

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### From Week to Week

"Up to seventeen years ago, American people would have resisted with every force at their command up to actual shooting if they had had Communist racial propaganda fired at them over the radio, over television, from newspaper columnists, daily and weekly news publications, in women's magazines, in fiction stories, in comic strips, from the pulpit and in 'tolerance' films in the movies.

"And finally, if the more than half a million Americans who have joined with Communist party members to bring this about and who are working zealously for the destruction of our American form of government and the substitution of a Soviet system, lived in Russia and attempted such treasonable activity there, they would be shot before sundown.

"Yes, something has happened to our country and it is not progress or 'liberalism' but retrogression, degeneracy and decay."—*Common Sense* (New Jersey, U.S.A.)

We have never been able to satisfy ourselves that progress and liberalism are antithetical to "retrogression, degeneracy and decay" in the manner suggested by so many commentators who are by no means confined to "America." They are "cover names" exactly comparable to those extensively used by those other fifth-columnists who walk about, and are doubtless inspired by the same motive of furtive criminality. It was very much more widely recognised not seventeen, but more like seven-hundred years ago, in what is now called Europe at least, that the best that could happen to men was not acceleration on one plane but a process of translation, ultimately mysterious in its nature, and commonly understood to be supernatural, from one plane to another. Plato had quite a clear idea of it, although the semantic resources of his time were too meagre to persuade him to express it other than figuratively. The body of ideas known as Social Credit is specially related to the obstetrics of that Kingdom of Heaven which is within you, and has far less to do with 'going places' than many of its clamant adherents are willing to believe. Technically it is a means of providing better visibility for doors of the sort which open when you knock at them. These doors do not exist in flat earths: such have only trap-doors.

WITHOUT COMMENT is *Truth's* heading for the following:—

"The President and his circle still [May, 1943] cherished exaggerated ideas of the military power which China could exert if given sufficient arms and equipment.—Extract from Mr Churchill's War Memoirs in the *Daily Telegraph*."

Well, if it has reached the stage at which comment is unnecessary, it's certainly time Mr. Churchill (Who was it called him the man who during the war had "double-crossed the Atlantic?") took some notice.

Reverting to the topic of the deterioration in the vigour of opinion (not public opinion, which isn't opinion at all), notice the delicacy amounting almost to obsequiousness, of Mr. Harry Brittain's complaint to *The Times* concerning "a grave shortcoming in the public postal services." The public is still "inclined," he says, to "pin its faith on the registered mail, and so regard the registration of letters as a guarantee of safe delivery. This faith may have been justified in the past, but now it is no longer so. The loss of registered mail is to-day six times as great, in proportion to the volume of traffic handled, as it was in 1936. Over 8,000 registered letters, packets &c., were lost last year. These facts are disconcerting enough, but the really disturbing feature of this record of failure is that the system of handling registered mail has been relaxed from the high standard enforced before the war. To-day a registered letter is not, as it used to be, checked individually against the advice note at every stage of its journey.

"Would it not be preferable to reinstitute the former standards, even if this would cost rather more? Perhaps some of the £45,341 already paid out during 1950 in compensation could be more usefully allocated to improving the service. . . ." And so on.

Why should it cost "rather more?" Is the Gay-Pay-Oo the only quasi-industrial enterprise which does not progressively reduce its costs by labour-saving devices? And who pays the forty-five thousand odd pounds?

We have never regarded the undergraduate debating societies of this country, which every now and again are brought to public attention (usually with trimmings in the guise of older dogs returning to—what dogs do return to) as much more than a device, possibly well-thought-out, for securing that the more intelligent youth of this once-great land should not be inspired to improve upon their elders' mechanisms for the implementation of individual policy. So we are not prone to accredit them with exaggerated importance—except perhaps as an instrument for mischief. But occasionally some of the topics selected for "debate" puzzle us. For example: "That that which a man most loves doth in the end destroy him." That, of course, is unadulterated Gnosticism. Suppose one should transpose it: "That that which a man most loves doth in the beginning and in the end create him. This is he: this only he truly is. This is that he does not fear to be, for perfect love casteth out Fear." To recognise that the first proposition is but a special, and a Satanic case of the second is a useful exercise for Social Crediters. He who elevates Death above Life, "and Life more abundantly," of course dies.

A patient told her doctor that her husband was "in the Cancer Hospital being treated with the atomic bomb." But aren't we all?

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, November 27, 1950.

### Sugar

*Mr. Heathcoat Amory* asked the Minister of Food what are the obstacles now standing in the way of the derationing of sugar.

*Brigadier Medlicott* asked the Minister of Food the reasons why sugar is not yet derationed.

