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## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### "Korea"

By B.J.

*The diary of events to July 10, leading to the present developments in international affairs is continued below from our issue of July 29:—*

JULY 1: Mr. Sidney Smith, only Britisher on the spot, describes the complete rout of the joint American-South Korean headquarters the night of June 30 (*Sunday Express*, July 2). The complete, if momentary collapse of the morale of the U.S. officers ("The American Pressmen were the frankest in their comments on the every-man-for-himself fashion in which the evacuation had begun") was passed over by every other paper we have seen. The Washington correspondent of the *Sunday Times* sends the following comment:

"The Pentagon was fully aware of the grave difficulties of defending Southern Korea when President Truman made what was primarily a political decision to commit the United States militarily. . . .

"It was Mr. Acheson who pleaded for police action in the name of the United Nations. . . .

"Britain's quick decision for support and disposal of fleet units has made a deep impression here . . . and much recent hard feeling has been swept aside. . . .

". . . everybody is fully aware that his decision has marshalled the country solidly behind him and that the hysteria and confusion of the past few months have been swept aside by a sense of responsibility and awareness of the high stakes involved."

In the same paper, the leader-writer suggests that Mr. Bevin should yield his place to "a younger man in full vigour" a plea that is supported by Mr. John Gordon, in the *Sunday Express* of the same date. "Scrutator" of the *Observer* advocates the extension of National Service to two years, while the leader-writer of the *Observer* urges that "land forces, American, British and Commonwealth should be sent at once." Perhaps the most revealing passage of any article that appeared in the Sunday Press is the following ("Where we Stand," *Observer*, July 2):

"The reasons for American action were political rather than military . . . the decision to protect Formosa at the same time was presumably made in response to the Defence Department's new pleas: now they were reinforced by the distinct risk of general war breaking out. The taking of these decisions also had the effect of silencing the extreme and irresponsible sections of the Republican Party which had previously denounced Mr. Acheson as a 'near Communist.'"

JULY 2: First U.S. army casualties announced from Washington. As a measure of strengthening "defence key points" inside the U.S.A., artillery battery is ordered to locks between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, while corps engineers close to the public all locks on the Mississippi. All

troops in the Alaska area are alerted. An offer from General Chiang of 33,000 "seasoned" Nationalist troops is declined by the State Department. In France, a new Government has been formed: Mr. Schuman remains Foreign Minister.

The Israeli Cabinet decides to support the U.N. Security Council's efforts "to restore peace in Korea." Mr. Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister, said that "Israel's attitude was only of moral value. Nobody, he added, expected Israel to send troops to Korea, as Israel was surrounded by enemies." Mr. Trygvie Lie, Secretary-General of U.N.O., appoints Col. Alfred G. Katzin, a South African Jew, as his personal representative in Korea.

JULY 3: Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, Minister of Defence, welcomes the delegates of the first meeting of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science. 5,000 coal miners are on strike in Scotland. 3,000 workers connected with "Smithfield" are on strike in London. In their Presidential addresses to their respective unions, Mr. Potter and Sir William Lawther deal "with wages and the Communist menace—the major problems confronting Trade Unionism to-day."

JULY 4: The American Day of Independence sees U.S. soldiers "waiting for zero hour" South of Suwon, which has fallen to the enemy. From Washington Miss Nora Beloff writes (*Scotsman*, July 5): "But there are already signs that the prolonged and extensive campaign which now seems inevitable in the mountains and mud of a remote Asiatic peninsula may impose on American democracy here at home the greatest ordeal in its history. . . . in countless speeches and articles the anti-Communist crusaders have affirmed that they see no difference between Socialism and Communism, or between Socialism and the social reforms of President Truman's Fair Deal."

JULY 5: The House of Commons debates Korea, and the Government's motion approving the steps taken by the Security Council and the sending of British forces to help the South Koreans, is carried without a division. The Scottish coal strike spreads.

JULY 6: A third of the Republic of South Korea has been over-run. It is stated in Washington in reply to critics of the "too little and too late" policy of the U.S. Government that 56 million dollars worth of arms has been expended in South Korea. Australia's two Houses of Parliament support Mr. Menzies's action in placing naval and air-units at the disposal of the U.S.A. Dr. Evatt, former president of the U.N. General Assembly, advocates high-level political negotiations to secure an armistice in Korea. In Malaya, terrorism increases. In France, the Government crisis continues. The U.K. Government bans export to North Korea. Mr. Churchill reverts to the Schuman Plan, criticising Mr. Strachey's week-end speech containing the phrase: "The Schuman Plot."

