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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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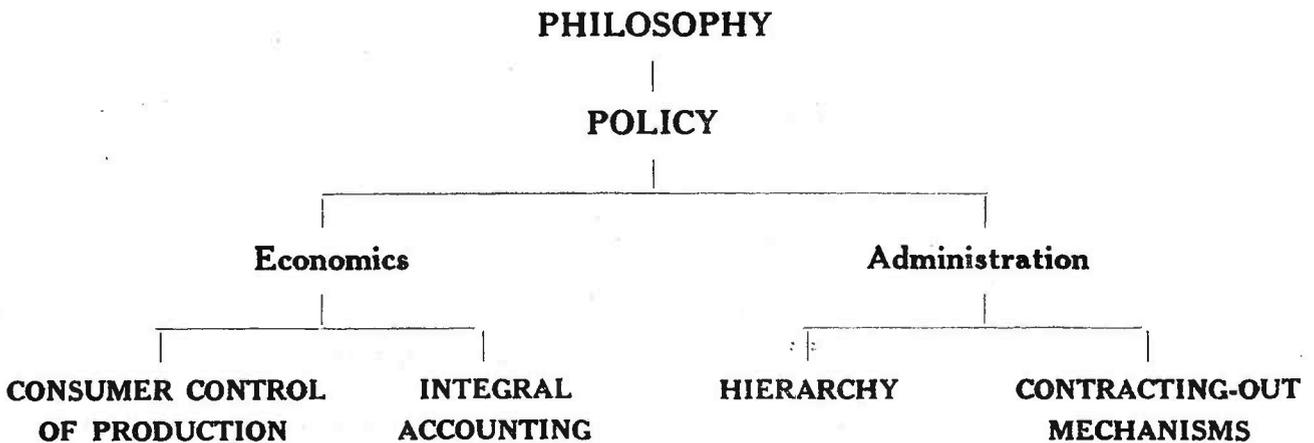
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WHAT IS SOCIAL CREDIT?

Social Credit assumes that Society is primarily metaphysical, and must have regard to the organic relationships of its prototype.



OBJECTIVE: Social Stability by the integration of means and ends.

INCOMPATIBLES: Collectivism, Dialectic Materialism, Totalitarianism, Judæo-Masonic Philosophy and Policy.

Ballot-box democracy embodies all of these.

February, 1951.

First Things First

Some reflections on the Philosophical Aspect of Douglas's Chart, "What is Social Credit?"

by NORMAN F. WEBB.

The Chart* starts off with the qualifying statement, "Social Credit assumes first that Society is primarily meta-

* "What Is Social Credit?", which appears above Mr. Norman Webb's article. Called by us "a chart," it is really a specification.—*Editor, T.S.C.*

physical, and must have regard to the organic relationships of its prototype."

By the term Social Credit Douglas must have in mind, not the literal definition of co-operative confidence, so much as the body of writings on the subject, philosophic and economic—pre-eminently his own books, of course—as well as the Social Credit Movement itself. The implication of the above statement is that the philosophy of these writings, and of those who attempt to spread their teaching, is that what is called Society—the phenomenon of individuals in association—must be regarded *in the first place* as a psycho-

logical fact, and not as a material, statistical one. This means that as to its essential nature, and the problems arising from it, there is no difference between the association of two individuals and two million. The difference is only secondary, one of quantity, not quality, and therefore social problems are no more susceptible of correct statistical statement, or solution than, let us say, the problem presented by an unhappy (or happy) marriage.

Beyond that, it implies something more; it implies that human association (Society) is *primarily* a conscious, voluntary act and only in a very secondary sense like a conglomeration of matter or the formation of geological crystals—just the determined result of the physical process of cooling.

Human beings *organize themselves* along the lines of the invisible laws of their being—their unwritten constitution, so to speak,—and the essential requirement for those who wish to keep control on their own administration, is to study and understand those laws, for they are what ultimately governs the outcome of all social activity. How the individual conducts this study is largely a personal matter, but it must be comprehensive; as the poet Pope said, "The proper study of Mankind is man." Jesus of Nazareth, however, had already carried this sound precept much further when He advised, "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you," thus bringing it down to the study of one's own nature.

This definition, or qualification of the nature of the social problem, seems almost platitudinous when so stated; an obvious truism that should not need to be emphasized at the end of almost two thousand years of Christian discipline. Nevertheless, when, at the very end of his table Douglas lists a number of what he terms Incompatibles with the philosophic policy of Social Credit, one finds the assumption upon which everyone of them is based is the exact reverse of that Christian belief. Collectivism, Dialectical Materialism, Totalitarianism, Judao-Masonic Philosophy and Policy, one and all give complete precedence to the physical and quantitative and collective aspect of society and the social problem, and attach secondary, and largely negligible, importance to the individual, as such, representing the metaphysical aspect of life.

THE BUREAUCRATIC MENTALITY.

