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Division in the Ranks

By NORMAN WEBB.

(Conclusion)

Mr. Reed adds a postscript to his book as to later developments in the world situation. In it he quotes global utterances of the American General Hugh H. Knerr on the strategy of World War III, upon which we all seem so keenly bent. Needless to say, the general "thinks big," as world strategists are prone to. I agree with Mr. Reed that the pressure of large-scale war tends to over-simplify the issues, allowing the real Planners to slip in their own objectives, if not under cover of it, then in the subsequent clean-up. Modern war, Mr. Reed shows, is always intended to effect other, and different ends than the ostensible ones for which it is undertaken. Had the peoples of the United States been told that the two main objects of World War II were, one to permit of the advance of the Red Armies to the centre of Europe and the Pacific Coast, and two, to set up a Jewish state in Arabia—to both of which it is now fairly clear Roosevelt had agreed before his death—they would never have acquiesced. But they were not told, for obvious reasons. And the plans linked up with these two objectives are still in process of maturing.

In 1948 the tremendous form of the undeveloped African Continent began to emerge from the mist of events. This was about the time when Kenneth de Courcey's Foreign Affairs became infected with the African development virus, and more or less coincident with Strachey's Ground Nuts Scheme. As soon as Truman was duly elected in 1949, he lost no time in launching the Scheme of his anonymous backers for saving the world from Communism; its Fourth Point being "a bold new programme for undeveloped areas." Accompanying this in December of the same year, was the American request to Great Britain with other interested countries, to draw up a defence master-plan to open up the African continent south of the Sahara. Along with this was announced the policy of an expert American Administration, along the lines already adopted in South America under the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, where already there were computed to be 325 administrators and 9,500 American nationals *inside the Government departments of the various Republics*. Since the proportion of Zionists and near-Communists is as high as it is admitted to be in Washington itself, the proportion is not likely to be less in this expert schedule. Vast plans for Cape-to-Cairo road and rail transport, were to be matured with strategic branches, and all converging upon the Suez Canal and the Near Eastern countries grouped round Palestine, which General Knerr's strategy envisages as the centre of defence against Soviet designs; "the British island"—you've heard of it, haven't you?—and Western Europe generally having been put out of action in the first brush.

Douglas Reed has made efforts to discover the source of

Mr. Truman's large policies. This, he says, he came on—or at least it was the only parallel he could find—in *Teheran, Our Path in War or Peace*, published during Roosevelt's term, written by Earl Browder, then the Communist leader of America. Here, under this title with its rather ominous suggestion of heads I win, tails you lose, the whole plan is outlined as the logical Communist policy, even to its further extension east to Persia. The whole area is scheduled for Industrialization through American and British enterprise. The Communists—whatever we mean by the term—have thought it all out, and it would seem that it has been passed on to the President of the anti-Communist United States as a bold plan for saving the world from Communism. Both Generals Eisenhower and Omar Bradley have said that ultimately the generals do what the politicians tell them,—a rather terrible admission; but probably more or less true of all modern wars.

This is Mr. Reed's grim suggestion. That the superficial logic of World War II was that the leader of a nation with global aspirations began to persecute the Jews, and that the Western Allies had to link up with Russia to stop him. And that, as a consequence, the Arabs had to be turned out of their native land. It might follow, therefore, argues Mr. Reed, that World War III was to be heralded by a persecution of the Jews in Soviet Russia; again, a country with global aspirations, which would have to be prevented by U.N.O. forces. This accomplished, the necessity would arise for the expulsion of more Arabs from the countries surrounding Palestine, and a really big in-gathering of the Jews to the Middle-East, with its immense mineral potentialities. It is obvious that such an imposing development would need an expandable hinterland. This is where the African industrialisation scheme would come in, administered in the main by citizens of the U.S.A., with the requisite racial and political bias, it should fall into the hands of Israel like a ripe peach, and the whole balance of the world be radically altered in a generation.