JULY 7: The U.S. Government orders conscription. At Lake Success, Great Britain and France submit a resolution

calling for a unified command of the U.N. forces fighting in Korea, asking the U.S. administration to appoint a Commander-in-Chief. General MacArthur, some years ago elevated to the 33rd degree of Freemasonry, is held to be the likely occupant of the post.

Sir Gladwyn Jebb, Foreign Office official who was appointed Executive Secretary of Prep. Committee of the U.N. in 1945, with the rank of Minister, introduced the resolution. Section five authorises the unified command to use at its discretion the U.N. flag in the operations against the North Korean forces. Sir Gladwyn explains that this measure is intended to emphasise the "unity of the nations banded together for a common purpose. . . . these nations are united under a higher law than that of narrow and selfish national interests." The colours of the U.N. flag, like that of Israel, are White and Blue.

In Australia, the "Communist"-controlled Federal executive of the Seamen's Unions, decide that "Australian seamen will not transport war materials to Korea." France informs the U.N. that her struggles against Communists in Indo-China makes it impossible for her to send military assistance to Korea. Mr. Nehru declares that the admission of the Communist Government of China—which has been recognised by Great Britain—and the return of Russia to the Security Council were "necessary conditions to bringing the Korean conflict to a prompt and peaceful conclusion." From Washington, Miss Nora Beloff writes to the *Scotsman* (issue of July 8): "The knowledge that Americans have been losing and the Russians winning the ideological battle for Asia and the tremendous military implications of this defeat, have been driven home by events in Korea."

JULY 8: Miss Susan Strange, reports in the *Scotsman* that the last objection to the European Payments Union has been overcome. Gerald Scheff reports (*Sunday Express*, July 9) from Paris that a second "Schuman Plan"—this time the pooling of textile production by a number of European countries is being studied at the Quai d'Orsay.

In Brussels, preparations are made for the return of King Leopold of the Belgians. The King's chief political opponent is the Socialist leader and well-known U.N. politician M. Paul Henri Spaak, who was elected Chairman of U.N.O. in 1946 and President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in 1949. From the Korean battlefield Sidney Smith cables that U.S. reinforcements, which can now be described as formidable, are pouring in a straight line into the battle. The U.S. losses cannot yet be detailed.

JULY 10: Dr. Jessup, U.S. Ambassador-at-large addressing the Institute of Public Affairs, Charlottesville, Virginia, said that the invasion of South Korea was "the most bare-faced assault upon the United Nations *itself* [my emphasis]. An assault upon the United Nations headquarters could not have been more direct or more revealing. Of all the countries in the world none is more closely identified with the United Nations than the Republic of Korea."

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, Minister for Economic Affairs, said that in the prevailing circumstances it was not desirable or appropriate to make widespread changes in taxation. All must have in mind the events in Korea with the consequences for us as regards defence expenses in particular. In the present world situation some further expansion of our exports was still needed and it was essential that we should keep in check consumption at home.

The following are Jews:—

"Russian" representative on the Political and Security Committee, Manuilsky; Assistant Secretary-General, Benjamin Cohen; U.S. member of the U.N. Commission on Atomic Energy, Bernard M. Baruch; Director of International Labour Organisation, David A. Morse; Deputy U.S. representative on U.N.O., 1949, Ernest A. Gross and Director U.N. Information Centre, Geneva, J. Shapiro.

### Phrenetic Reporting

The following are only some of the phrases used in a single article in *The Times* (dubbed *Threepenny Daily Worker* by the late Jimmy Maxton) concerning the military operations in Korea:—

"Heavy Communist Assaults."

"Simultaneous assaults all along the 200-mile front."

"Believed to be using 90,000 troops."

"America's 1st Cavalry Division (?) holding positions in savage fighting."

"Enemy employed 'more artillery than I ever saw before'" (*vide* "a veteran of Normandy and the 'Battle of the Bulge'.")

On the same day (July 29), the newspaper printed a message from Washington as follows:—

"Washington, July 28. The Department of Defence announced to-day that total American casualties to date in Korea are 904. They include 76 killed, eight died of wounds, 269 wounded, 79 injured and 472 missing in action—Associated Press."

Nevertheless, the Americans (?) (shades of Hector and Achilles! Angel of Mons! No Dunkirk!) "are fighting as soldiers have never fought before."—General Walker said so to the very-own correspondent of *The Times*. (*The Times*, July 31).