*Mr. F. Willey*: Although production of sugar in the Commonwealth seems likely to increase next year our present supplies both from home and overseas are still not enough for our needs. Of course, we should like to end rationing but to do so with safety we must have over a million tons more of foreign sugar.

*Mr. Amory*: Can the hon. Gentleman say whether the Government are at present buying the sugar available in the West Indies?

*Mr. Willey*: Yes, Sir. We are buying all Commonwealth sugar.

*Sir Waldron Smithers*: Does the Minister realise that whatever difficulties may arise in connection with the removal of controls, they are as nothing compared with the complete disaster which will ensue if they are not removed? Answer that one.

*Brigadier Clarke* asked the Minister of Food if he is aware of a surplus of beet sugar in France this season; and what steps he has taken to procure it for this country.

*Mr. F. Willey*: My Department is in close touch with all sections of the sugar market, and if there are opportunities of buying French sugar on competitive terms we shall consider them.

*Brigadier Clarke*: Does the Minister realise that the French are turning their surplus sugar into petrol, and that if he made some advances in this direction we might be able to get some of their sugar into this country?

*Mr. Turton* asked the Minister of Food the amount of the decrease in the allocation of sugar to manufacturing confectioners over the next 12 months, effected by the cut he has imposed from 8th October, 1950.

*Mr. F. Willey*: The allocation of sugar to the industry will be reduced by 10,000 tons. This decrease will be partly offset by sugar contained in sweetened condensed milk, and by additional glucose.

*Mr. Turton*: Does that mean that the Christmas extra ration has come from children's sweets and the marmalade sugar?

*Mr. Willey*: No, Sir, it does not mean anything of the sort.

### Eggs

*Mr. Nabarro* asked the Minister of Food how many shell eggs per head, per week, as an average, were distributed to registered holders of ration books in the United Kingdom during three months ending 27 November, 1950, or the nearest convenient period.

*Mr. F. Willey*: Supplies distributed for the allocation in the 13 weeks ended 18th November, 1950, were sufficient for three eggs per week for each priority consumer, and a

total of about 20 eggs in Great Britain and 26 eggs in Northern Ireland for each non-priority consumer. The rate was higher in Northern Ireland because they did not have so many eggs in the Spring. Over the year, all non-priority consumers get approximately the same number of allocations.

*Mr. Nabarro* asked the Minister of Food what function will be performed during 1951 by the Eggs Division of his Department and the National Egg Distributors' Association Limited, respectively; what is the total cost of each of these organisations for the year 1951, including all overhead charges; how many persons are currently employed by each organisation; and what future plans he has for these organisations.

*Mr. F. Willey*: I regret that the information requested is not immediately available. With permission, I will circulate a reply in the OFFICIAL REPORT as soon as possible.

*Mr. Nabarro*: Will the Minister consider reverting to the pre-war national mark arrangements and supplement that by a marketing board for eggs, thus eliminating the public expenditure of £1 million a year on maintaining the Eggs Division of his Ministry and the National Egg Distributors' Association?

*Mr. Willey*: Perhaps the hon Member will wait for the reply to be circulated. He would then be in a better position to raise the matter.

*Sir W. Smithers*: Is the Minister keeping all the bad eggs for the Socialist Party at the next election?

### United Nations Assembly (Tibet)

*Mr. Peter Smithers* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the policy of His Majesty's Government to support the initiation of El Salvador in asking for the inclusion of the Chinese invasion of Tibet in the agenda of the United Nations Assembly.

*Mr. Ernest Davies*: On 24th November the general committee decided unanimously to postpone consideration about including Tibet on the Assembly agenda *sine die*.

### Jordan (Arab Refugees)

*Major Legge-Bourke* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps His Majesty's Government is taking to assist the Government of Jordania in dealing with the 5,648 Arab refugees who have been forcibly expelled from Israel since May, 1950, and particularly with the survivors of the 117 incursions of Israeli troops into Jordanian territory which resulted in the loss of many Arab lives.

*Mr. Ernest Davies*: According to my information, all genuine refugees are dealt with by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency irrespective of the date or the circumstance of their departure from Israel. His Majesty's Government's contribution to the funds of this Agency included an interest-free loan of £1 million to the Government of Jordan for development projects which will be of direct benefit to the refugees, and the sterling equivalent of 6.2 million dollars.

*Major Legge-Bourke*: Does the hon. Gentleman not realise that as late as 2nd November this year two children, who were refugees from Israel, were murdered in cold blood in no-man's land by Israeli troops? Can he not assist Jordania by preventing these incursions into their territory?