All that, of course, is speculation, and extremely long-term speculation. I feel that Social Crediters should study to be able to look so far ahead if occasion arises, which should be exceedingly seldom. For the general public I doubt its efficacy in any direction. For, in proportion as it is taken seriously, as of course, it should be, it would tend merely to frighten and depress. Nevertheless, there is a lesson to be learned, and that is, that if such long-term and devilish plans do exist in the minds of men, and no one can say such a thing is impossible—in fact, all the evidence goes to show that it is highly likely—then all the more are we driven back to the individual, ethical outlook, and the preferences, and even prejudices that have grown up in us under a still predominating Christian system of thought. The hope—perhaps the only hope—of Great Britain, and the British Commonwealth is in its culture, which was, and no doubt still is, the nearest approach to the Christian attitude of mind that this world has to show.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: January, 29, 1951.

Western European Defence (Spain)

Mr. Peter Smithers asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the need for active defence measures, it is his policy to work for the incorporation of Spain in the system of Western European defence, or to arrive at an agreement with the Spanish Government aimed at securing the strategic interests of the Western Powers.

Brigadier Rayner asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will now endeavour to arrange with other interested Governments that Spain be asked to join the Atlantic European front.

Mr. Nigel Fisher asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the Government will sponsor the entry of Spain into the Atlantic Pact Alliance.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ernest Davies): His Majesty's Government have not changed their view expressed by the Prime Minister in his reply to the hon. Member for Hornsey (*Mr. Gammans*) on 25th July last year, to the effect that at the present time the collaboration of the Atlantic Pact countries against Soviet Communism would not be strengthened by the closer association of Spain with the system of Western European defence.

Mr. Smithers: Does that reply mean that no diplomatic preparations have been made for the planning of joint defence with Spain in case of an outbreak of war, and, if so, is it not leaving these arrangements dangerously late in view of vital British strategic interests?

Mr. Davies: I am unaware of any such arrangements having been made. I would add that the argument that on practical grounds Spain would be useful at the present time is open to question as it would be foolish to provide arms for Spain before the Western Powers were themselves fully equipped.

Brigadier Rayner: As the Minister and his colleagues are at present trying to get together with Communist Yugoslavia, how can the Minister justify that reply?

Mr. Davies: Yugoslavia is not a member of N.A.T.O., and merely to be anti-Communist, as Spain is, is not a sufficient qualification for close relationship with the North Atlantic Powers.

Mr. Fisher: Will not the Minister agree that we need any accession of strength today against Communism, and is not the Spanish Government the most anti-Communist Government in Europe? Ought we not to put first things first and be a little more realistic about it?

Mr. Davies: I do not consider that the accession of Spain to the Western Powers would increase their strength at the present time. I would also add that the best recommendation for membership of N.A.T.O. would be for Spain to have a democratic régime.

Mr. Emrys Hughes: As the Government are equally emphatic about the rearmament of Germany, will the Minister give us an assurance that he will not agree to any policy of re-arming Spain even if he is asked to by General Eisenhower?

Mr. Smithers: I beg to give notice that in view of the

unsatisfactory nature of the reply I will raise this matter on the Adjournment.

Portugal

Mr. Smithers asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what treaties or other arrangements exist to enable joint planning of defence to take place between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese Government.

Mr. Ernest Davies: Portugal, as a signatory of the North Atlantic Treaty, fully shares in the joint planning for defence being undertaken by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Sir H. Williams: Is not Portugal still part of the Iberian peninsula?

Mr. Pickthorn: Can we be told whether the Under-Secretary thinks that the Portuguese Government is democratic?

Mr. Davies: I do not think that the conditions in Spain and Portugal—

Mr. Pickthorn: I did not ask about Spain.

Mr. Davies: —are analogous at the present time. The record of Portugal during the last war, and the fact that we have had an alliance with Portugal for many hundreds of years, make the position very different.

Palestinian Refugees (Relief)

Major Lloyd asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will ascertain from the United Nations organisation what progress is being made with the international programme for the relief of Palestinian refugees; and what prospects there are that they will receive any compensation for the property of which they have been dispossessed.

Mr. Ernest Davies: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees has in general, made satisfactory progress. Arrangements for direct relief are working smoothly. Unfortunately, works relief has had to be curtailed owing to shortage of funds. The Israel Government have reaffirmed their willingness to pay fair compensation for abandoned lands, and have indicated that they are prepared, subject to certain conditions, to make a first payment of £1,000,000. Special machinery is being set up to arrange for the assessment and payment of compensation.