To the accompaniment of tales of bombs, hand-to-hand fighting, sabre charges, hurtling paving stones, strikes and upheavals, Lord Beaverbrook's *Sunday Express* shrieks "How foolish this man, who splits the nation to feed his pride. King Leopold should get back to his golf in exile before he does his family and his country irreparable harm." (Who said 'interference in the internal affairs of a foreign sovereign nation.'?)

*The Tablet* (July 29) is sapient in the following, which may, however, underestimate the inflationary power of almost universal misrepresentation by puppet newspapers. At the time of writing, King Leopold has not abdicated:—

"King Leopold has returned to Belgium, and the hostile demonstrations amounted to so little in a country of eight million people that the King's Ministers are tempted to conclude that they have only to wait patiently while their opponents vent their mortification, blow their whistles and shout their cat-calls; that the weapon of the strike has been too often invoked in post-war Europe for purely political ends and has begun to recoil on those who are continually calling on working men to give up their pay in this manner. It is undoubtedly true that the English Press made too much of the threats and demonstrations; that the crowds taking part in them were not large, and only appeared in Brussels and in certain Walloon centres like Charleroi."

### "United" Europe

Further correspondence in *Time and Tide* has followed upon the publication of Miss Beamish's letter there on July 1 (*T.S.C.*, July 15).

A letter signed A. D. Simon, saying that the alternative to a Western European parliament embodying majority rule is 'international anarchy,' and two other letters were answered as follows in *Time and Tide* for July 15:—

"Sir,—Mr. A. D. Simons reconstructs my letter and then proceeds to criticise his misconstruction of it. My point was that although Hitler was elected, those who had elected him had no control over him afterwards because they had conferred on him supreme power. He was the sole authority in Germany; no law was acknowledged to which he must bow, he *made* the law;—a situation which would inevitably corrupt an archangel.

"Supporters of federation may not wish to confer absolute power on anyone. But if all industries and raw materials were pooled, and government was also 'pooled' in a European or World Parliament, such a Government would possess absolute power whether there was any intention to confer it or not.

"Under nationalisation, in theory everything belongs to the people. In practice, all property is taken from the people, *i.e.* the individuals who make up that collectivity and who are the sole reality, and transferred to the ruling or official class. The people do not own anything; they are simply employees; and employees who cannot change their employer since the universal employer is the State. This centralisation which is clearly incompatible with freedom, would be intensified under internationalisation; it would be government by remote control.

"Generally it is success in small undertakings which is held to qualify a person for larger responsibilities. It is the lamentable failure of national Governments which—to federalists—indicates that they should be given the whole world to govern rather than that first principles should be examined and clarified. Civilisation is trying to do two completely opposite things—develop scientific mechanisation to the utmost degree possible and promote 'full employment.' That is quite enough to account for the stresses and strains under which we endure existence in the permanent state of

crisis that obtains.

"With regard to the contention that 'the essential task of an authority controlling iron and steel would be to encourage by every means possible increased consumption,' as those authorities already existent have done the opposite *e.g.* have held conferences to decide how much sugar our colonies should be *allowed* to produce and—recently at a time when cotton goods were unobtainable—proposals were made to *limit* the capacity of the Japanese to make textiles, there is no reason to suppose that an authority even more powerful and unchallengeable would do otherwise. *Power* is their aim and 'shortages' are obviously essential to the maintenance of centralised control over whole populations, which, were plenty made accessible to them, would have no reason to quarrel with each other or to tolerate their lives being 'planned.'

"I am, *etc.*, D. BEAMISH.

### "See, We Live"

"To right and to left we must be armed with innocence, now honoured, now slighted, now flattered. They call us deceivers, and we tell the truth; unknown, and we are fully acknowledged; dying men, and see, we live; punished, yes, but not doomed to die; sad men, that rejoice continually; beggars that bring riches to many; disinherited, and the world is ours."—II Corinthians, vi. 7-9 (Knox).

### From Washington

"Taft has refused to join the chorus in favour of economic controls, and says Congress will sign no blank checks in economic policy. But in foreign policy the opposition has been outgeneralled. The political task of the opposition is not to argue about details, but to challenge the major premises of the party in power, to propose a total change in direction, if the nation is being led to disaster."—Edna Lonigan.

### Israel Expels Germans

The Haifa correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* (July 22) said the Israel Government had completed its policy of expelling all Germans from Israeli territory. The last 18 Germans left Jerusalem the day before on the way to Australia.

### The Maker Conscience

I would I had the burin to enchase upon the beaten Silver shell the bound and muscle-loaded scapulæ of Epimetheus, as the glad youth puts forth his strength to lift the heavy lid with under-pressing palms, where Pandora lightly lies, her pendant arm so slight a bond to fasten it,

The brush to paint Minerva's storm-framed Owl, that "sets not out upon her flight until the shades of evening fall",

The wise and witty Francis' "Bell to call the Wits together," and, even then,

A live and kindred, unreluctant Spirit, wantonly to breed  
Honesty in England.

