was asked whether the scheme of 13th November,
(continued on page 5.)

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, January 14, 1950.

The Next Big Move?

We wonder whether that much more lively and awakened body than its English parent, the Australian Medical Association, might not do itself and us a good turn by directing the attention of what H.Q. it may possess (or can borrow) to the deeper motives which inspire the rather frantic hastes of "Medical Science" fresh from its depersonalisation conquests through the agency of its Eastern converts?

Doubtless our opponents are well aware (or we should not tell them) that the Mother Country-Daughter Colonial attachment is more complex than appears on the surface. Life is paradoxically both harder and "softer" in a "new" country. There is room for heavier seeding, and blades which never had much chance at home aspire heavenwards with grace which may be rude rather than kingly. But it is grace, and Grace does not "much abound" where much sin abounds. So it comes about that many a lusty plant has returned to revivify the trodden field that might never have survived without an adventure abroad. It would not surprise us if, at any time, the Mother Country took Social Credit to her stony heart as an invisible import—she who smothered it in its cradle.

A less happy side to Dominion efflorescence is he who, thickened as well as fattened by pride, returns a too-easy prey to the suggestion that what he has heard from his grandmama is—just that!—and that we aren't really like that, but a lot of bone-heads awaiting his virile touch to be transformed. Look at the lists, and you will see that there has been an increasingly large importation since at least 1906—which was THE date, wasn't it? But the straighter growth 'back home' may nevertheless perform a signal service, as has been disclosed by the recent political movements at the antipodes; and we think it now has a wide opportunity.

Professor Solly Zuckerman, the Birmingham professor who "reinforces" our bulk-bought foods, may be a powerful reinforcement elsewhere, and recalling the determination which Mr. Churchill, as well as Mr. Bevan, has shown to withdraw the last remaining "free" profession from authentic public respect, and the success which has attended manœuvres still fresh and growing before our eyes, we still regard the thrust as a piece of major strategy the final objective of which is still largely undisclosed. It would not surprise us if the Summer Outing of the B.M.A. next July did not reveal its features more clearly than they can be seen at present—at least to the trained and tutored eye (and there are some in Australia).

"To one of the Ministers who apparently still not convinced, asked again whether the Cardinal might not regain his normal composure in court, Colonel Kotlev replied: 'Believe me, if we should ever take you into our hands, your own mother would not know you.'"

The paragraph is the last on page 854 of the *Church*

Times for December 23 last, a page-long account of "How they broke Cardinal Mindszenty." The technique is called "depersonalisation." We suggest that our Australian confreres spend a little thought on the biological variants of chemical "depersonalisation," see where they lead—and report back loud enough for the B.M.A. to hear.—T.J.

Australian Campaign

... There are many able, sincere, energetic men and women engaged in this election campaign. They realise the danger of communism from Mr. Chifley, and they are working hard to save Australia. If the eyes of these true Australians can only be opened to the similar communist danger that lurks behind Mr. Menzies false front—then there will be a hope of saving Australia.

These patriotic men and women who have formed campaign committees in various districts, and are working so hard, should continue to meet and work *after the election*. They should closely follow the words and actions of whatever party is elected to power, and make vigorous public protest when those actions are against freedom, and against the wishes of the people who elected them. There can never be Parliamentary democratic government if the people are not vigilant and active. If the people will form themselves into small local bodies to actively watch and study political events, and voice their wishes vigorously, then this will really be the year of decision—the turning point towards freedom.

These local bodies should be political, but non-party political. They should be composed of labour and anti-labour supporters—of all persons interested in Australia and freedom. But if that objective places too much of a strain on the political intelligence of Australians, then let us have the next best thing—separate bodies of labour and anti-labour supporters all keenly watching the actions of our representatives and studying the effects. The present election campaign committees of both parties in all districts provide an excellent nucleus. If the Chifley government is re-elected, the main responsibility falls on labour committees; if an anti-labour government is returned the onus is on the liberal-country party supporters. If the supporters of both sides cease their labours after election day and let their representatives do as they are ordered by the Zionists—then they have wasted all their pre-election work, and we have surrendered private enterprise and freedom to the socialist planners and we are close to the communist State. We shall get the government we deserve.—J. E. Harding.