Mr. Pickthorn: In view of the expatriation of a whole people in this case, have His Majesty's Government considered proceedings for genocide?

Cabbages

Mr. F. Longden asked the Minister of Food if he is aware that it is proposed to plough in 40 per cent. of the cabbage and other green crops in Norfolk on account of the high cost of marketing and low prices received by the farmers; and what steps he is taking to save this produce and to avoid any recurrence of such waste.

Mr. Webb: Because of increased acreages and the high yields resulting from the exceptionally favourable growing weather last autumn, there is a surplus of cabbages in Norfolk for which a market cannot be found. When yields are heavy, surpluses are inevitable, and it is not unusual for

them to be ploughed back into the land, where they have a value as green manure. There are, I am afraid, no immediately effective steps which I could take to meet this situation; but I hope that the long-term plans for improved fruit and vegetable distribution which are being examined by the Government will minimise waste of this kind.

National Finance

Old Age Pensions (Purchasing Power)

Mr. H. A. Price asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what amount the purchasing power of the old age pension of 26s. per week for a single person and 42s. per week for a married couple, respectively, had fallen, since those figures were fixed, at the latest convenient date; and what that date was.

Mr. Jay: About 22s. 5d. and 36s. 2d. respectively, calculated on the figure for December, 1950, on the Official Index of Retail Prices introduced in June, 1947, and the previous Cost-of-Living Index.

House of Commons: January 30, 1951.

Taxation (Statistics)

Mr. Baker White asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give, in sterling, to the nearest pound, figures for direct and indirect taxation per head of the population in Great Britain, for the year ended 31st March, 1950, and an estimate of the figure for the year ending 31st March, 1951.

Mr. Gaitskell: In the year ended 31st March, 1950, the figures were £43 per head direct taxation and £30 indirect. The estimates for the current year are £42 per head direct and £31 indirect.

Employment (National and Local Government)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Labour if he will state, at the latest available date, the number of civil servants in national and local government; and the number of the industrial staffs, respectively.

Mr. Lee: At 1st October, 1950, there were 696,000 non-industrial employees and 395,000 industrial employees in national government service. It is estimated that the number employed by local authorities at mid-1950 was 1,420,000, but it is not possible to divide this figure between non-industrial and industrial employees. All employees of local authorities, including teachers and police, are included.

House of Commons: January 31, 1951.

F86 Aircraft

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Air for what reason he is equipping the Royal Air Force with F86 Sabre aircraft from the United States of America.

Mr. A. Henderson: No decision has been made to equip the Royal Air Force with F86 aircraft, though a proposal of this kind is under examination. These aircraft would be additional to our own jet fighters, which are being produced under the Government's rearmament programme.

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander Bennett: Is not the fact

that this proposal is even under consideration either tantamount to a slight on the British aircraft industry which can very easily produce aeroplanes which, in the opinion of many, are just as good; or failing that, a reflection of the vacillation and indecision of the policy of the Government in rearming this country?

Mr. Henderson: No, Sir. I endeavoured to make clear in my reply that these aircraft, if they are received, will be in addition to all ordered under our programme.

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander Bennett: In that case, would not we have enough without them?

Mr. Henderson: It is a matter of opinion as to whether one has enough of anything.

Food Supplies (German Mutton)

Brigadier Rayner asked the Minister of Food whether he has yet completed negotiations with the West German Government about sending mutton to this country.

The Minister of Food (Mr. Maurice Webb): I am looking into the possibility of buying meat in West Germany, but before any negotiations could take place, the Government would have to be satisfied that meat could be imported from that country without danger to animal health here and that methods of inspection and slaughtering are up to the standards we require.

Brigadier Rayner: If, as I understand, the meat is available, how does the Minister reconcile this availability with the frequent expression of opinion by his right hon. and hon. colleagues that when rationing is done away with in Germany the mass of the people there will go hungry?

Mr. Webb: I recollect being pressed from all parts of the House to try to find meat in every possible place. That is what we are trying to do. At the same time, we have to take account of the risk to our own animal health. We have already had dangers arising from fowl pest and we have to take care.

(Continued on page 7).

By C. H. DOUGLAS.

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From Week to Week

"We have been granted time for reflection. When re-armament has produced another explosive expansion of American productive power, and when that has once more posed the dollar problem, it is to be hoped that the lesson will have been learned not only in Europe but in the United States also."