*Mr. Davies*: The responsibility for investigating and

taking action about such incursions is that of the Mixed Armistice Commission. At the United Nations only recently a resolution was sponsored jointly by us and others to draw the attention of the Commission to such actions as have been taking place, and asking the Commission to take further action.

*Mr. Janner:* Will my hon. Friend make it clear that these insinuations, which are not based upon any facts at all, are very dangerous, that they are inconsistent with the real position, and that approaches have been made to the United Nations with regard to Jordan's treatment of refugees and children? Will my hon. Friend also discourage this type of Question?

*Mr. Davies:* It is not within my power to discourage this type of Question. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of all the allegations which are made. It is the responsibility of the Commission which is on the spot to investigate such allegations, and not the responsibility of His Majesty's Government.

*Major Legge-Bourke:* Will the hon. Gentleman consider passing to his hon. Friend the Member for Leicester North-West (Mr. Janner) the two photographs which I have here, of the bodies of these children.

#### Electricity Supplies Generation Methods (Research)

*Mr. Murray* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power what progress has been made in research to develop cheaper methods for making electricity; and what results have been obtained from the wind power experiment in the Orkneys.

*Mr. P. Noel-Baker:* A large number of scientists in Government, academic and industrial research establishments are now engaged in research on the generation of electricity. Their work includes the study of the technology and economics of the present methods of generation; the development of prime movers which use fuels such as peat and low-grade coal, which have hitherto been regarded as uneconomic; and the initiation of entirely new methods of generation. My advisers are in close contact with all the research establishments concerned, and I understand that very satisfactory progress is being made. The British Electricity Authority has substantially improved the efficiency of generation at steam power stations; this improvement is comparable with any achieved in other countries, and I am glad to say that it is likely to continue.

With regard to the wind-power experiment in the Orkneys, instruments have been in use for a long time at the chosen site to determine the wind conditions throughout the year. A windmill to produce up to 100 kilowatts of electricity has been constructed for the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, and will be installed on the site as soon as weather permits. Meanwhile an experimental tower has been erected to carry instruments for certain of the observations.

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the Statement published in July, 1949, (*postage 1d.*)  
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*House of Commons: November 28, 1950.*

#### Old Age Pensioners

*Mr. Heathcoat Amory* asked the Minister of National Insurance if she will take steps to amend the retirement pensions provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1946, in order to assist elderly people who want to continue half or full-time paid work.

*Dr. Summerskill:* The provisions in question were designed to encourage continuance in work beyond minimum pension age; if, however, the hon. Member has a particular proposal in mind, perhaps he will let me know.

*Mr. Amory:* Would not the right hon. Lady agree that, without interfering in any way with the rights of people to draw their pensions at the present ages, we must try to think of new ways of encouraging, and providing incentives for, those who wish to continue in work beyond those ages?

*Mr. Black* asked the Minister of National Insurance whether she will raise the amount an old age pensioner is permitted to earn before such earnings affect the pension received, in view of the fall in the value of money since the regulations were made.

*Dr. Summerskill:* I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, East (Mr. Harrison), on 2nd May, a copy of which I am sending him.

*Mr. Black:* Bearing in mind that the weekly allowance of 26s. fixed in 1946 is now, owing to the fall in the value of the pound, worth only 20s. 8d., does not the Minister think that some concession is due to the old age pensioners?

#### Purchase Tax

*Mr. Donner* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether in view of the rising prices of goods and the consequential automatic increase in Purchase Tax levied upon these, he will limit the rate of such tax to the value of the goods concerned at the time when they became liable to tax.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Under the law Purchase Tax is chargeable on the wholesale value at the time when the tax in respect of any particular consignment of goods becomes due. Apart from other considerations, it would not be practicable to assess value on the basis that the hon. Member apparently has in mind.

*Mr. Donner:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that when Purchase Tax was introduced, Parliament never envisaged the rise in prices which has taken place and that, as a result of the high incidence of this tax, the revenue, for example, on piece goods, has been halved this year?

*Mr. Gaitskell:* That is an *ad valorem* duty and, like other *ad valorem* duties, revenue increases when the taxes go up and decreases when they go down.

*Air Commodore Harvey:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that if the tax continues on the present level, it will not be long before it has a very adverse effect on our export trade?

*Mr. Wills* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the cost of post or carriage between wholesaler and retailer is added to the price of goods before the

(Continued on page 7)

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### "Five Hundred More"

We are encouraged by the response to our suggestion that our readers should add five hundred to their number before next March. One who (not quite accurately, as he has since seen\*) heads his letter "Hostage in Reverse," writes:

"To take up your invitation to obtain more new subscribers, I propose to give you one shilling for every new subscriber up to 500 by the end of February, 1951, and as an earnest I enclose my cheque for the first hundred."