Yet, had I this all so, God bless my Soul! "These things thou hast,"  
she'd say—and nothing more.

Tudor Jones.

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Saturday, August 5, 1950.

### From Week to Week

In its 8 a.m. News Bulletin of Sunday, July 23, the "B".B.C. announced the death of Mackenzie King, sometime Liberal Prime Minister of Canada. An Obituary Oration lasting nearly ten minutes, delivered by a special orator (incidentally referring to the nation for whom he allegedly spoke as "Britain") left us in no doubt as to the community of interest between our broadcasting undertaking, its controllers and those served so faithfully by Mr. King. The oration was followed by the "B".B.C. Collect for the day—the statistics of Saving, plus and minus.

William Lyon Mackenzie King, popularly known as the Washington Post, was the grandson of a traitor, an ancestry of which he was curiously proud. He was educated at Toronto and Harvard, and spent some years in Chicago, the most anti-British city in the United States. He disliked England and the English, and from his entry, with powerful backing, into Canadian politics in 1919, he worked consistently and skilfully to alienate Canadian feeling away from the British connection and to transfer it to his friends in Washington and Wall Street.

After calling for "Hands off Alberta," he blocked every move made by Mr. Aberhart to embody Provincial rights, invoking the use of the obsolescent power of Disallowance; and while professing great concern for the powers granted to the Provinces under the British North America Act, centralised politics and banking in Ottawa wherever possible.

These be your "Gods", O Israel.

We feel indebted to Mr. Emrys Hughes, M.P., in that he has provided a *corpus vile* on which to demonstrate the rapturous folly of the Socialist mind. In *Hansard* of July 5 (Commons) quoted in our issue of July 22, he observes: "And so we have to face the inescapable fact that the hundreds of millions of China and Russia, and the whole of Europe, East of the Iron Curtain, are asking about, and looking critically at, the action which has been taken. . . . What is the attitude of India? India is not wholeheartedly in favour . . ." etc., etc.

Just pause a moment. There are over three hundred distinguishable races on the Indian sub-continent alone, not to mention caste divisions, religions and sub-religions. The Tamil has less affinity with the Pathan than the North American Indian (if any survive) has with the South Sea Islander. Not merely their languages are wholly dissimilar but even their alphabets are mutually unintelligible. That is only one aspect at random, and the same criticism of course applies to the populations of China and the various

Republics and satellites of the U.S.S.R.

So far as ability to read a newspaper printed in European character is concerned, we should regard five *per cent.* of the millions under review as a liberal estimate, and of that five *per cent.*, not one hundredth part has either education or interest in the questions which Mr. Hughes believes that they are considering critically.

This is the kind of bilge that appears to go with the collective type of mind; Mr. Hughes no doubt honestly believes that he is very "scientific" and "progressive" (he is, we believe the Editor of *Forward*) when he lumps hundreds of millions of human beings whose countries he has probably never seen, whose language and literature mean nothing to him, into one category, sticks a label onto them, and informs us that they are all thinking about one thing, in one way, and that is his way because it is the Socialist way.

In fairness to Mr. Hughes, we concede at once that much of what he said in the debate on Korea is sound and sensible. That is not the point. *He* said it; not the hundreds of millions of people of whose thoughts he can have no possible knowledge.

It is fairly obvious that the great crisis in history is upon us. Anyone who will consider that just as the War Office was in the hands of Mr. Hore-Belisha in 1939, so our defence services are in the hands of two Jews, Messrs. Shinwell and Strachey; that our troops are being put once again under the orders of the "American" Jews by the repulsive farce that they are something called the United Nations, must see that the stage is now set for the final act of the Great Plot. "Under war or threat of war," the last vestige of the individual—his "personal" credit—is being centralised so that, as never in all recorded history, individual initiative is replaced by the Power of the Prince of this World.

We have an impression that the date of events has been advanced by reason of the growing unrest in the United States. So far as our own country is concerned there is plenty of evidence that the daily press is under the most powerful duress.

### Common Ownership

*Of the London Dock Strike of 1889, etc.:* "Well do I remember the fevers of that struggle! I was but nineteen years of age; it was my delight to follow the intense passions of the time; and those passions were real. It was before the socialist creed had been captured for sham battle at Westminster. The leaders *did* desire, and *did* think they could achieve an England in which the poor should be poor no longer, and in which there should be sustenance and happiness for all. They *did* still believe the amazing proposition that what they called 'the community'—that is, in practice, the politicians—could own all we have and handle it with a superhuman justice. Great God! They believed it!"—Hilaire Belloc (1925).

