

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### Rude Assignment

Mr. Wyndham Lewis's latest pronouncements in his autobiographical *Rude Assignment* deserve the respect due to a mind of outstanding insight that has, through the years, been complementary to that of Major Douglas. In the middle twenties, Mr. Lewis shewed up, in satire and criticism, the softening-up process that was being applied to our culture. "Solitariness of thought, the prime condition for intellectual success, is threatened by mystical mass doctrines," he wrote then. In the same work, he enunciated his theory of balance: "This natural matching of opposites within saves a person from dogmatism and conceit . . . it places him at the centre of the balance." Elsewhere, he analysed education and power, remarking: "The small class in England that benefit by the empire regards . . . the British Empire as a milch-cow attached by Providence to the City of London." By 1930 he had anticipated a spate of studies on Hitler.

In the middle and late thirties Mr. Lewis came pretty near to social credit thought. "The stage has been cleared for the apotheosis of two types of man, the money-king and the agitator. . . . All the civilized and non-animal qualifications are taboo for these new barbarians." Mr. Lewis insisted that the two got on very well together. In his final pre-war blast against the hideous team, he added: "conditions of 'want in the midst of plenty' are the handiwork of 'Loan-Capital.' Without these conditions there would be no communism." And, "The League of Nations is the Woolworth principle in politics." Even at the end of the decade he mentioned "our Major Douglas" in contrast to the prevailing forces. But by then his worst forebodings were turning into fact. "The Machine age has doomed the European Family and its integrating. . . . The psychology of hatred has been carefully studied. . . ." Civilisation, on his principle, was no longer possible, for "you do not have to be any one thing very intensely to be civilized."

Mr. Lewis tells in *Rude Assignment* how he was penalised for his independence: "You cannot contradict your time too flatly and be influential. . . . The personal loss entailed, in every sense, by my stand against war was incalculable." But the outlook of the present work is conditioned by what he writes in a footnote: "Major Douglas's *social credits* [sic] would be an excellent thing: but where is the use of talking about them? Our currency systems are antediluvian, yes: but Power thrives on what is hopelessly out-of-date."

From his outlook as "doctrinally a man of the present," he gives a realistic assessment of our artistic and political predicament. Veracious portraiture is as little relished today as when James's colonel, who drew the long bow, saw a picture of himself stamped with deceit. Mr. Lewis says: "We are the first men to accept the formless and accidental—a visual chaos." His volume includes a number of reproductions of his own portraits and pictures.

But much of the volume deals with politics. For "we only speak of 'culture,' as of religion, when engaged in a world war now." The artist has been consigned to a *Reservation*. Mr. Lewis clearly tries to be as kind as he can to individual politicians, but his conclusions are not reassuring. He says, "Western tradition is for ever passed away . . . the West has delivered its contribution." And politics persists. In the pre-war time he wrote a novel of *political realism*—in which he said that someone "sweats social credit"—but this novel "cannot be mentioned by the average critic at all . . . the literary world of this time does not burn, it boycotts." Everything, he concludes, is judged as politics and there are no literary reviews any longer, "but political reviews masquerading as such."

Politics, then, is probably the main theme of the book. And Mr. Lewis has lost none of his penetration when he deals with "the Macchiavellian obsession regarding power . . . the first scientific hard-boiled theory of the State." His observations should be read and heeded, although they will bring little comfort. We may or may not accept Mr. Lewis's conclusions, although they follow from his premises fairly enough. There is, for instance, a type of internationalism now propagated, but U.N.O. is as much of a "fraud" as the League was a "hoax." Communism is a sort of internationalism, so is Zionism. And much as we may object to the State's elimination of its rivals, such as the Individual or the Family, the process does go on. One, among many, particularly acute general observation is as follows:

"Macchiavelli's view was that what we describe as *politics* is what man's evil nature has necessitated. . . . 'Politics' are 'below' morals, below the reason, below even our normal impulses: and the State is below the Individual." This, and what goes with it, is a rare type of realism, unpalatable to a C.3 mind, but essential to an appreciation of the modern pharisees. I understand that in other countries the politicians are, to an extent, recognised for what they are, but many in Britain fail to see through the disguise.

Novelists are often commended because their characters are *so real*. Mr. Lewis is, I am sure, unsurpassed in depriving his characters of reality. Sometimes they swivel on a wooden leg to underline their puppetry. This is perhaps what enables him to see so clearly through the political show. Here is a final sample of his observation: "Most socialist doctrine in the case of the older men is rooted in Christian teaching: with the young it is rooted in power impulses." The rest of his *Rude Assignment* should not be missed.