Other readers have made suggestions, which we assure them are being carefully considered. Some do not wish us to reply to them (these are truly blessed); some we intend to answer carefully in due course. A minority looks out upon our tangled world with eyes still dimmed by majorities, appeals, and such like. We cannot do anything about it unless we dim our own eyes with tears and forego such chance of future usefulness as we may possess. If it is human to err, it is human to entertain the notion which, put formally, is as follows:— "I know that *a* satisfies the equation and that *b* does not; but we can't do *a* so we had better do *b*." Nevertheless this is error, however human. What would happen if a blade of grass said 'what's the use of my growing?' "Consider *how* the lillies grow."

### Personal Responsibility in Public Affairs

The following appeared in *The Ross Gazette* for December 7:—

The Editor,  
*The Ross Gazette*,  
 Sir,

(Copy)

The expenditure by the Ross Urban District Council of the price of a return ticket to London on a matter[\*] in which very few are genuinely interested raises a question of principle which cannot be allowed to go by default.

In the science of organisation the issue involved is what is described technically as "the control of the agenda (the things to be done)." The agenda of a council is prepared by the council clerk to some extent under the direction of the local councillors, but mainly by the advice, mostly restrictive, of superior authorities. In the welter of bureaucratic inter-

\* Without prompting from us, our correspondent has since thoughtfully made his donation unconditional upon any extra work from us, which, frankly we cannot undertake.

[\*] To attend a Lord Mayors Thanksgiving fund meeting.

ference with private initiative it is very easy for irrelevant items to creep into the conduct of our affairs. But in a free country there is no obstacle to prevent the people who pay the piper from associating themselves in an endeavour to check and supplement if necessary the agenda of local and national assemblies. Once more I suggest, as in a previous letter, that some kind of policy association should be formed in Ross to safeguard our own interests and to protect our representatives, Parliamentary and local, from being manouevred by remote or even anonymous subversive influences, into line of action which individually very few would countenance.

Indeed, a second chamber, even if unofficial, would have vetoed this particular expense, and no doubt ill feeling would have been averted.

What we have to show is that the idea of democracy held by our forbears has been perverted and the best thing we can do is to endeavour to correct those deficiencies before the imperfect conception is totally discredited and communism takes its place.

The responsibility does not rest on our representatives alone—it rests on all voters. It is easy enough to 'take a rise' out of public men but it is no way of remedying the universal and deplorable state of affairs existing today and which has its roots in the widespread lack of responsibility in the general public.

To those especially who realise the tragedy of hard-working people, owner occupiers, who have to draw on their slender savings to pay their rates, I appeal for co-operation while there is still some freedom of action left to us. The remedy for the dangers that threaten lies in ourselves, to use those gifts of God, understanding, reason and will towards the common good.

So far as charity is concerned, let it be entirely voluntary. I deplore this periodical blackmailing of the public for causes of which, generally speaking, one never sees a balance sheet. But here again it is a matter of *personal responsibility* and with those two last words I leave your readers to their consciences.

Yours etc.,

PASCO LANGMAID.

Chepstow House,  
 Ross-on-Wye.  
 December, 1950.

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## Disraeli's Lord George Bentinck

By H. SWABEY.

In *Lord George Bentinck: A Political Biography* (1852), Disraeli gave a detailed account of the last three years of Bentinck's life, when he suddenly woke up to the defection of Peel. For the Prime Minister, in the last months of 1845, used the failure of the Irish potato crop as an excuse to repeal the corn laws. Lord George found himself the leader of a third party, and declared, "I am fighting the battle of a party whose leaders have deserted them." He pointed out that while the population between 1821 and 1844 had increased by 32 per cent., the growth of wheat had increased by 64 per cent. Necessity made strange bedfellows, for Thomas Baring supported Bentinck, saying "the most appalling scarcity had been the scarcity of statesmen."

The Duke of Wellington, however, was not above a political manoeuvre, and said he "positively could not refuse to serve" his sovereign. Disraeli's comment was "To be prepared to serve a sovereign without any reference to the policy to be pursued or even in violation of the convictions of the servant is not the duty of the subject of a monarchy modified in its operation by the co-ordinate authority of estates of the realm. It is a direct violation of the parliamentary constitution of England, and can only be practically carried into effect in the cabinets of absolute monarchs." Disraeli himself falls into confusion when he refers to the House of Commons as the *senate*. But he appears to defend the principle of an upper chamber when he says, "England is governed by an aristocratic principle. The aristocracy of England absorbs all aristocracies, and receives every man in every order and every class who defers to the principle of our society, which is to aspire and excel." It is not clear whether he is making a somewhat generalised statement, or is referring to the *ex-officio* members of the House of Lords who constantly renew it, and to the power of co-option which the sovereign has in creating new peers. He says that there is no analogy in the social and political conditions of Great Britain and the United States, and adds, "If any party in this country become strong enough to force one and so destroy the existing means of government, that party and their creations will succumb after the usual paroxysms beneath the irresistible law which dooms Europe to the alternate sway of disciplined armies or secret societies: the camp or the convention."