Social-Credit Secretariat

Lectures and Studies Section: Fellowship Examination

The Diploma of Fellowship of the Social Credit Secretariat (see *Elements of Social Credit*, pp. 124-6) has been awarded to

C. GEOFFREY DOBBS, Ph.D.

for a thesis incorporating his work on the Tennessee Valley Authority and cognate issues published at various times in *The Social Crediter* and now awaiting presentation in a more permanent form.

The award raises the number of those who hold this distinction to six, the initial Fellows (1943) being Messrs. L. D. Byrne, Hewlett Edwards and R. B. Gaudin, and Drs. Tudor Jones and Bryan W. Monahan.

Let Those Who Want To Spend Foot The Bill

Under this heading, across two columns, the following appeared in the *Sale and Stretford Guardian* for January 6:—

"We expect there will be a General Election shortly. In this connection the party programmes present a striking similarity, due no doubt to the fact that there is a strong Whig element behind them, thus leaving the voter the alternative of being shot, hanged or boiled in oil.

"It is claimed for the House of Commons that there are no limits beyond which, if it chooses, it cannot go. There most definitely should be limits. Magna Charta imposed such limits on King John. Something similar is required, with the House of Commons taking King John's place to-day. Government by regulation must be abolished and as few good laws as possible retained, together with the common law. The infiltration of aliens should be stopped and those living here encouraged to go home. Death duties and all confiscatory taxation should be repealed.

"Quality and excellence must again become the standards by which we judge our products; agriculture must be restored to its rightful place as mistress of all our endeavours. In this connection the right of the individual to own private property inviolate must be restored. The export-import industry must be changed from a racket into the means whereby we merely diversify our surplus products. The present policy of unrequited exports, outright gifts on a massive scale and debasement of the £ sterling, especially as compared with other currencies, must be abandoned or reversed. As a nationalised state is a slave state, individual initiative and enterprise must be encouraged and the threat of nationalisation removed from industry.

"These things are some of those to which a duly elected Parliament should pay special attention.

"In the meantime, it is suggested that all voting should be by open ballot—no one need fear victimisation nowadays. The parties should declare their programmes, indicating the interests and individuals affected, together with an estimate of the cost to the voter of each item and the benefits expected to accrue.

"Existing taxation would be borne equally but the cost of all schemes carried out by the newly-elected Government would be borne solely by those voters giving support to its candidates. On the other hand, any reduction in taxation would be allowed to Government electors at a rate three times higher than to opposition voters. After a further General Election the gains would be equalised.

"Some such electoral reform as this would place responsibility for decisions involving the spending of taxpayers money on the shoulders to which they belonged. Combined with a Parliamentary reform whereby all M.P.'s voted in secret, thus eliminating the power of the party whips, it is felt that it would do much to remedy the disastrous condition in which we find ourselves.—Yours faithfully,
"Sale." "A.H.W."

The Secret Ballot

The Editor, *The Social Crediter*

Dear Sir,

. . . People hate to have to think. It should be easy to ask two questions at political meetings of parliamentary

candidates. (1) Are you in favour of the secret ballot? Then (2) Will you see it is applied to M.P.s in Parliament? This cannot arouse antagonism, and should set a small seed in the minds of the audience. . . .

Yours, etc., T. H. Story.