It is obvious from the emerging world situation and international alignment today, that there is a tremendous effort being made among the so-called Democracies mentally to sum up all the different totalitarian ideologies under the name of Communism, and, in military phraseology, contain them—seal off and localize them—in Russia. But that, of course, is much too simple. It is not only in the Soviet Union that there exists this tragic failure to see Society truly in its origin and nature, as it really is; that is, *the visible, organic result of an invisible, but none the less real belief on the part of the individual* that in association with his kind he can more easily and in greater measure attain what he wants of life. The failure to make that essentially Christian and correct distinction, is the failure of the bureaucratic mind in society in general everywhere, and not only in Russia where its results are outstandingly obvious. This materialistic mental sequence or angle of approach to problems that simply cannot be made to yield to it, constitutes the one obstacle, but as long as it persists an insurmountable one, to the achievement of the Social Credit objective.

The difference, therefore, between Moscow and London

and Washington, is one of degree only,—degree of bureaucratic achievement,—and not at all, realistically and ethically speaking, of kind. All of those see Social Necessity in the same sequence. The recognition of this fact must bring home to us with almost terrifying force, the unique and distinguished position occupied by the Social Credit Movement, which alone of all the formulated political and religious forces today stands *conscientiously and constructively* arrayed against the "principalities and powers" of Collectivism; the deliberate inversion of the proper order of the universe, and the calculated "wicked-ness in high places" that has so far succeeded in keeping the metaphysical, co-operative individual ignorant of his true significance and position in Society.

The above facts illumine clearly what is happening all over the world today, and not only in Russia, and fully explain all the wanton destruction to be seen everywhere. For to the inverted bureaucratic mind, which is the non-co-operative, physical mind, mechanistic thinking-box, there is no virtue in Society *as it is* and for itself, but only as it offers to its possessor the opportunity and material in which to express his power in making of it something (anything) other than what it is. For this reason bureaucratic, planning minds are rendered incapable of seeing the beauty and virtue of Society apart from themselves and what they would like to do with it. They are blind to the ordered symmetry naturally assumed by this universe under the impulse of the individual's voluntary co-operation in his own interest and for his own—that is, in effect, Society's—profit. It is not difficult to see the reason for this attitude, nor for the bureaucrat's inability to allow any credit to the past; because to do so would be from his point of view, to give undue and dangerous weight and significance to the intangible—that is, the metaphysical—aspect of Society, which his instinct warns him is not his to control.

THE SOCIAL CREDIT OBJECTIVE.

"Social stability by the integration of means and ends," which Douglas lays down as the Social Credit Objective, is a completely opposite idea to the bureaucratic Socialist idea of Social Security. In the first place the objective of stability is automatically denied to the statistical frame of mind, which itself creates friction and instability. And in the second, it is not an absolute state but a relative, a potential, condition; not an end, but an environment in which common sense would suggest the individual can most easily attain his end as an individual, whatever that may be. Relatively stable conditions are obviously those in which the operation of the laws of invisible cause and visible effect can be most immediately and easily seen by those with the will to see them. They imply such a state of things as Douglas pictures when he says that it "must have in mind the organic relationships of its prototype,"—in other words, must be "on earth as it is in heaven."

It is obvious, since, as we have seen, the bureaucratic, collectivist mind is one that most definitely "has designs" on Society; *i.e.* the potentially perceptive individual in his co-operative capacity, that it is prompted to do everything in its power to dissociate cause and effect—the operation of the Natural Law, and to conceal their relationships to one another in the minds of the public. The degree of conscious connivance with which the tendency to this inconsequent outlook on life is promoted and encouraged in the public may be a matter of opinion. What is beyond dispute is the success

of its dire results in creating conditions of such mental instability and unrepresentability that, literally, anything can happen, or be made to happen; and not only that, but such as to kill in the individual all sense of purpose (what is conventionally known as religious conviction). It should be unnecessary to have to point out how convenient such a mental condition must be to those—if such exist—whose ambition it is arbitrarily to frustrate the co-operative working-out of the natural and true instincts of the individual under metaphysical influence, and to substitute in its place a planned state of mass-manipulated organisation promoted and guided by themselves.

BALLOT BOX DEMOCRACY.

The fourth and last comment in the table is to the effect that, "Ballot Box Democracy embodies all these,"—that is, all these totalitarian Incompatibles to Social Credit listed immediately above this statement. In stigmatizing the Ballot Box as the incarnation of totalitarianism, Douglas is not, as I see it, necessarily condemning the idea of casting a vote, even for a political party,—any more than he is condemning the idea behind the word Democratic.—What he condemns is the *abuse* of a system, the counterfeit form in which it is popularized and exploited. After all, the Economic Vote is a free choice of alternatives, and the grocer's till an open Ballot Box; but it is so designed as to afford the minimum opportunity to abuse. Bribery is not feasible when the individual buys for himself, and deception ultimately impossible,—perhaps the Co-op dividend is the exception to this rule!