Peel retorted by bringing the Prince Consort into the House of Commons to listen to his statement. Disraeli's comment is interesting: "Although no minister can introduce a measure into either house without the consent of the Crown, such consent is only given in the first instance in the executive capacity of the sovereign. It . . . merely signifies the royal pleasure that the two other branches of the legislature should consult upon the merits of the case. As a branch of the legislature whose decision is final, and therefore last solicited, the opinion of the sovereign remains unshackled and uncompromised until the assent of both houses has been received. Nor is this veto of the English monarchy an empty form. It is not difficult to conceive the occasion when supported by the sympathies of a loyal people, its exercise might defeat an unconstitutional ministry and a corrupt parliament."

The abolition of the Corn Laws was involved with the troubles of Ireland. As Smith O'Brian said in the House,

"the circumstance which appeared most aggravating was, that the people were starving in the midst of plenty." Every tide carried from the Irish ports corn sufficient for the maintenance of thousands of the Irish people. And Bentinck remarked that "if the people of Cork were starving, it was not for the want of food, but for the want of money to purchase food." The Irish had been starving in the midst of plenty a hundred years before when Bishop Berkeley noted the fact and proposed issuing money to remedy it. But it was the petty fanatics who gained the applause and the notice. Mr. Cobden, one of these, retorted that the people of England must be consulted, "not the country party, but the people who live in towns and will govern this country."

The Irish coercion bill was carried with the support of the country party, and "the individual who had ventured to oppose this step (*i.e.*, this support) in council, on the ground that the support of an unconstitutional measure was equivalent to a vote of confidence in the government which introduced it . . . left the house." Disraeli breathed a sigh; amid these manoeuvres, over "the territorial constitution." The Duke meanwhile informed the peers that "there was an end of the functions of the house of lords," as the bill for repeal had been agreed to by the other two branches of the legislature; a sentiment, says Disraeli, "the bearing of which seems not easy to distinguish from the vote of the Long Parliament which openly abrogated those functions." But Peel's government tottered, to the alarm of Louis Philippe, and Bentinck resolved to attack. He said, "The tendency of the measures of the minister is to lower the character and to sap and undermine the confidence reposed in the characters of English gentlemen, and so to destroy them . . . he has taught the representatives of the English people that it is their privilege to betray their constituents." Russell pointed out that Peel had "twice changed his opinion on the greatest political question of the day."

But there was an explanation for the shifty Peel, and Disraeli hints at it: "There were deeper heads working than those gentlemen whose efforts were rather on the surface. Sir Robert had always been served well in the unseen management of his party. The great conservative party that destroyed everything was the creation of individuals who did not figure in senates or cabinet councils; above all, of one gentleman who by his knowledge of human nature, fine observation of opinion, indefatigable activity, universal correspondence, and fertility of resource, mainly contributed to the triumph of '42, though he was spoken of only in a whisper and moved only behind the scenes." I suppose Lionel Nathan Rothschild is the man of mystery. If so, it is significant that the leader of the opposition was also under his influence. A reader of John Reeves's *The Rothschild* says that "Lord Russell was of course pro-Rothschild." Bentinck was a friend of his as well. So the fall of the government meant very little. Peel boasted of his bank charter act of 1844 as "giving stability to the monetary system of the country without interfering with legitimate speculation, without paralysing or at all deranging the credit of the state." Disraeli, as will appear, did not accept this, and complained that Peel was always on the lookout for novel ideas which he carried to an extent that "even their projectors had not anticipated; as was seen in the settlement of the currency." He was always under some theorist's influence; and among them Jones Lloyd, a financier is mentioned. Peel "could give his followers no guiding principle because he had none. . . . No one ever strained the constitution so much. . . . He was the parent of political agitation."

But he was "the greatest member of parliament that ever existed."