"These men did not see that you cannot get strength out or rottenness; nor justice, nor truth, nor generosity out of moribund institutions (such as is now the House of Commons), which, after a certain stage in decline, no longer live save for personal intrigue."—H. Belloc (1925).

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: July 17, 1950.

### FUEL AND POWER

#### Electricity Supplies (Rural Areas)

*Mr. Perkins* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power whether he is aware that the cut in capital investment on the distribution of electricity supply has resulted in the serious curtailment of electricity schemes of development in rural areas; and whether he will consider restoring at least part of this capital investment in order to relieve hardship to farmers and others in these areas.

*The Minister of Fuel and Power (Mr. Philip Noel-Baker)*: I am aware that the present restrictions on capital investment must prevent the area boards from extending their rural supplies as fast as both they and their prospective consumers would like. But the bringing of supplies to the more remote rural population is only one of the many forms of capital investment which will be increased as soon as the country can afford it.

*Mr. Perkins*: Can the Minister tell us when he hopes to be able to make this increase?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Rural extensions are going on all the time, though not as fast as I should like. As the situation gets easier, we shall do more.

*Mr. Arthur Colegate*: Is not this cut in the investment programme very disadvantageous to the development of British industry?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: It is, of course, very regrettable, but I must remind the hon. Member that the Opposition demanded much greater cuts last autumn.

*Mr. Nigel Davies*: Is the Minister aware that there are places in rural parts of Essex, quite near London, which were told that they could get a supply before nationalisation took place, and have now been told that they cannot have it?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: Unfortunately, we have had a war.

#### Machinery (Productivity)

*Miss Irene Ward* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what is the estimated additional annual tonnage per man year attributable to the machinery introduced in the mines since 1947; and, in comparing the estimated output per man year for 1951 with 1938, what account is taken of the productive increase attributable to the new machinery.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker*: Changes in the output of coal per man-year result not only from the use of more and better machines, but also from improvements in the organisation of the collieries, from the improvement or worsening of working conditions, the number of shifts worked, and other factors. I regret that, in consequence, I cannot make the estimate for which the hon. Member asks.

*Miss Ward*: Arising out of the fact that the right hon. Gentleman evidently has not tried to find out the answer, could he tell us what Sir Charles Reid has estimated that the increased tonnage ought to be?

*Mr. Noel-Baker*: No, Sir. I cannot. . . .

#### Sugar

*Mr. Wills* asked the Minister of Food whether he will make a special allocation of sugar to people living in country

districts to enable them to preserve their home-grown fruit.

*Mr. F. Willey*: No, Sir. We give general bonuses for jam making, but our supplies of sugar are not sufficient to allow for any special supplementary allocations of this kind.

*Mr. Wills*: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that his answer will cause considerable disappointment in country districts, and will also mean a considerable waste of fruit this summer?

*Mr. Willey*: I hope that people in country districts will be better informed.

## KOREA

### Security Council (Appeal)

*Mr. Thomas Reid* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what member States of the United Nations organisation have not responded to the appeal of the Security Council for aid against North Korea; and which States have replied to the Council by supplying, or agreed to supply, military aid or finance.

*Mr. Ernest Davies*: As the answer is somewhat long, I will, with permission, circulate in the OFFICIAL REPORT a list of countries which will give my hon. Friend the information which he requires.

*Sir H. Williams*: Would the hon. Gentleman give a short list of those who have responded?

*Following is the list:*

We have no information whether any of the following member States of the United Nations have replied to the appeal of the Security Council for aid against North Korea: Byelorussia; Liberia; Ukraine.

According to the information at present available, the following member States have rejected the appeal: Czechoslovakia; Poland; Soviet Union.

The following member States have, however, on information available, agreed to provide military assistance of financial or other aid: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Chinese (Nationalist) Government, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Uruguay.

### Supply: Committee—Education

*Mr. Donald Scott (Penrith and The Border)*: . . . I am simply one of those essential people without whom there would be no need for education, namely, a parent. I have listened to the whole of this Debate with great interest and at times with a certain amount of surprise because, as far as I know, there has been nothing said about education in rural areas. Therefore, I shall devote the few moments of my speech to the subject of the village school.