It would seem, then, that what we are looking for in the political field is not something to supersede the voting system, but something analogous to the economic money-vote as it operated in the sterling days of its bright promise at the beginning of this century. This has not yet been precisely found.

A SUGGESTION.

Alternatively to that, is it possible we might discover that the fully effective Economic Vote was all that was required, and that once the consuming (metaphysical) individual, who composes the Demos, had asserted and established his right to economic priority, that is, his inalienable right to the control of the *policy* of Production, it would be found that he had thereby acquired all the requisite power (*kratos*) in both fields, of Economics and Administration.

There is a fragment of one of Douglas's comments—the only thought directly expressed in them, apart from their implications—to which I have not yet drawn attention, which indicates that the Social Credit objective of social stability is to be achieved "by the integration of means and ends." I feel it has a bearing on this point of whether or not Society is in need of a parallel political voting system in the full meaning, alongside the really effective economic one which systematic Social Credit is designed to promote.

Every individual, as the medieval scholars were always pointing out, is in himself a microcosm, a sort of social pilot-plant or replica in little of the macrocosm which is Society. He has his two antithetical aspects, the functional and the political, representing means and ends, exactly as exists in society. As we have already seen, the free operation of the Money Vote automatically gives the individual consumer control of Production Policy and its agenda. So that

here in the microcosm we have already got the stabilising integration of means and ends, through the operation of the Money Mechanism, exemplified in the exercise of a proper control as to policy which it automatically gives to the individual in his amateur consuming capacity over *himself* as paid professional producer. This arrangement within the microcosm is exactly as it should be, with political direction placed in the hands of the exponent of the invisible, metaphysical end, over the exponent of the visible, physical means to that end. There, is the complete and fully identified individual unit for creating a complete and integrated Society, with its political direction in control of its individual members. You have only to translate this individual achievement of at-onement; this settlement within the microcosm of the vital question of precedence between the metaphysical and the physical aspects of life into social terms, and you get the hierarchical form and structure of Society expressing itself inevitably and quite impersonally, and consequently with a minimum of friction, in the operation of the Natural Law of Supply and Demand at work in a field of fair competition.

So much for the explanatory comments included in the table. It can be seen that in spite of their extreme brevity, they do comprehend with amazing completeness the whole philosophical outlook of Social Credit as expounded in its textbooks. Every Philosophy is an assumption as to the nature of things. And though Douglas puts the Social Credit assumption as to the nature of Society as a comment, and thereafter commences his Chart proper with the word Philosophy, that comment is, in fact, the Social Credit Philosophy, after which, and out of which comes Policy.

The Fifers' Ration-Books

"How are 2,500 people in Fife managing to exist without ration books?" asks *The Scotsman* for July 12, and goes on to say that that is approximately the number who have still to collect their books for the current year.

A Ministry of Food official, Mr. W. Maxwell, told members of Fife Food Control Committee at Cupar on the day before that if the census figures were correct and there had been no drift in the population, there were about 2,500 people going about the county without ration books. This is no new thing, and Miss Duncan, another official, said that some people did not bother to collect their ration books. This year, it was found that several of the people who applied had not had a book the previous year.

Mr. D. Thomson, Methil, said that some shopkeepers had been in the habit of issuing rations to customers over a period of years and not bothering to ask for ration books. It was only when they began to get short of supplies that they woke up and asked for the books. As a result, it was found that many people were well into the new rationing period and could only produce their ration books for the previous year.

Mr. Maxwell said that perhaps it was the Housewives' League developing in Fife. There must be many of the vagrant type in Fife, but he would probe the mystery in the hope of arriving at a solution.

(Note by Editor, T.S.C.:—Concerning the last suggestion, we have been expecting information for some time past about the old vagrant population of the work-houses, which is said to have disappeared since England became a work-house.)

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Saturday, July 28, 1951.

From Week to Week

Those who notice such things will not have overlooked the growing habit of referring to *The New York Times* as *The Times* and the other periodical as "the London Times."

"Roach" is Americanese for cockroach. This may have emboldened the Egyptian Government to loot the S.S. "Empire Roach" in the Shatt-el Arab.

The Persian Government denounces the Hague Tribunal as incompetent and refuses to recognise it, while President Truman sends Mr. Harriman, of the Oil interests, to carry on Contempt of Court by interfering while the case is *sub judice*.

Just what has happened to the Bank of International Settlements and its assets?

Why should anybody object to being poisoned when poisoning is so scientific? A correspondent who writes to *The Scotsman* to say that the use of improvers becomes less not more necessary as the extraction-rate of flour decreases seems to be proving that agene is used for fun, for its harmfulness has not been proved. But why mix up fun and science, which is not in the least funny?