Oh no, John, not THE lesson. The sentiment comes from a review in *The Times Literary Supplement* of "The Economics of Freedom" by Howard S. Ellis (with an introduction by Dwight D. Eisenhower).

We are still where *The Scotsman* said we were (August 29, 1945):—

The War is won,
 The Peace begun:
 In clover may I bask?
The coming year
Will be austere;
Bend, brother, to the task.
 Will they relax
 The Income-tax
 And fill our lives with joy?
Strain every nerve
To toil and serve:
The future's grim, my boy.
 We've toiled enough,
 So may we stuff
 Ourselves with meat and food?
The fatted calf!
Don't make me laugh.
 "With meat," by Jove, that's good!
 Then, since you're wise,
 What is the prize
 For having held the fort?
To sweat and slave,
To scrimp and save,
To—steady, boy—export.

But, if we are not mistaken, even the English are beginning to get annoyed.

We have often wondered why the Scottish Nationalists do not quote James Boswell's "The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson, LL.D.", as follows.—

"Saturday, 4th September. My endeavours to rouse the English-bred Chieftain, in whose house we were, to the feudal and patriarchal feelings, proving ineffectual, Dr.

Johnson this morning tried to bring him to our way of thinking. —Johnson. 'Were I in your place, sir, in seven years I would make this an independent island. I would roast oxen whole, and hang out a flag as a signal to the Macdonalds to come and get beef and whisky.' Sir Alexander was still starting difficulties. —Johnson. 'Nay, sir, if you are born to object, I have done with you. Sir, I would have a magazine of arms.' —Sir Alexander. 'They would rust.' —Johnson. 'Let there be men to keep them clean. Your ancestors did not use to let their arms rust.'

"We attempted in vain to communicate to him a portion of our enthusiasm. He bore with so polite a good nature our warm, and what some might call Gothic, expostulations, on this subject, that I should not forgive myself, were I to record all that Dr. Johnson's ardour led him to say.—This day was little better than a blank."

"Gentlemen," says *The Times*, "you may smoke."

Or, in other words, the political ideas of Power and Authority may now be discussed freely and in public by anyone who does not know what they are or how to effect a "resolution" of their discords.

"Until the beginning of the present century European political thought was dominated by the problem of authority." (*The Times Literary Supplement*, February 9, 1951.)

Now it isn't, we gather, and you may talk about it—with, however, the warning that whatever you say will be "paradoxical."

We know these paradoxes. They are a preparation for encroachment on individual right.

Freemasonry

The following letters introduced the correspondence column of *Reynolds News*, last Sunday.

"Some Masonic Lodges did become haunts of political and commercial debasement, but it is only fair to say that, outside perhaps, some American States, the ritual penalties are seldom, if ever, carried out. But the Christian faith has never needed nor welcomed Masonry.—M.M., East Croydon, Surrey.

"Years ago my mother told me it was distasteful to whisper in company. In a country of democratic and free thinking peoples, the existence of secret societies is equally distasteful.—F. F. WELLS, Paddington, London.

"The Rev. W. Hannah should denounce the ritual of his own church or be tolerant of others.—B. FOLKEN, Ealing, W.5.

"Mr. Hannah's attitude is offensive to thousands of good living men. Thousands of men and women owe their education and position in life to the generosity of Freemasons.—VERA BAYNHAM-PARKIN (Mrs.), Ryde, Isle of Wight.

"There should be nothing secret in a real democracy and if Freemasonry is a secret society it should be abolished or exposed to the public view.—'Democrat,' Swanley, Kent.

"Masonry secures privileges for its members whether they have merit or not. It has no place in a democratic society.—A. G. BROOKS, Crookham, Hants.

"This Ku Klux Klan influence with its secret manipula-

(continued on page 8)

Education

By G. D. GILLING SMITH.