I do not think anybody would deny that we owe a tremendous lot to the village school, not only as an instructor in the three R's but as the centre of cultural life in a village community. Again, nobody could over-assess the great debt of gratitude that the people of this country owe to the village schoolmaster and schoolmistress, generations of whom have given of their best, often with scant reward. They have given of their best not merely as instructors in the three R's but as builders of character—men and women who have been guides, philosophers and friends not only to generations of schoolchildren but to their parents and to old boys and girls,

and they have been as much a part of the village life as the squire, the doctor, the parson and the village pump.

Times have changed. The squire's house is now probably full of displaced persons, the parson looks after five parishes on a motor scooter, the doctor is possibly an over-worked near civil servant. All that remains is the village pump and the village school, although the school, too, has changed because of the centralisation of education in country districts. But I believe it has a great part to play in the future, in a way just as great a part as it has played in the past. It has a new part or, rather, a revival of an old part. It is this. Owing to the high cost of private education, the small village school will become more and more the preparatory school for everybody in that locality. In other words, children from different income levels or different types of homes will start their education hand in hand, and there can be nothing but good in that.

One hon. Member talked about breaking down snobbish ideas of education. There is one of the ways in which it can be broken down most quickly. If, however, we are to keep the great tradition of service, it is essential that in the village school house there should be the right type of schoolmaster or schoolmistress. We have them now, but I am apprehensive about the future, because we shall not get them in the future until conditions and salaries are improved.

We have heard a lot, and rightly so, about the salaries of teachers, but we have not heard enough recently about the added hardship with which the village teachers have to contend. They cannot augment their earnings by teaching in evening classes—not that I want any teacher to burn the candle at both ends in order to live at a reasonable standard. The village teacher is often denied access to public reference libraries, to theatres, concerts and lectures because of transport difficulties. In other words, between the refreshment of cultural relaxation and the teacher there is a barrier of high 'bus fares or the upkeep of a motor bicycle. It is the same transport difficulty that militates against the teacher being able to meet his or her opposite number and discuss matters, and that should be done. Therefore, I say in all humility that if we are to carry on the position of service, something will have to be done not only for teachers as a whole but for those teachers living in the rural areas. . . .

. . . I want to deal with the rather wider aspect of the future planning of education in rural areas, and in doing so I plead for a little more elasticity. It is well enough to look at a map, to consult people in the locality up to a point, to get a hold of figures, to consult a statistician and then to say, "We will build a new central school here and pull this old one down," and so on. That does not go far enough to deal with the real problem, because I want in education to see consumer choice. I do not mean that a child aged five should have the choice of where he is to be educated; I believe that we should have more consultation as far as the parent is concerned.

The Minister will, I hope, forgive me if I mention a specific case which I have already referred to him, and about which he has been as sympathetic as he could be. It concerns a small school—St. Wilfred's R.C. School at Warwick Bridge, near Carlisle. That school was built and endowed by a pious lady many years ago. At present it has about 20 pupils; it has a good scholarship record, the reports from H.M. Inspectors of Schools are excellent, and the condition of the buildings and equipment and the mistress's house is right up to standard. That school has not cost

the public anything except for milk in school and the school medical service.

The old endowment was quite sufficient for its upkeep, but for one reason and another that endowment has dwindled to £180 a year which, of course, is totally inadequate to keep the school going and to pay salaries and everything else. We have asked for aid status for that highly satisfactory little school, and the reply, unfortunately, is "No." The reason, we are told, is the simple one that the school does not fit into the plan for the locality. I hope, however, that second thoughts may be given to this matter, because if that school is closed it will mean two things. Under the terms of the trust deed the total capital sum will be lost entirely to education. Secondly, the children, if their parents wish them to attend a Roman Catholic school, will have to travel 4½ miles into Carlisle.

My final plea is with regard to transport in rural areas. . .

*Mr. Godfrey Nicholson (Farnham):* . . . A few months ago a children's home, for children under five in my constituency, was inspected by the representatives of three Departments. A prominent part in the inspection was taken by a representative of the Ministry of Education. What happened then and what I know now is happening in many children's homes has caused some consternation amongst people interested in that activity and should cause us consternation also because it throws a sidelight on what may be a trend—and I think an undesirable trend—in the Department.

These children were under five, and the representative of the Minister of Education interviewed the matron and inculcated a complete go-as-you-please system in bringing up small children, that they must not be taught to say "please" or "thank you," or put toys away and that games must on no account be interrupted for a meal, that there were not to be fixed sit down meals, but a sort of running buffet and—this was almost a stroke of genius—she believed that the dining room was overcrowded but the tables were too far apart.