"A Few Trifling Offences"

"Though Western Europe is by tradition unprepared to face the Eastern menace, yet it might rise to the occasion were it not confused by the bearing of a Western standard in the Russian hands. Russia has always been a barbarian country with Western creeds superimposed upon it. First, it was Greek Christianity, then, with Catherine the Great, Eighteenth Century philosophy and latterly Marxism. Voltaire could applaud Catherine the Great's marching into Poland because it was done, as he believed, in the name of philosophy. 'It is,' he wrote 'the Semiramis of the North who is making fifty thousand men march into Poland to establish there toleration and liberty of conscience. I am proud of being somewhat in her good graces. I am well aware that a few trifling offences are imputed to her on the subject of her husband [whom she had caused to be murdered] but those are family matters in which I do not concern myself.'

"Such is today the outlook of all too many intellectuals in Western Europe, the case being infinitely worse. To them the great Eastern Power is bringing to fruition the supreme manifestation of Western secular thought, Marxism. To them the transformation to be achieved is so desirable that they share the Webbs' blithe indifference to its brutality. Did not Hegel teach that the wheels of History must run in blood? It is to be stressed that the wide popular following of Socialism in Continental Western Europe is wholly to be traced to its intellectual adherents. . . ."—Bertrand de Jouvenel.

PARLIAMENT (continued from page 3.)

1945, is still in force. That is the scheme which we normally call the "Distressed Relatives Scheme," and it is the main exception to the general principle I have mentioned that immigration has to be limited to those who make a positive contribution to our economy. . . . The figures under that scheme show that about 5,600 of these distressed relatives, admitted on purely compassionate grounds in addition to a very small number of homeless children who have been offered homes and their keep here, have come in during that period.

There was one other extension of that scheme in relation, particularly, to Czechs after the events of February and March, 1948, in Czechoslovakia. There my right hon. Friend agreed to look sympathetically upon applications by Czechs who had escaped from Czechoslovakia, and who did not come within any of the categories entitling them to come here, but who had strong connections with this country, very often war-time service based on this country. Under that concession, something like 1,000 additional people of Czech nationality have been admitted. There is also the category of aliens of all nationalities who marry husbands or wives of British nationality. There are estimated to be about 6,000 under that category, again in addition to those who came under the 1945 scheme.

As regards the much larger numbers whom we have ad-

mitted on the ground that, in one way or another, they will make a contribution to our economy, there are, firstly, the European volunteer workers. Between October, 1946, and August, 1949, 83,000 workers and 3,500 dependants were admitted under that scheme. The flow is now somewhat slowing up, and in fact the recruitment under that particular scheme of male workers has actually stopped, but a limited number of women are still coming in.

The other big category of people who come here for work come under Ministry of Labour permits, and between May, 1946, and August, 1949, Ministry of Labour permits were issued in respect of 90,500 aliens. That category is not falling off. There are still large numbers of people coming in under the Ministry of Labour Scheme. Of course, they have to measure up to the standard required and, generally speaking, they can only come to take jobs for which it is not easy to find British subjects or aliens already resident here. In theory at least, and largely in practice, the persons who have these permits are only here temporarily. They may get extensions at the end of their first period of permit if there is still any suitable work, but they are essentially here in respect of the job they have agreed to take. It is expected that about 10 per cent, of the total will be likely in the long run to become permanently resident here.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks (Chichester): Can the hon. Gentleman give us any indication of the numbers now coming over in that last category?

Mr. Younger: It is estimated that for 1949 the figure will be about 35,000, which compares with the figure I gave earlier of 90,500 for the three years 1946-49. If that estimate proves to be correct, this year's figure will be slightly up. I would also remind the Committee that we have taken a large number of new aliens for permanent residence in this country from the Polish army and their dependants, amounting to 150,000. In addition, we have accepted some 15,000 former German prisoners of war and 8,000 former Ukrainian prisoners of war, all of whom have been accepted for settlement in this country.