"... But what do you think of public affairs? I have always conceived that a Queen and aristocratical Government was the natural condition to which this country tends, and the Whig Government was the exception to the rule. Yet what have our governors done, from Pitt to Melbourne, but studied how to raise taxes and gain votes? Circumstances have continually urged them. They neither looked forward nor retrospectively for their own characters. . . ."

Sir Charles Bell was a great surgeon, an accomplished artist with the pencil and, incidentally, the author of the fourth of the famous Bridgewater treatises "on the power, wisdom and goodness of God as manifested in the Creation." The words above are taken from his *Letters*, and that quoted is from one written on September 10, 1841. His Bridgewater Treatise is on "The Hand, its Mechanism and Vital Endowments as Evincing Design" (1837). The Planners have done away with Design: a paradox.

"A right faith is the beginning of a good life, and to this also eternal life is due. Now it is faith to believe that which you do not yet see; and the reward of this faith is to see that which you believe. In the time of faith, therefore, as in seeding time, let us not weaken. To the very end let us not weaken, but let us persevere until we gather that which we have sown." (*An Augustine Synthesis*, arranged by E. Prayware, S.J.).

"Wage Peace" is, of course, unadulterated Mond-Turner (*q.v.* *The Brief for the Prosecution* by C. H. Douglas): the Devil's Deal which 'sold' work (on conditions) to the Trade Unions, in exchange for Control of life and work. We wonder whether Edna Lonigan's readers, who like her must shine like a good deed in a naughty world (sorry! States), when they read that "This plan for international fair shares to 'wage peace' is promoted by the vast and complex propaganda apparatus that the Administration and its collectivist allies have now built up in our religious bodies. Government agencies have been given a directive to use more religious themes in all their public relations." In other words, The Synagogue of Satan.

"Anti-British Day in Park Lane," we read. But why allege its confinement to Park Lane?

There is no need to pave the way for a degrading of education in England: education has been replaced by certification (which, *inter alia*, is one of the euphuisms for lunacy, incidentally). Nevertheless we are glad to see *The Scotsman's* comment on the statement that eleven *per cent.* of children of the County of Dumfries are backward:—"It is unfortunate, perhaps, that intelligence-testing has gone far beyond other kinds of statistical inquiry. Leaving aside the fact that it is uncertain what an intelligence test tests, one would have thought that it was of extreme importance to correlate 'intelligence' with other factors in the personality. Townsmen appear to have a higher rating than countrymen. The suicide rate in towns is higher too, and psychopathic conditions are said to be more prevalent. There may be no connection, but until we know, the value of 'intelligence' remains in doubt."

Wall Street

"Our whole economy can be shaken to its foundations by ten minutes panic in Wall Street, to whose trends our production has become dangerously sensitive."—Oliver Brown, in *The Scotsman* for July 18.

Who panics, Mr. Brown?

Grand Orient
FREEMASONRY UNMASKED
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PARLIAMENT

House of Commons, July 2, 1951.

New Clause (Settlement for Benefit of Children)

(Continued)

Mr. Gerald Williams (Tonbridge): . . . The point to remember is that the fees at public schools have so far gone up only 25 to 30 *per cent.*, while the price of everything else has gone up 100 *per cent.* Further if a Socialist Government stays in office, the people who have put their children's names on these lists will be faced with bills which may well be half as much again as they are now. If these people are to be driven from the public schools because of the greatly increased fees, then the State will be faced with the prospect of paying those fees, and already there is a shortage of schools, teachers and text books.

Another thing which has not yet been mentioned is that we shall lose a very great incentive to work harder, because a man takes more pride in sending his children to the school of his own choice, or where he himself has been, than in anything else. . . .

Mr. Nabarro (Kidderminster): . . . There is the moral consideration. I join with the noble Lord, [Viscount Hinchinbrooke] who mentioned that he has six children and that the cost of educating them might prove prohibitive. I have three children, all very young, and I view with very grave concern the possibility of not being able to afford to educate them privately if the levels of Income Tax and Surtax remain as they are today. There are hundreds of thousands of people in this country who dislike State schools and want to educate their children privately. I see no reason why they should not be given the right of selectivity and be allowed, if they wish, so to do.

If a man owns a stud and trains racehorses, the whole cost of training and educating those racehorses for the track is admitted, for the purposes of calculating Income Tax as a charge. What is applied to racehorses should surely be applied to young children, even if the young children are thoroughbreds [HON. MEMBERS: "Oh!"] Why should the Treasury set up moral standards and apply one rule to—

Mr. Shurmer (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): Does the hon. Member mean to imply that only one section of the community consists of thoroughbreds?

Mr. Nabarro: The hon. Member completely misunderstands me. I am saying that it is evidently the intention of the Treasury to apply one set of Income Tax standards to bloodstock and thoroughbred racehorses and another set to human beings. I hope that the Chancellor will agree that children are more important than racehorses, and that he should give the concession that is asked for in the proposed new Clause.