Russell at one announced a measure to admit sugar produced by slave labour to the British market. Disraeli said that the abolition of slavery "ruined the colonies and aggravated the slave trade," and accused the aristocracy of misleading the middle class. "The first duty of an aristocracy is to lead, to guide, and to enlighten; to soften vulgar prejudices and to dare to encounter popular passion." He returns to one of his favourite themes, with reference to the county courts: "Progress and reaction are but words to mystify the millions . . . All is race. The Norman element in our population wanes; the influence of the Saxon population is felt everywhere. . . . Hence the honour to industry, the love of toil, the love of money. . . ."

In 1847, there was famine in Ireland, and all the government could do was to employ people on works which served to "obstruct the public conveyances." Disraeli called it "a nation breaking stones upon the road! . . . There were 74 chief inspectors, 385 assistant surveyors, 3,000 check clerks, nearly 7,000 overseers. . . ." Bentinck thought they should have been building railways, and that "ministers should have found means of feeding the people." Conservatives might ponder Disraeli's idea of "the retail trade of a country being carried on in Downing Street. Perhaps a host of subordinates more fatal than the famine. The colossal staff superintending the public works (it rose to 11,587) would be but an intimation of these legions of hucksters. No metropolitan authority could control such a multitude, or prevent an endless series of inefficiency, embezzlement, and waste." It has not taken long to reduce England to the pitiful state of the Irish whom they were "employing like slaves." The government turned Bentinck down because "with the government the state of the money market was a primary consideration." The certified circulation of Ireland dropped, between 1846-51, from seven and a half to four and a half millions sterling, while the population dropped from eight and a half to six and a half millions.

Very soon financial disaster overtook England, and this led to an examination of the Bank Charter Act. Even Rothschild and Baring appeared surprised. (They gave 89½ for £100 three *per cent.* consols, and in a fortnight the price of the £100 had dropped to 85½). Baring complained of the Act, although he did not profess to answer Peel's question, 'what is a pound?' Peel had supplied a disastrous answer in 1844: 'a certain quantity of gold with a mark upon it to determine its weight and fineness.' No one appreciated the folly of this definition, although Peel "authorised the issue of £14,000,000 of Bank notes by the Bank of England without any gold backing whatever" (Kitson: *Bankers' Conspiracy*). Nor was the notion of gold's stability attacked. A pound of gold in the fifteenth century, for instance, was worth £16:13:4d, and by the eighteenth it had trebled in price. Bentinck said "the bank act was grinding the trade and commerce of the country to dust, by forcing the bank to contract its issues." Disraeli's view of the suspension of the act was "the stern law which had occasioned a financial reign of terror. The law was broken, but after having accomplished awful devastation. The Bank Act was not planned by men learned in human nature. . . . all questions dependent on the distribution and command of the precious metals have assumed a new aspect since the vast metallic discoveries." Lord George concentrated on proving that trade was involving an *enormous export at a loss*, and estimated that "the rise of

½ *per cent.* in the interest upon money to an increased annual charge of . . . £25,000,000 at the least to be annually transferred from the land, house and mineral property, the trade, commerce and manufactures of the country to the monied interest—to the money changers and usurers—to Jones Lloyd, Peel & Co." He asked why the government suddenly suspended the Act when *certain bankers from the City of London called at the treasury*. Baring pointed out that the Act had not prevented the crisis, but had entailed it. Bentinck worked away at his statistics shewing "how much work England did in 1846 for very little profit," while in 1847 the cotton trade lost two million pounds on exports. "Foreigners are getting first our gold and then our goods at 20, 30, and 50 *per cent.* under prime cost."

Lord George ("I can judge of men and horses") was dished in 1847 when the City of London elected "a member who found a difficulty in taking one of the oaths . . . being not only of the Jewish race, but unfortunately believing only in the first part of the Jewish religion." This was Lionel Nathan Rothschild, who did not take his seat until 1858. Bentinck ("a whig of 1688—his ancestor had come over with that William the Conqueror) voted for the removal of Jewish disabilities, lost some of the confidence of his party, and resigned his leadership. This leads to a chapter on *The Jewish Question*. Disraeli repeats at some length his arguments about races, "the immolators were pre-ordained like the victim and the holy race supplied both," and says that "Persecution although unjust may have reduced modern Jews to a state almost justifying malign vengeance . . . the infamous is the business of the dishonoured." But "the Jew remains . . . none but one of the great races could have survived . . . there is no race that so much delights and ennobles Europe as the Jewish." He compares the fate of the Attic with that of the Hebrew race, and notes *expatriation is purely an oriental custom*. "A superior race shall never be destroyed or absorbed by an inferior . . . they are a living evidence of the falsity of that pernicious doctrine, the natural equality of man . . . They have another characteristic, the faculty of acquisition . . . all the tendencies of the Jewish race are conservative."