It does not hurt matrons to answer questions, and I am not here to fight the battle of children's homes because I think they are well able to look after themselves, but I am here to express the consternation and anxiety felt by many people at the thought that these curious and, I think, deleterious ideas of education are expounded officially by representatives of the Ministry of Education, and I ask the Minister to look into the matter. . . .

. . . It is ridiculous to say that a child should be discouraged from saying "please" or "thank you," or at any rate not instructed to say "please" or "thank you," particularly orphan children in homes. I speak as a father, and I believe all children need instruction in good manners and need regularity in their lives, and that these new fangled ideas are bad. I should hate to think they were officially supported by the right hon. Gentleman and his Department. I beg him to look into it and do something about it because I feel something is very wrong when inspectors, who have never had children themselves, go round and tell other people these fairy tales. . . .

*Dr. King (Southampton, Test):* . . . I regret that the 1949 Report does not reveal a more complete awareness of the fact that we are still far away from equality of opportunity as far as children are concerned. We still have a class system of education, and in 1950 the better-off people

are still doing everything they can to avoid sending their children to the State schools.

Last week, a member of an education committee could still comment that it would be wrong to send a gipsy's son to Eton, and that it would be equally wrong to send a duke's son to a council school. Those of us who believe children are the same no matter what their fathers have been find that kind of thing rather distressing. Reference has been made to the shocking condition of village schools. All I wish to say is that if the duke's son, the gentleman's son and the farmer's son had gone to some of these village schools with the farm worker's son, then we might have had decent village schools 50 years ago.

A recent P.E.P. Report on the state of the universities says:

"In the older universities 52 per cent. of the pupils are from fee-paying schools and 21 per cent. come from local education authorities."

It is stated that

"Oxford and Cambridge are still the preserve of the professional classes."

At Oxford and Cambridge 93 per cent. of the places are taken by children of the upper and middle classes—the *rentier*, professional and clerical groups—and just under 8 per cent. of the places are taken up by children of manual workers. The Report goes on to say that

"The children of the manual workers are grossly unrepresented at all the British universities, and particularly at Oxford and Cambridge."

Our present pattern of education almost suggests that English society believes, with the Communist Lysenko, in the transmission of acquired characteristics. If, as some people believe, the children of ability are likely to emerge from any class and from among manual labourers, then there is something radically wrong with the British education system.

I cannot mention all the things we must do before we have a really democratic system of education, but I would point out to the Minister that the British Navy has already shown the way. The Royal Naval College at Dartmouth has become the first public school that really is a public school. I have learnt to admire particularly since my days in the House of Commons, the public school education and all that it means. I look forward to the day when Winchester to which so many references are made in the House, will return to the original purpose for which it was intended, and have 70 children chosen because of their ability and 10 fee-payers: something like that proportion would be much more democratic and in keeping with a system of equality of opportunity.

*Sir Ralph Glyn* (Abingdon): Would the hon. Member study the number of public schools which are offering bursaries and the failure so far for them to be filled?

*Dr. King*: I was going on to say that I hope we shall make an effort to carry out the reforms and recommendations suggested in the Fleming Report. . . .

*Commander Maitland* (Horncastle): . . . The main theme throughout the speeches of hon. Members, particularly those hon. Members with far more experience of educational matters than I shall ever have, was anxiety. Even had that not been so, it has certainly been the theme of those people throughout the country who have been worrying about educational matters. The Association of Education Com-

mittees recently had their conference at Scarborough. The underlying theme was anxiety. . . .

I wish to examine the reasons for the anxieties which I detect, and which I think we all detect, throughout the country today. I will take them in their obvious categories. First, there is the question of building. . . .

Let us turn to the position in regard to teachers, which is almost equally serious. First, the graduate teachers. In the Report the graduate teachers are dealt with as follows:

" . . . information from a variety of sources showed that many schools, especially girls' schools, had considerable difficulty in filling posts in science and mathematics with suitably qualified graduate teachers. If these difficulties persist, the result will be particularly disturbing, because the needs of the schools will become greater as the larger age groups of children born in 1945-48 move into the secondary schools, and as more pupils remain in the secondary schools after the age of 16."

That does not take into account the enormous difficulty which the grammar schools have in getting hold of high-class graduates for their sixth forms. I do not want to go into that question now. I mentioned it when I spoke in the last education Debate. The problem of graduates is undoubtedly extremely serious. As the right hon. Gentleman knows, and none better, the key problem is the position in regard to women teachers. Here the Report says:

"As more girls stay on at secondary schools of all types, there should be no difficulty in finding recruits for an increasing number of training college places. In the meantime, it is not going to be easy to maintain the volume of training to which we are already committed, though this will not secure the number of women teachers mentioned in paragraphs five and six above as likely to be required by 1954."