Mr. H. Strauss: If the proposed new Clause is rejected and all alternatives are rejected likewise—and that is the policy of the Government—this is what the Government are deliberately saying to the professional classes of this country: "It will be impossible for you to have your children educated as well as you have been educated yourselves." That is an act of great cruelty. There are few things more cruel than to say to a man: "We will make it impossible for you to give to your children the education that you have been fortunate enough to enjoy yourself."

Question put, "That the Clause be read a Second time."
The House divided: Ayes, 261; Noes, 286.

Sugar Ration

Mr. C. S. Taylor asked the Minister of Food whether he is now in a position to increase the domestic sugar ration.

Mr. Webb: I see no prospect of a further increase in the sugar ration in the near future. At the moment, the weekly ration is 10 oz. following the recent increase from 8 oz. and, in addition, as I have stated, we are issuing supplementary sugar bonuses of 1 lb. per person per month, seven in the current year.

Scotland (Hydro-Electric Projects)

Colonel Gomme-Duncan asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the original estimated cost of the Loch Sloy, Loch Morar and Lochalsh hydro-electric projects; what, to date, is the actual expenditure; and what is the latest estimate for the completion of these projects.

Mr. McNeil: The estimated cost in 1944 of the three projects mentioned was £4,600,000. I am informed that the expenditure on these projects to the end of May, 1951, was £9,043,000 and that the latest estimated cost for their completion—excluding those parts of the small Morar and Lochalsh scheme which have been postponed—is £9,235,000.

House of Commons: July 3, 1951.

Council Houses (Sale)

Mr. Nabarro asked the Minister of Local Government and Planning what representations he has received from the Kidderminster Rural District Council seeking permission for the sale of council houses to suitable tenants; what was the nature of the response to these representations; and whether he will make a statement of the general policy of His Majesty's Government in that regard.

Mr. Dalton: This Council made representations on 4th May last. I told them I could not agree. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. and gallant Member for Wembley, North (Wing Commander Bullus), on 10th May last.

Mr. Nabarro: Would the right hon. Gentleman not agree to reconsider this matter? Is it not a fact that a substantial reduction can be effected in the amount of the annual rates and taxes, through the contribution to housing subsidies, by allowing the sale, only in suitable and desirable cases, and where the council so desire it? Would he please reconsider it on those lines?

Mr. Dalton: I am always prepared to go on considering it, but as at present advised I do not think I am in a position to reconsider it. This means selling public property to private people, and on the whole I think that is objectionable. No doubt the hon. Gentleman would not take that view, but I and many of my hon. Friends think that is so.

Sir H. Williams: Would the right hon. Gentleman have a consensus taken among his colleagues to find out how many Ministers own the houses in which they live?

Mr. George Thomas: Is my right hon. Friend aware that any reduction in the number of council houses available for those in the greatest need as would result from the hon. Gentleman's suggestion—[HON. MEMBERS: "No."]—is

bound to be resented by those who are still on the waiting lists of local authorities?

Mr. Dalton: I agree with my hon. Friend.

Brigadier Prior-Palmer: Does the right hon. Gentleman not realise that the former Minister of Health gave an assurance at a Brighton conference that he was in favour of this in principle, and that if a case was put up by any local authority he would be prepared to consider it; and is the right hon. Gentleman's policy now in opposition to that declared by his right hon. Friend?

Mr. Fernyhough: Does my right hon. Friend realise that, if local authorities charged the same price for houses as private enterprise charges when selling similar accommodation, there would be no request for them to be sold to the tenants?

Mr. Nabarro: As it is evident that there is a considerable difference of opinion about this matter and that a good case can be made for the large number of tenants who want to buy these Council houses, is the Minister prepared to hold an inquiry into the whole problem, particularly in the rural authorities' areas?

Mr. Dalton: No, Sir.

House of Commons: July 12, 1951.

Metropolitan Police (Strength)

Mrs. Braddock asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the effective strength of the Metropolitan Police on 1st January, 1951, and 22nd June, 1951.

Mr. Ede: On 1st January, 1951, the effective strength of the Metropolitan Police was 15,830 men and 329 women, and on 22nd June, 1951, it was 15,551 men and 339 women.

Mrs. Braddock: Is my right hon. Friend aware that the reduction of almost 300 in a short time in the strength of the Metropolitan Police is causing great concern? What steps is he taking in view of the very serious discontent in the Police Force due to the length of time which is being taken fully to discuss working conditions in the Force?

Mr. Ede: This is a matter of great concern to me as well as to other people and I am meeting a committee of the Police Federation this afternoon to discuss it.

Earl Winterton: In view of the many occasions on which the hon. Lady the Member for Liverpool, Exchange (*Mrs. Braddock*), and myself and others, irrespective of party, have raised this question and the fact that, to put it bluntly, we have not got any further forward and the Police Force are almost worse off than they ever were in point of numbers, will the right hon. Gentleman consider—I do not ask for an answer now—whether there should not be appointed immediately a committee of investigation, not composed of officials, to find out what is wrong with the Police Force? The situation is really calamitous.