But persecution has taken place, and as a result Disraeli says: "an insurrection takes place against the tradition and aristocracy, against religion and property. Destruction of the Semitic principle, extirpation of the Jewish religion, whether in the Mosaic or in the Christian form, the natural equality of man and the abrogation of property, are proclaimed by the secret societies who form provisional governments, and men of Jewish race are found at the head of every one of them. The people of God co-operate with atheists; the most skillful accumulators of property ally themselves with communists; the peculiar and chosen race touch the hand of all the scum and low castes of Europe! And all this because they wish to destroy that ungrateful Christendom which owes to them even its name, and whose tyranny they can no longer endure." He adds, "When the secret societies, in February, 1848, surprised Europe, they were themselves surprised by the unexpected opportunity, and, . . . had it not been for the Jews, the outbreak would not have ravaged Europe. If the reader throw his eye over the provisional governments of Germany, Italy, France, he will recognise everywhere the Jewish element. . . . Prince Metternich was a victim of the secret societies." He notes the Jewish colonies in Spain and Sarmatia, and says, "The inquisitors addressed themselves to the Spanish Jews in the same abrupt and ferocious manner in which the monks

saluted the Mexicans and Peruvians." It is curious that Disraeli should yet have upheld the *imperial and patriotic* principle against the cosmopolitan.

Bentinck, meanwhile, though "the anti-gold league goes further than I should like to accompany them," regretted not having moved an amendment on the address "when the bank usury was eight *per cent.*" He pointed out (June, 1848) that "Gladstone's proposal is worse than that of the government."

Those who consider that Disraeli had his tongue in his cheek when he wrote *Lothair*, should consider this passage: "the (French) throne was surprised by the secret societies ever prepared to ravage Europe. . . . It is probable they were originally confederations of conquered races organised by abrogated hierarchies. In Italy they have never ceased, although at times obliged to take various forms. . . . The inquisition boasted that it had extirpated them in Spain, but their activity in that country after the first French revolution rather indicates a suspension of vitality. . . . The reformation gave them a great impulse in Germany, and towards the middle of the eighteenth century they had not only spread in every portion of the north of that region, but had crossed the Rhine.

"The two characteristics of these confederations which now cover Europe like a network are war against property and hatred of the Semitic revelation. . . . Alone, the secret societies can disturb but they cannot control Europe. Acting in unison with a great popular movement they may destroy society, as they did at the end of the last century. The French disturbance of '48 was not a great popular movement . . . the secret associations are always vigilant and . . . took society by surprise, but having nothing really to rely upon except their own resources, the movement has been an abortion. It is the manoeuvres of these men, who are striking at property and Christ, which the good people of this country, so accumulative and so religious, recognise and applaud as the progress of the liberal cause."

In *Bentinck* is some of the field work of Disraeli's novels, but no retraction of opinion on these vital matters.

#### PARLIAMENT.

(continued from page 3).

amount of Purchase tax is calculated; and whether he will ensure that the price on which the percentage tax is calculated is the wholesale price only.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Under the law postal or other delivery charges have to be included when computing the value of goods for Purchase Tax. This provision was included in the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1940, because it was represented that most goods chargeable with the tax were sold on delivered terms and assessment on any other basis would have caused practical difficulties for the great majority of traders. I am advised that these considerations still apply.

*Mr. Wills:* Does the Chancellor realise that this does mean there is an arbitrary addition to prices in different parts of the country which bears rather more heavily on people who live in remote districts and, incidentally, adds to the cost of living?

*Mr. Gaitskell:* I appreciate that that may be the case in remote districts, but, as the hon. Member will see, there are great practical difficulties in taking any other course.

#### Income Tax Forms

*Mr. Keeling* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has now reconsidered the proposal that Income Tax forms should show the yield of each tax per £ of revenue, and the way in which each £ of revenue is spent.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Yes, Sir. Arrangements have been made to include this information in summarised form in the notes which accompany Income Tax return forms.

*Mr. Keeling:* In acknowledging this act of repentance, may I ask whether the Treasury will give the Press at the time of the Budget both the figures and the proposed diagrams, with their attractive piles of pennies of different heights?

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Yes, Sir.

#### Companies' Headquarters (Transfer Overseas)

*Mr. Jenkins* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why, in view of the loss to the revenue which will be involved, he has given permission to the five mining companies in the Anglo-American Corporation group to transfer their seat of control from London to Northern Rhodesia.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Because a sufficiently good case was made out on grounds of efficiency.

*Lieut.-Colonel Lipton* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have during the past year been granted permission to move their headquarters from this country; what is the capital value of these companies; and what is the estimated loss of tax revenue on the basis of their last declared profits.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Eighteen companies. The actual capital value is not readily ascertainable, but the total issued capital is about £29 million. As regards the last part of the Question, no precise estimate can be made.