In the last four years about 275,000 aliens have been admitted to the United Kingdom for permanent residence, of whom about 266,000—a high proportion of the total—may be reckoned as young immigrants or adults who are able to work and who come here for that purpose. Then there is the additional figure of 90,000 coming under the Ministry of Labour permits, most of whom are temporary. So far as one can judge, the flow for permanent settlement now and in the immediate future is likely to be 6,000 or 7,000 a year.

In giving these figures, I want to be careful to avoid any wrong impression. I am neither putting them forward as being large and as showing that we have made a remarkable contribution to the problem of dealing with refugees and other homeless people in Europe nor am I trying to make out that the numbers are small and should be increased. . . .

House of Commons: November 8, 1949.

B.O.C.A. Publication

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter asked the Secretary of State for War how many copies of the Bureau of Current Affairs publication No. 87, entitled "This Dollar Problem," were purchased by his Department for distribution to military units

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and personnel; between what dates their distribution took place; and what was the cost to public funds.

Mr. Shinwell: Twelve thousand, six hundred and seventy-five copies of this publication were purchased by His Majesty's Stationery Office on behalf of my Department. Distribution began about 20th August and was completed by about 12th September, 1949. I understand that the cost to His Majesty's Stationery Office was £182. The cost of distribution cannot be isolated.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: In view of the fact that distribution concluded only six days before devaluation took place, was any useful purpose served in circulating a document which proves conclusively, on page 15, that the present Government would never devalue the pound?

Mr. Shinwell: In the circumstances then prevailing, it was quite a legitimate point of view.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: Does that answer mean—

Mr. Speaker: We must get on with Questions. We have got to 36 in three-quarters of an hour. *Mr. Skeffington Lodge*.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Pound (Purchasing Power)

Mr. Osborne asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give the complete data on which the calculation that the purchasing power of the £ is today 16s. 4d. as against 20s. in 1945 is based.

Sir S. Cripps: Any estimate of the change in the purchasing power of the £ between two dates is necessarily based on the movement of some price index. The most appropriate index is one covering the whole of consumers' expenditure such as that published annually in the National Income White Paper. The latest figure in this series relates to 1948. Provisional estimates for later months have been obtained by linking it to the Interim Index of Retail Prices published by the Ministry of Labour.

The actual calculations for measuring the change in the purchasing power of the £ between 1945 and today are set out below.

	Index of Prices of Consumers' Expenditure (1938=100)	Purchasing Power of the £ (1945=100)
Year 1945	153*	100
Year 1948	180*	85
September, 1949 (before devaluation)	186.7†	82‡

* From the National Income White Paper.

† The average for 1948 of the Interim Index of Retail Prices was 107.7 For September, 1949 it was 111.7 The 1948 figure in the index from the National Income White Paper, brought up to date is thus 180×111.7

$$\ddagger 82 = \frac{153 \times 100}{186.7}$$

Felt Exports (Canada)

Mr. W. Fletcher asked the President of the Board of Trade what action has been taken by his Department to assist in the finding of markets for felts in place of that which

was lost in Newfoundland as a result of her becoming a Province of Canada.

Mr. Bottomley: As a result of Newfoundland's becoming a province of Canada, exports of felt to Newfoundland (where for the most part our felts enjoyed free entry) are now, of course, subject to the Canadian duties. I would hope, however, that the altered exchange rate of the £ will now enable the United Kingdom manufacturers to compete effectively in the Canadian market and the services of the Board of Trade are fully at their disposal for assistance in this vital market.

Exports (U.S.A. and Canada)

Mr. W. Fletcher asked the President of the Board of Trade what increase there has been since the devaluation of the pound in exports of cotton goods to the United States of America and to Canada.

Mr. Bottomley: It is too soon to expect the trade returns to reflect the increased volume of export trade which it is hoped will follow the adjustment of exchange rates. Some time must necessarily elapse before orders can be secured on the new basis and in the shipment of the goods overseas.

Rural Electrification (Expenditure)

Mr. Turton asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what will be the amount of the reduction in expenditure on rural electrification schemes in the financial years 1949-50, and 1950-51, respectively.