In an earlier article (*The Social Crediter*, June 24, 1950) I attempted to begin clearing the ground for a more exact consideration of this much vaunted panacea, or article of popular faith. I pointed to an essay written fifty years ago by Remy de Gourmant in which he emphasized that education is a means and not an end, and that though it might be the condition of certain intellectual achievements, applied to the second rate brain it merely diverts from the needs of life activities meant for daily exercise. The excess pre-occupation with 'careers' and 'getting to the top of the tree,' to which attention has recently been drawn, is related closely to the infiltration into our Universities of the 'German-American' University system. It is also connected with the almost automatic process which now seems to direct an 'educated' man's attention and discussion away from objectives and rivet them on the technicalities of methods. I call the system "German-American" because Germany seems to have been the place where this technique of directing the attention of potentially intelligent men away from matters which might embarrass the powers that be, was first employed, and America is the place where its present practice and results can be observed in their most extreme form. The identification of the American system, by one who had been through it without becoming part of it, as an integral part of the system built by the then enemy, Germany in the Bismarkian tradition, formed the basis of four articles by Ezra Pound in *The New Age* in 1917. The title "Provincialism the Enemy," dependent on the tradition of a particular group of ideas which Flaubert had built up round the word "Provincialism," may be misleading to us at first sight. The expression "a province of knowledge" should be sufficient indication of the type of thing to which he was referring—his meaning is made perfectly clear in the following extracts, which, placed in the immediate context of the "education" and "career" problem, have the significance which was perhaps not apparent to the original readers. Their length will not need excuse to anyone interested in the subject:—

"Now apart from intense national propaganda, the 'university system' of Germany is evil. It is evil wherever it penetrates. Its 'universal pervasiveness' is a poisonous and most pestilent sort of pervasiveness. The drug is insidious and attractive.

"It is, as Verhaeren said, the only system whereby every local nobody is able to imagine himself as somebody. It is in essence a provincialism. It is the 'single' bait which caught all the German intellectuals and which had hooked many of their American confrères (even before exchange professorships had set in).

"Its action in Germany was perfectly simple. Every man of intelligence had that intelligence nicely switched on to some particular problem, some minute particular problem unconnected with life, *unconnected* with main principles (to use a detestable, much abused phrase). By confining his attention to ablauts, hair-length, foraminifera he could become at small price an 'authority,' a celebrity. I myself am an 'authority'; I was limed to that extent. It takes some time to get clean.

"Entirely apart from any willingness to preach history according to the Berlin party's ideas, or to turn the classroom into a hall of propaganda, the whole method of the

German and American higher education was, is, evil, a perversion.

"It is evil because it holds up an ideal of scholarship, not an ideal of humanity. It says in effect you are to acquire knowledge in order that knowledge may be acquired. Metaphorically you are to build up a damn'd and useless pyramid which will be no use to you or anyone else, but will serve as a 'monument'; to this end you are to sacrifice your mind and vitality. . . .

"Knowledge as the adornment of the mind, the enrichment of the personality, has been cried down in every educational establishment where the German-American "university" ideal has reached. The student as the bondslave of his subject, the gelded ant, the compiler of data has been preached as the *summum bonum*. . . .

"This is the bone of the mastadon, this is the symptom of the disease; it is all one with the idea that the man is the slave of the state, the 'unit,' the piece of the machine. Where the other phase of the idea, the 'slave of the state' idea has worked on the masses, the idea of the scholar as the slave of learning has worked on the 'intellectual.' It still works on him.

"No one who has not been caught young and pitchforked into a 'graduate school' knows anything of the fascination of being about to 'know more than anyone else' about the sex of oysters or the tonic accents in Arumaic. No one who has not been one of a gang of young men all heading for scholastic 'honours' knows how easy it is to have the mind switched off all general considerations of the values of life, and switched on to some minute, unvital detail.

"This has nothing whatever to do with the 'progress of modern science.' There is no contradicting the fact that science has been advanced, greatly advanced, by a system which divides the labour of research and gives each student a minute detail to investigate. But this division of the subject has not been the sole means of advance and by itself it would have been useless. And in any case it is not the crux of the matter. The crux of the matter is that the student, burying himself in detail, has not done so with the understanding of his act. He has not done it as a necessary sacrifice in order that he may emerge.