*Lieut.-Colonel Lipton:* Can my right hon. Friend give any figures to show how many applications were either granted or rejected on the grounds of efficiency, the interests of the companies concerned, or the wide national interests involved; and how is he to make up the loss of revenue caused by this flight of capital.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* I should like to see the first part of my hon. and gallant Friend's supplementary question on the Order Paper.

*Mr. Donner:* Is the Chancellor aware that these companies have been driven to do what they have done by over-taxation?

#### Canada and U.S.A. (Financial Aid)

*Mr. Osborne* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much financial aid had been received by the United Kingdom from Canada and the United States of America since the end of the war; how much from each country separately; and how much is by gift or by repayable loans.

*Mr. Gaitskell:* Up to 30th September, 1950, the United Kingdom received from the United States of America \$2,066 million as grant under the European Recovery Programme including \$380 million conditional aid in respect of assistance

by us to other European countries, and \$4,073 million as repayable loan. The latter figure excludes \$622½ million loan under the Lend-Lease settlement of 1945, of which \$605 million is outstanding. During the same period a total of Canadian \$1,185 million was received from Canada as repayable loan.

### Taxation

*Mr. T. Reid* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the amount of taxation, per head, collected in Britain in 1938-39; and what, approximately, it will be in 1950-51.

*Mr. Gaitskell*: In 1938-39, £18 17s. 9d. per head. In 1950-51 it will be, according to the Estimates, approximately, £72 12s. 7d.

### Trading Accounts

*Mr. Bossom* asked the Minister of Food if he will publish a list of items upon which he has made a profit and those upon which he has made a loss in bulk purchasing transactions in 1950.

*Mr. Webb*: The total of food subsidies is normally fixed at the beginning of the financial year and announced in the Chancellor's Budget statement. This total is built up from estimates of the trading deficits and surpluses on individual commodities in the light of estimated costs and selling prices. These can be divided into two categories:

(A) Basic foodstuffs subsidised as a matter of Government policy; (B) Non-basic foodstuffs, on which my Department plans to achieve a trading surplus or on which it aims to incur neither trading surplus nor deficit.

It is essential for my Department, if it is to adhere to the subsidy total, to have flexibility of operation as between commodities, and selling prices have to be adjusted from time to time by reference to variations in costs and quantities available for distribution. Accordingly, deficits and surpluses on food trading arise mainly from the implementation of the overall subsidy policy.

The latest period for which a return can be made is the financial year ended 31st March, 1950. In that period such trading deficits or subsidies were incurred on the commodities shown at "A" and these were partly offset by trading surpluses on those shown under "B." Not all of these foodstuffs were procured under bulk purchasing arrangements.

#### "A"—TRADING

##### DEFICITS

Animal feedingstuffs  
Bacon  
Bread and flour  
Shell eggs  
Meat (including carcase, canned corned, poultry and rabbits)  
Milk  
Milk Products (butter, cheese, condensed milk)  
Margarine and Cooking fat  
Starch  
Sugar (domestic)  
Tea  
Potatoes  
Fish

#### "B"—TRADING

##### SURPLUSES

Egg products  
Canned fish  
Canned meat  
Canned fruit  
Coffee  
Cocoa  
Dried fruit  
Fresh fruit  
Oils and fats  
Pulses (edible)  
Rice  
Sugar (excluding domestic)

House of Commons: December 1, 1950.

### Dollar Purchases

*Mr. Bossom* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give a list of the items in addition to coal and sugar for which he is now authorising the use of dollars.

*Mr. J. Edwards*: The following list sets out the chief items, in addition to coal and sugar, for which the use of dollars is at present authorised. The Trade and Navigation accounts give detailed particulars of current imports into the United Kingdom and show the countries of origin:

Wheat and flour	Alcohol
Bacon	Crude oil
Cheese	Lubricating oil
Coarse grains	Oil products
Tobacco	Steel
Timber	Ferro alloys
Woodpulp	Iron ore
Carbon black	Aluminium
Sulphur	Copper
Manila hemp	Lead
Cotton and cotton linters	Zinc
Newsprint	Tin ore
Molasses	Machinery and equipment
Plastic materials	Machine tools
Synthetic rubber	

### Sugar

During the past twelve months net imports of sugar totalled 1,497,000 tons. Approximate tonnages imported were—from the Commonwealth, 985,000; from non-Commonwealth sources, 1,142,000 (less 630,000 tons re-exported as refined sugar).—*Mr. Webb*.

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