Mr. Ede: I would not adopt quite the attitude of the noble Lord, but it is very serious indeed. We have had the report of the Oaksey Committee, all of which has not been implemented owing to difficulty in persuading the local authorities to accept some of the recommendations. But I am now having the most urgent negotiations conducted in regard to pay, though I am inclined to think that in addition to pay there will have to be some very careful consideration of the general conditions in the Force.

Mrs. Braddock: Is it not a fact that my right hon. Friend made an attempt within the past few days, to appoint

three independent people to go into this matter with this committee, and that the Association of Municipal Corporations' Police Committee refused to have anything to do with the matter or to make any appointment in order to discuss it? What does my right hon. Friend intend to do?

Mr. Ede: I would have preferred to have made a more considered statement on these negotiations, because it is very delicate to discuss the relationship between this Association and the Police Council. I am profoundly disappointed by the attitude that was adopted by the Association referred to by the hon. Lady, and I am taking steps after this afternoon's meeting to bring this matter to a head in a way which will enable negotiations to go forward.

Agriculture (Scotland)

Mr. Snadden (Kinross and West Perthshire):

There is no doubt that, in the present circumstances of uneasy peace, costs are bound to keep on going up, and I think that is a very serious feature. I consider that this is the most acute internal problem facing the farming industry and the nation, and I personally am of the opinion that the danger point has not only been reached but has been passed.

I do not want to quote a great list of figures this afternoon, because they are always boring, but it should be realised that the humble plough, to be found on every farm probably throughout the whole of Great Britain, and bought by the smallest men, has risen in price by 80 per cent. since 1945. Superphosphates, our main general manure, also used on practically every holding throughout the country, has risen in price since 1945 by 75 per cent. During the past few weeks a further announcement has been made that superphosphates are to go up by a further 82 per cent., the reason being that the second half of the fertiliser subsidy has now been withdrawn. In the realm of feedingstuffs, linseed cake, the main feedingstuff, has risen by 218 per cent. since 1945.

But what worries me most in this business of rising costs is the crippling effects of increased freights on the Scottish farming economy. We are in a peculiar position, because by and large the farms of Scotland are located at considerable distances from points of supply and, in turn, from consuming centres. An increase of, say 22½ per cent. or 25 per cent. may not seem a crippling thing where the haul is short, but it is a knock-out when the haul is long. I know that this factor also applies to other industries, but it is particularly crippling to agriculture because so many of our holdings are in outlying areas.

The conclusion must be that unless something is done, and done soon, to reduce these transport costs, the position of many of our small farmers will be untenable, in fact they will not be able to compete with people who are more favourably placed. This is to me a most serious problem, which demands the urgent attention of the Government. I know perfectly well that other industries are involved, but so also is the agricultural industry, and I take a very serious view of this question.

The farmer's only weapon in this battle against inflation is greater output and increased efficiency; but it is a losing battle, because the time comes, as it has now come, when increased costs outweigh the advantages and economies that flow from increased technical efficiency. Now that that time has come, what the Government intend to do about it is for the right hon. and learned Gentleman to say, and

especially what is to be done about freight charges, which have a definite bearing upon the cost of producing our food. The point is that, whatever happens, in the meantime none of us can escape its effect on the cost of producing our food.

Behind these disturbing monetary adjustments there lies, to me, a wider anxiety—and I want this afternoon to go as widely as possible. The problem of feeding the world's fast-growing population is becoming more and more acute. Today the President of the Board of Trade put his finger on it. Exportable surpluses of grain and meat become more uncertain every year. Recently we have depended on the Argentine and Russia for most of our coarse grain imports, but can anyone say that either of those sources is reliable and dependable?

Today, as we all know, world meat production falls far short of demand, and for what meat we can get we pay ever higher prices. The recent Argentine agreement for 230,000 tons of meat, 30,000 tons of which is canned or corned meat, sounds a lot, but if it is measured out it is only equal to 10½ weeks' supply at our present ration level. Looking back, we must come to the conclusion that the annual wrangle with M. Peron, if it is not as exciting, is at least as certain to come as the Cup Final. . . .

. . . If anyone were to ask me to put in a single sentence what I thought the farmer's job was today, I should say that his job is to maximise livestock production. The Government's job is to see that it is made possible for him to do that by ensuring that the needs of the industry for capital, for raw materials and, last but by no means least, and very important, for confidence in the long-term future are adequately met. That is the background I want to establish before we discuss a few of the details in front of us. . . .

. . . . At first glance this excellently compiled and comprehensive Report of the Department—and I compliment whoever is responsible for writing it—would seem to indicate substantial progress towards the 20 *per cent.* increase aimed at since the inauguration of the expansion programme. We are told on page 8 that at the end of the third year Scottish output was estimated at 13 *per cent.* above the 1947 level. That is commendable. But the Report goes on to say:

“Closer examination of the position shows, however, that although the over-all result appears to be satisfactory, it is a one-sided expansion. In fact, practically the whole of the increase is accounted for by increased output of milk and eggs.”