"In the study of literature he has buried himself in questions of morphology, without even thinking of being able to know good literature from bad. In all studies he has buried himself in 'problems' and completely turned away from any sense of proportion between the problems and vital values. In most cases the experiment has been merely blind experiment along a main line, in accord with a main idea *dictated* by somebody else. The student has become accustomed first to receiving his main ideas without question; then to being indifferent to them [one is familiar with the impatience which vents itself in such remark as 'blatantly obvious' when any basic statement concerning reality is emphasized for the purpose of argument in a discussion—G.S.] . . . in this state he has accepted the idea that he is an ant, not a human being. He has become impotent and quite pliable. . . . his mind is prepared for all sorts of acts to be undertaken for exterior reasons 'of State' *etc.* [because they are 'scientific'—G.S.] without regard to their merit.

"I have no objection to any man making himself into a tank or refrigerator for as much exact information as he enjoys holding. There may even be a sensuous pleasure in such entangling, but a system which makes this entangling

not only a *sine qua non*, but a fetish, is pernicious. . . .

"The uncritical habit of mind spreads from the university to the press and to the people. I am well aware that this uncritical habit of mind is hidden by an *apparatus criticus* and by more kinds of 'criticism' and talk about criticism than the man in the street has heard of. But it is for all that uncritical. It divides facts into the known and the unknown, the arranged and the unarranged. It talks about the advancement of learning and demands 'original research' *i.e.*, a retabulation of data, and a retabulation of tables already tabulated. . . . It leads in general to an uncritical acceptance of any schematized plan laid down by a higher command of one sort or another. These things have their relative 'use' or convenience, or efficiency, but their ultimate human use is nil, or it is pernicious."

Also in the same series of articles Ezra Pound brings forward an interesting piece of evidence to illustrate the mentality of the operators of such a system. "Shaw," he says, "slips into the 'kultur' error when he speaks of a man being no use until you put an idea inside him. The idea that a man should be used 'like a spindle' instead of existing, like a tree or a calf, is very insidious."

As a postscript to these articles the 'Press Cuttings' column of *The New Age* for May 19, 1921, reprinted a paragraph from the *New York Herald* (Paris) reporting Ezra Pound's arrival in Paris and his comment:—"England, largely insensitized, is suffering from the same poison that exists in German 'kultur' and in the American University system, and which aims at filling a student's head full of facts to paralyse him with data instead of developing his perspicacity. . . . It is one result of the war which has had its most serious effect in this weakening of civilization. . . . The situation is evident in the fact that England has not yet noticed the one real contribution to creative thought which has been made in five years. It is found in Major C. H. Douglas's book, published some months ago, *Economic Democracy*. . . ."

The fruits of this alien influence on our educational institutions were already there to be judged and it is hardly surprising that many Social Crediters have suspected a more *direct* control over the Universities by the powers that be than probably exists. There are many elements in English University life which have their roots in a healthier conception of education than that by which it is being swamped. They are felt as natural rather than understood, such as the tutorial system which instead of forcing a man to spend his time receiving potted knowledge from lectures enables him to spend his time looking for the books of his own age, or from any other, which are most congenial to his own development. There is of course the "syllabus" which often forces one to "tank up on tosh" without having any knowledge of the "classics" or main works of literature against which the second-rate can be measured. But the time is no more suitable for writing a new syllabus than it is for writing a new constitution. The more general courses which are often suggested to cover something of the field now covered by "Greats," "Modern Languages" and "English Language and Literature" far from being in opposition to the German American system, would, in the present circumstances help to extend it. In order to cover the wider field in the time and acquire the type of knowledge that can be measured by examinations, the student would be more dependent on the collecting together of second-hand opinions, on having the writings of other ages "interpreted" by his contemporaries and less time to examine for himself the more important of the "few

thousand battered books" which symbolise his civilization. At the moment the detailed study of English Language and Literature from the eighth till the twentieth century, with at least half of the time spent on pre-reformation writing is bound to present the student who has the germs of intelligence, with statements about reality which are not contained in and which often contradict the statements that are taken to be representative of contemporary mentality.

The number of people who can escape from a "provincialism in time" to the more universal conception which must have originally been implied in the term "University" is probably not very large and the P.E.P. report on the Universities seems to be deliberately dragging a red herring across the trail when it remarks on the "lack of places in the older Universities occupied by the sons of manual labourers," implying a return on its own part to the belief in hereditary principles—and of course that it wants to see more hack work being done in places already containing too high a percentage of hacks.