That is particularly serious. Since that Report was written we have had speeches from the Permanent Secretary and, I think, the Minister, pointing out that this is not entirely correct, because it is being found extremely difficult to fill the places in the permanent training colleges for next September. I believe that is right, and I hope that the Minister will correct me if I am wrong. I shall be only too pleased if I am wrong. That does not paint a very happy picture of the situation ahead of us as it affects the supply of teachers.

I should now like to touch on another important point about the quality of education as it affects the future. I hope that the Parliamentary Secretary will forgive me for saying that the Report as he presented it appeared to be a little one-sided. The summing up of the Report points out that we have not yet reached the standards that we had before the war. I am pleased to see that it is true that schools are happier places than they used to be; but, nice as that is—and I have five children, four of whom are at school—I do not find that that is the only consideration of

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By

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importance. There is something more in education than the creation of a school as the sort of place where people are happy. Home is the place in which to be happy; school is the place in which to learn. That was the position in my day. I may be reactionary but that still holds to a considerable extent.

I have tried, rather lugubriously, perhaps, to paint a picture of the difficulties which this Report shows. We must face them. We are all on the same side in this matter. We are all determined to see that our children get the finest education possible. We need not hide that from each other. We need not burke the issue. We must face the fact that it will be extraordinarily difficult to get over this peak birth-rate period which will face us soon. . . .

### Imported Dates (Advertisements)

*Miss Ward* asked the Minister of Food whether he is aware of the taxpayers' resentment at the advertising campaign for imported dates; and why it has been undertaken.

*Mr. Webb*: No complaints about these advertisements have been received by my Ministry. The object is to clear stocks so that the business of importing and selling dates may be returned to private traders.

### "The Crystal Age"

"But it was really hard to believe that a person of his years did not know what money was. Besides, I could not answer the question, having always abhorred the study of political economy, which tells you all about it; so that I had never learned to define money, but only how to spend it.

Presently I thought the best way out of the muddle was to show him some, and accordingly pulled out my big leather book-purse from my breast pocket. It had an ancient, musty smell, like everything about me, but seemed pretty heavy and well filled, and I proceeded to open it and turn the contents on the table. Eleven bright sovereigns and three half-crowns or florins, I forget which, rolled out; then, unfolding the papers, I discovered three five-pound Bank of England notes.

"Surely this is very little for me to have about me!" said I, feeling greatly disappointed. "I fancy I must have been making ducks and drakes of a lot of cash before—before—well, before I was—I don't know what, or when or where."

"Little notice was taken of this somewhat incoherent speech, for all were now gathering round the table, examining the gold and notes with eager curiosity. At length the old gentleman, pointing to the gold pieces, said: 'What are these?'"

"Sovereigns,' I answered, not a little amused. 'Have you never seen any like them before?'"

"Never . . . The letters—if these marks are letters—are incomprehensible to me. But what have these small pieces of metal to do with the question of your garments? You puzzle me."

"Why, everything . . . ."

" . . . a general explosion, men and women joining in such a tempest of merriment that one might have imagined they had just heard the most wonderful joke ever invented since man acquired the sense of the ludicrous.

"The old gentleman was the first to recover a decent gravity, although it was plain to see that he struggled severely at intervals to prevent a relapse.

"Smith,' he said, 'of all the extraordinary delusions you appear to be suffering from, this, that you can have garments to wear in return for a small piece of paper, or for a few bits of this metal, is the most astounding! You cannot exchange these trifles for clothes, because clothes are the fruit of much labour of many hands.'"—W. H. Hudson: *A Crystal Age*.

" . . . In general, I am assured by publishers, that when there is a sudden boom in a writer's work, they hardly ever manage to float on that boom a resale of earlier works; . . . Witness the late M. Hudson's 'Crystal Age.' I came across it in a book shop. . . . One would have expected, therefore, that the 'Crystal Age' would, upon his fame tardily arising, have a quiet and equal fame. It did not. I say that there are no laws governing these movements.[\*] They are capricious and incalculable."—H. Belloc: *The Cruise of the "Nona"* (1925).

[\*] *Editor's Note*: While he is the author of some of the heaviest denunciations of both financiers and corrupt politicians and publicisers, Mr. Belloc does not seem to have considered the concentric behaviour of finance and publicity. If some literary senior should whisper to some literary junior that fame and popularity (deserved, of course) are surer of attainment if certain topics (savouring of triviality and academicism in the understanding of both) are avoided, is caprice or the universality of Law exemplified?

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