I think that it was a very good idea of whoever wrote that Report to be quite frank about it and tell us the truth, because it is a serious position. What it means is that by contrast our cropping position, which is described as serious, has to be looked at, too. The acreage of cereals last year was actually less than when we began the expansion programme in 1947. Oats are down by 37,000 acres and barley by 24,000 acres. Obviously this trend, already apparent last year, has to be reversed if we are to maintain the increased head of livestock we want to see.

Last year I suggested that there were three main reasons for this. I put forward these reasons from my own experience. The first is the natural inclination of farmers, because of the fear of soil exhaustion, to nurse their greatest asset, the land, after an exhausting war. The second is their hesitation to cultivate in the face of the ever rising cost of cultivation, especially in regard to labour and fertilisers. The third is the lack of confidence over prices in the long-term field.

Farmers find it very difficult to understand the Govern-

ment's policy in calling for the increased production of coarse grains on the one hand, while, on the other, they press down the minimum price of barley for the 1950 harvest. Then the Government persisted in their refusal to remove the reservation placed upon oats by the Minister of Agriculture in 1947 when he indicated that the price guarantee for oats in unlimited quantity would be revised in 1952.

What struck me was that, considering that the proportion of home-grown grain last year was only 30 *per cent.* in the case of barley and 43 *per cent.* in the case of oats of total supplies distributed, no wonder the home farmer was surprised at the Government's refusal to go a little further. The Government at long last, in the case of oats, as with wool, has come into line with the policy of the Opposition. They have now in the White Paper on Farm Prices just published given an assurance that oats, which are the Scottish main crop equal in acreage to all the other crops put together, are to enjoy equality of treatment with other cereals. . . .

. . . What are the facts about meat? I am not going to quote a lot of figures, but I will instance these figures as coming from the Minister of Food himself. The Minister of Food, when he recently addressed an important meeting in Bradford, showed that although the world production of meat since 1939 was slightly up by some 10 *per cent.*, supplies to European countries, of which Great Britain is the major importing country, were 227,000 tons, or 11 *per cent.* less than pre-war. At the same time, the population of Great Britain has risen by three million. That means that even if we reached the pre-war total of imported and home-grown meat of 2,100,000 tons, we should still be short of our pre-war position by: no less than 400,000 tons per annum because of our increased population.

I say, therefore, that meat production should form part of our defence programme. After all, men cannot howk coal, build tanks, or work long hours in the fields without meat, nor will the public easily tolerate any avoidable failure to produce it. In any event, we should be considering what would happen if an emergency arose. Would we have any meat stocks worth mentioning to fall back upon without Russia's coarse grain imports coming in? I do not think so. I do not think we would find any meat at all in the country if we got into an emergency.

I want to examine for a few minutes what sort of progress we are making in Scotland in the sphere of livestock. Omitting milk, because I have dealt with that, compared with 1939—it is not a very good comparison—beef cattle are stated to be up in numbers by 23 *per cent.* I only hope they are genuine beef cattle, but I am doubtful. At any rate, we must accept these figures.

Sheep are down by 8 *per cent.*, reflecting the effect of the disastrous storm of 1947; and unfortunately, as we all know, when this year's returns are received, they will show a further very serious reduction. I have with me figures, covering 8,000 ewes in my part of Perthshire, which show the complete results we have had since marking our sheep. Although these results are very serious indeed, they are not quite as bad as I expected, but there will be another very serious fall this year.

The present number of pigs is just under the pre-war figure, and, thanks largely to our friends in Orkney, poultry are up by 30 *per cent.* Considering that farmers have had less than half of the pre-war volume of feedingstuffs, these

figures are quite encouraging. But are these increases great enough today. Are we going fast enough with the job? Can we do any more to accelerate the pace?

Anyone who studies the question of quick meat production thinks immediately in terms of pigs, which, of course, produce meat far more quickly than anything else. If we cared to do so, we would cover Scotland with pigs, but they have one snag. Although they are the quickest, they are not the safest, way, because if war comes the pigs, which depend entirely on imported feedingsuffs, vanish. But sheep do not depend upon imported feedingsuffs, and cattle are dependent upon them only very little. Therefore, sheep and cattle are the sheet anchors of meat production, and it is with them that I want to deal.

We have some 155,000 more beef cattle than in 1939. Again, that sounds quite a lot, but in terms of meat on the plate it means only some 46,000 tons, or about a couple of weeks' supplies for the whole country at the rate of the present low ration. That must be borne in mind. In our vast Highland region—I speak not of the seven crofting counties, but of the agricultural Highland area covering, I believe, the six counties—an area aggregating many millions of acres, we have an increase of 47,000 head, but when we examine the other parts of Scotland we find that there are far fewer beef cattle in this vast Highland region than in either the North-Eastern or Eastern regions.