This high percentage has swamped the rest to the extent of being able to give the impression in most circles that *IT* is the system and that its activities *ARE* education. From this spreads the inability to see any connection between education (since it only connotes these activities) and a binding back of policy to reality, also an indifference towards whoever runs the thing (seen only as something mechanistic) and a growing tendency to regard any assimilation of data to an outlook on life—whether good or bad is not questioned—as a 'bias' to be lumped indiscriminately with every other 'bias' as excrescences to scholarship. The large section of the population also undergoing technical training adds to the confusion. By appropriating the term 'education' to denote its activities it further reduces it to notions of 'fact collecting' and training for a 'career' and reinforces the idea that the "Arts" man is also doing his technical training necessary to teach or to enter a government department or industry which values a mind in which the reasoning faculty has been trained to amass and to 'organize' heterogeneous data, without turning round and asking such awkward questions as "why?"

What has been happening then is that the idea of education has gradually been scaled down from something we must look for when we ask "What is education?" "Why were Universities first instituted?" to a mechanical operation similar to that of barrow-pushing or organ-grinding and probably well below that of cabinet-making or any occupation that requires skill. Hence the filling up of Universities at greater speed by people only capable of performing mechanical or repetitive processes until the government, as representative of the powers that be, is willing to subsidise these old foundations extensively as a possible means of innoculating the few intelligent beings, swamped in the midst of many who "know lots and lots," against applying their brains to anything important. That education is synonymous with a tanking up process, in the minds of most of the people that talk about it, is further borne out by the description in a recent issue of *The Radio Times* of a Third Programme talk on "attempts to have 'a high standard of education' at the same time as allowing the child the greatest scope of self development" thereby showing that the speaker regards the two as opposites, the reconciling of which will enable him to perform tightrope antics of reasoning.

Professor Tolkien recently remarked on the difficulty of

attempting to explain, purely by means of the written word, even such a simple operation as cutting a piece of paper with a pair of scissors—to someone who had never seen or heard of anything like a pair of scissors. One can see the equal difficulty in trying to teach someone to think if thinking were an alien process to him. When Ezra Pound in *How to Read* listed the *Odyssey*, the Four Books of Confucius, The Divine Comedy, the works of Cavalcanti, The Provençal Troubadours, Villon and Flaubert as being among the basic 'musts' in the syllabus of any intelligent man who wished to become 'educated,' to be able to measure one book against another, to be let loose, without risk of overbalancing, in all the latest phases and cults of modernity, he seems to have had two kinds of retort. One based on the "I'm educated but I haven't read and none of my intellectual friends has read . . . and you expect us to spend time on translations when there are ORIGINAL things in our own language. . . ." The other reply more patiently says "Supposing you provide the populace with a grounding in the matter of these books, how many, judging by the response of most of those who do read them at the moment, are going to be any the wiser?"

Here we are back again at the problem of personnel. The last reaction seems based on the view that the present occupants and numbers of occupants of the Universities are an invariable factor in the situation. Given a university population most of whom show no signs of being able to think, and the experience that to teach thinking is impossible, the educator turns round to find something he can teach. There is probably also an element of the equality principle and 'democracy morality' which feels it right to teach the type of thing offering an 'equality of opportunity' to the taught.

(To be continued).

PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 3).

House of Commons: February 1, 1951.

Headships (Application Forms)

Mr. Sorensen asked the Minister of Education whether he is aware that in certain instances candidates for headships in non-Church schools are asked to indicate their religious beliefs; and in view of the prejudicial effect this may have, whether he will take steps to prevent the making of such inquiries.

Mr. Tomlinson: One instance has been brought to my notice where a candidate for a headship of a county school was asked to declare on the form of application with what religious denomination he was connected. I find on inquiry that the local education authority concerned recently revised their form of application for a post of head teacher and that an obsolete form which had applied to voluntary as well as county schools was used because the revised form had not been received from the printers. In view of the terms of Section 30 of the Education Act, 1944, such questions should not, in my opinion, be asked of candidates for appointments to teaching posts in county, controlled, or special agreement schools, other than as reserved teachers in controlled or special agreement schools.

Danish Whisky (Imports)

Mr. G. Beresford Craddock asked the President of the Board of Trade how much whisky has been imported from Denmark during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1950.