Mr. Robens: As my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said on 26th October, the cut in capital investment by the electricity industry will fall mainly in the sphere of distribution. The precise allocation of the cut will be left to the British Electricity Authority and the area boards to determine and while some check on the progress of rural electrification is inevitable, I cannot say what reduction in expenditure this will involve. It is, however, unlikely that there will be any reduction in work planned for completion in the financial year 1949-50.

House of Commons: December 1, 1949.

Subsidies

Mr. Hurd asked the Minister of Agriculture if he will give the main heads of the direct subsidies to British farmers estimated by his Department to amount to £25 million per annum.

Mr. T. Williams: To the nearest quarter of a million

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pounds, the figures for the United Kingdom for the current year, to which my right hon. Friend the Minister of Food alluded on 21st November are: Ploughing grant—£6½ million; Hill sheep, hill cattle and hill farming generally—£4 million; Calf subsidy—£7 million; Lime—£5¾ million; Drainage, water supplies and miscellaneous—£2½ million; making a total of £25½ million.

Mr. Hurd: As this Question was originally addressed to the Minister of Food, because it was he who got so hopelessly mixed up between food subsidies and agricultural subsidies, will the Minister of Agriculture particularly draw the attention of his right hon. Friend to the real facts which he has now given the House?

Mr. Williams: I believe that my right hon. Friend corrected his original statement the day he made a slight error.

Sugar Beet (Dried Pulp)

Mr. De la Bère asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he will give an explanation of the rise in price of dry pulp from the sugar-beet factories, from £7 per ton to £14 per ton, with special regard to the fact that the basic price paid to the sugar beet growers was only £5 10s. per ton; and what steps he proposes to take to effect an equitable adjustment to all concerned.

Mr. T. Williams: The increase in price of dried sugar-beet pulp was part of the general increase in the level of animal feedingstuffs prices which I announced in the statement I made in reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Winchester (Mr. G. Jeger) on 24th January. The price of dried pulp affects sugar-beet growers only as feeders of livestock, and the increased prices of this and other feedingstuffs were taken into account in arriving at the prices of livestock products agreed last February; there are, therefore, no grounds for any adjustment so far as the present year is concerned.

Mr. De la Bère: Is the Minister aware that this Question was originally put down to the Minister of Food, and will he, with the Minister of Food, endeavour to separate the real from the unreal and the worthy from the sham and get down to reality?

Parish Council Elections (Cost)

Brigadier Medlicott asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that parish councils in many parts of the country are seriously concerned over the heavy cost of the parish council elections held earlier this year under the Representation of the People Act, 1948, as compared with the almost nominal cost of such elections held under the previous law; and what proposals he has in mind to correct the present unsatisfactory position.

Mr. Ede: Some increase of cost is a necessary consequence of the change—for which there was a widespread demand—from election by show of hands to election by nomination and poll. A county council has power under Section 54 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1933, to fix a scale of expenses in relation to the holding of a parish council election, and if a parish council consider that any item in the scale applicable to their parish is too high, it is open to them to make representations to the county council with a view to a reduction.

Statutory Rules and Orders

The difficulty which the citizen has in knowing the law with which he is presumed to be familiar and of practitioners in remote districts in giving advice is illustrated by a letter to *The Times* which states that the Stationery Office have recently issued an announcement of a revised edition of the Statutory Rules and Orders and Statutory Instruments in 28 volumes. It is offered to the public at the pre-publication price of 55 guineas, if the order is given before January 1, 1950. The price after that date will not be less than 65 guineas.

The writer says that only the large libraries, among such institutions, can afford to pay such a price.

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To acquaint ourselves with the general character of this advice and the reasons underlying it, we agree to subscribe to *The Social Crediter* regularly in the proportion of at least one copy for every five members.

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HEWLETT EDWARDS,

Director of Organisation and Overseas Relations.

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