Dr. Fraser Darling, who, I think, is considered to be a pretty high authority, has shown that whereas the ratio in the West Highlands ought to be one cattle beast to four sheep, the present figures are more nearly 1 to 40. We come to the logical conclusion, therefore, that there is clearly room for a great expansion in this region and in other upland areas not scheduled as the Highland Region. . . .

The Lord Advocate (Mr. John Wheatley): . . . Now, in gauging how far we have progressed, it is perhaps desirable to make some comparisons. I wish now to compare the 1950 figures with the 1947 figures—because that year marked the beginning of the expansion programme—and the figures for 1939. The cattle population at 4th June, 1950, was 1,616,390, as compared with 1,458,604 at 4th June, 1947, an increase of 10 per cent. The 1939 figure was 1,348,643.

Breaking down these figures between beef and dairy cattle, we find that in 1950 the beef cattle population was 763,737 as against 644,123 in 1947 and 607,901 in 1939, while the dairy cattle population was 852,653 in 1950 as compared with 814,481 in 1947 and 740,742 in 1939. So that there has been, as compared with 1939, a substantial increase in the cattle population, and quite a marked increase in the three years following 1947.

The sheep population rose from 6,024,688 in 1947 to 7,337,269 in 1950. Now it is true that the sheep population in 1939 was higher at 8,007,134, but we must bear in mind—and I think the hon. Gentleman did give credit for this—not only the severe winter of 1947, which had a devastating effect on our sheep, but also the diminution in the sheep population during the war. The increase between 1947 and 1950 in our sheep population was of the order of 21 per cent.

Turning now to pigs, because I think these figures give an indication of the measure of development in the short space of three years, the number of pigs in 1947 was 148,288 and this rose to 250,830 in 1950, an increase of 69 per cent. in three years. I am pleased to inform the Committee, and I am sure the hon. Gentleman will be pleased to know, that

at the present time the pig population is over the 300,000 mark and accordingly higher than it was in 1939. The Committee will remember that in the recent debate on Highland development, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland indicated his keen interest in encouraging pig production in the Highlands, and it can be confidently anticipated that the remarkable increase in the pig population which I have indicated will continue.

Let us look now at the poultry figures. The poultry population in 1939 was 7,710,999. By 1947 there had been an increase to 7,916,803 and by 1950 the figure stood at 10,073,107, an increase of 40 per cent. on the 1947 figures. So that so far as the annual population is concerned, we can claim that there has been a substantial and significant increase since the beginning of the expansion programme in 1947.

Against this, however, it is true that the acreage under cereals fell from 1,225,134 in 1947 to 1,153,863 in 1950. The curious thing is that the corresponding figure for 1939 was 956,725. The tillage acreage—that is for crops of all kinds and bare fallow—which was 1,480,081 in 1939 stood at 1,858,933 in 1947 and 1,768,320 in 1950. So that although there was a drop between 1947 and 1950, in both cases there was a substantial increase over the 1939 figure. The potato acreage—

Mr. Boothby: May I interrupt for one moment? The Lord Advocate has given figures which are rather disturbing. Has he no explanation to offer of why this drop has occurred during the last three years?

The Lord Advocate: If the hon. Gentleman will exercise a little patience, I will come to that. The potato acreage which was 134,333 in 1939 stood at 207,316 in 1947, and was reduced to 189,697 in 1950. Significantly enough the gross produce increased between 1947 and 1950 although the acreage decreased. After all, that is perhaps the true measure at the end of the day.

. . . I wish now to turn to the question of mechanisation on Scottish farms. The growth of mechanisation is fully illustrated in the agricultural returns, which bring home this fact most forcibly. In 1942 there were 65,620 horse ploughs and 15,280 tractor ploughs. In 1946 there were 23,360 tractor ploughs and 56,070 horse ploughs. By 1950 there were 40,520 tractor ploughs and only 39,574 horse ploughs. Again, in 1942 there were 60 combine harvesters, by 1946 the number had increased to 210 and in 1950 it was 422.

The position of the supply of agricultural machinery remains fairly satisfactory. . . .

Captain Duncan (Angus, South): . . . The second point I want to make is in connection with the statistics, which I think are rather interesting, which can be dug out of the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*. I think it is a most astonishing fact that, in spite of all that was done during the war and all that has been done since, the actual acreage of land in Britain under crops and grass is practically the same as, or, rather, 500,000 acres less than it was in 1939. In 1939, the arable acreage was roughly 13 million and the grass acreage 18½ million. In 1950, the arable acreage was 18.3 million and the grass acreage 12¾ million; in other words, there was an actual decrease, in spite of everything that has been done to increase production and increase grassland.

(Further extracts from this debate will appear next week).