Mr. H. Wilson: Whisky is not separately distinguished in the import statistics of the United Kingdom but 13,000 proof gallons of unsweetened spirits of all kinds (including whisky) to the value of £25,000 were imported from Denmark in 1950.

Aliens

Sir R. Glynn asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered aliens are now resident in the United Kingdom; how many have been granted British nationality since 1945; and how many are now seeking to obtain British nationality.

Mr. Ede: On 31st December, 1950, the number of aliens over 16 years of age registered with the police as having been in the United Kingdom longer than two months was 429,329. From 1st January, 1945, to 31st December, 1950, 53,710 aliens were naturalised and on 1st January, 1951, approximately 2,650 applications for naturalisation were under consideration.

House of Commons: February 2, 1951.

Food Handling (Cleanliness)

Mr. Hector Hughes (Aberdeen, North): . . . To envisage the magnitude of this problem may I put before the House a few figures in addition to those put before the House by previous speakers? In this country there are 236,000 catering establishments, of which 114,500 are open to the public, who consume in them nearly 39 million substantial meals every week. Some 42,500 canteens and staff dining rooms provide 24 million substantial meals every week, while 36,500 institutions, such as day and nursery schools, serve 40 million substantial meals every week, making a total of 103 million substantial meals every week. To those may be added establishments who serve weekly 171 million light meals or snacks, and 311 million hot beverages, making a total of half a million or, more particularly, 585,000 services, each one of which is capable of spreading germs which can be multiplied *od infinitum*.

In the main these caterers act with care, skill and cleanliness, but there is a minority who evade the law, who exploit the public and who spoil business for the decent caterers. It is they who, since 1939, have multiplied food poisoning outbreak by 20; that is to say, from 50 in 1939 to 1,000 today. These provide a gigantic field for infection. One would expect that such infection would be decreasing today because of the statutory efforts to stamp it out, because of the work of local authorities, because of the effects of modern education, because of the more lively public conscience which exists today than it did in earlier periods, and because of the keener good citizenship today. Unfortunately, it is not decreasing; it is increasing.

This shocking increase is disturbing and there are four questions which we must ask ourselves. First, is it due to inadequate attention by the Legislature? An inspection of the Statute Book shows that this is not the real cause. Second, is it due to negligence or incompetence by the local authorities? That would be an unjust imputation against most local authorities because, in the main, they do their job very well in that regard although it must be admitted that there are some who do not. Third, is it due to lack of education and care by the public? I think that is one of the real causes. Fourth, as

this increase is one which has come largely since the outbreak of war in 1939, is it one of the consequences which flow from the war? Expert authorities say that it is.

. . . To what then is the increase in cases of food poisoning due? I am a great believer in the expert and I have consulted the experts on this matter. I find that Professor G. S. Wilson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, says that it is due to two main causes, one that we are eating more made-up foods now than ever before. By made-up foods he means pressed beef, brawn, sausages, pies, rissoles and things of that sort which encourage the growth of harmful bacteria.

The second reason Professor Wilson gives is that we eat out communally more often than we used to in places where food is stored in large quantities often in unsuitable atmospheres and in temperatures unsuitable for food. Then, food is cooked in huge quantities and served by many hands and this promotes bacterial multiplication and contamination. That is the advice of the expert on this grave topic.

Then we must ask ourselves what is the remedy for this growing danger? I am led to believe that it is four-fold. First, there is the more strict enforcement of the law . . .

. . . The second remedy is the education of the young in schools as to the danger of dirty and impure food . . . The third point is the education of adults. I think a great publicity campaign should be undertaken to bring home to the adults of this country the dangers of dirty and impure food. The fourth remedy is the encouragement of good caterers and other sellers of food by promoting food hygiene guilds, local authority associations, traders' own organisations, advisory trade members on public health committees and traders' advisory educational associations. . . .

FREEMASONRY. *(Continued from page 4).*

tion of commercial and civic transactions, subjugating and ostracizing all who are unable to produce the high price of admission, should be eradicated by law.—F. F. HARVEY, Gt. Yarmouth."

We quote them all, since the nature of the selection ((assuming there to have been others which have not been published) would not otherwise be apparent. Readers may consult *The Social Crediter* for February 10, page 4, for previous material on this topic.

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