H. SWABEY.

Mr. Smith publishes a photograph of MacArthur and Anna M. Rosenberg side by side at the microphone—and Senator McCarthy says Truman is "surrounded by the Jessups, the Achesons, the old Hiss crowd." For our part, frankly, we are 'considering the lilies.'

## PARLIAMENT

*House of Commons: April 4, 1951.*

### Germany (Peace Treaty)

*Major Truetton Beamish* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what action His Majesty's Government are taking to ensure that any peace treaty with Germany shall enforce some form of compensation to non-Jewish and non-German people who suffered under the Nazis.

*Mr. H. Morrison:* His Majesty's Government are unable to give any undertaking regarding the possible provisions of an eventual peace treaty with Germany.

*Major Beamish:* Surely the right hon. Gentleman can give me some more sympathetic reply than that. Is he aware that non-Jewish and non-German people who suffered under the Nazis went through a most appalling time and had no one to speak on their behalf? I had hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would have been more sympathetic.

*Mr. Morrison:* I cannot be at this stage. It is not a question of being sympathetic or unsympathetic. This is the situation—

*Hon Members:* What is the situation?

*Mr. Morrison:* What I have said—that we are unable to give any undertaking regarding the possible provisions of an eventual peace treaty with Germany.

*Mr. Eden:* Could not the right hon. Gentleman, at least, undertake that this aspect of the matter, which is very serious to many people, will be in the minds of our negotiators when they come to discuss the matter?

*Mr. Morrison:* Certainly. That is another matter, but we will keep all relevant considerations in mind.

### Falkland Island Dependencies

*Major Beamish* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that His Majesty's Government do not recognise Argentine claims over any part of the Falkland Island Dependencies, and having regard to the failure of the Argentine Government to accept His Majesty's Government's offer to submit the case to the International Court of Justice, he will now make a full statement on the occupation of British territory in Antarctica by South American States.

*Mr. H. Morrison:* As regards the general policy of His Majesty's Government, I have nothing to add to the statement made by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary on 6th November, 1950. Since then the Chileans have established another post on British Antarctic territory in the Falkland Island Dependencies. I shall deal with this in replying to the next Question. During the last few days the Argentine Press have reported the establishment of another Argentine base also in the Falkland Island Dependencies. If this is confirmed, His Majesty's Government will protest to the Argentine Government.

*Major Beamish:* Is the Foreign Secretary contemplating taking any action other than sending a feeble protest every few months?

*Mr. Morrison:* If the hon. and gallant Member will put down a Question suggesting what military action he re-

quires, I will consider it.

*Mr. W. G. Bennett:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Argentine Government are at present building in this country the largest floating whaling factory in the world, which will be afloat shortly, and does he realise that this is possibly an opportunity of forcing our whalers out of the Antarctic altogether?

*Mr. Morrison:* I do not think that that is relevant to the point raised by the Question on the Order Paper.

*Major Beamish* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to recent official announcements in Santiago de Chile of the inauguration of a third Chilean base, in charge of the Chilean Air Force, on Paradise Island; and if he will now make a statement.

*Mr. Morrison:* Yes, Sir. His Majesty's Ambassador at Santiago has delivered a formal protest to the Chilean Government against this act of trespass on British territory in the Falkland Island Dependencies.

### Post Office Services (Increased Charges)

*The Postmaster-General (Mr. Ness Edwards):* With permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to acquaint the House with certain increases which I propose to make in charges for Post Office services.

I have had under examination the developing position of the finances of all Post Office services, and as a result I have reached the conclusion—very reluctantly—the time has come when the Post Office finances, faced with a steep rise in costs in practically all directions, must be fortified by an increase in several of our tariffs. The House may be surprised at this, in view of the considerable attention frequently given to the surplus exhibited by our commercial accounts, but there is, I fear, no escape from the conclusion that without this support the surplus for 1951-52 would fall to a very small figure.

The increases I now propose to make in Post Office tariffs are as follows: . . .

. . . Each of the services in which I am proposing to increase the charges are at present running at a loss.

The effect of the changes which I have enumerated will be to produce additional cash revenue in 1951-52 of £5,320,000 for posts and remittance services; £700,000 for telephones; £300,000 for telegraphs; total £6,320,000. The corresponding figures for a full year are £6,190,000, £1,550,000 and £450,000; total, £8,190,000. . . .

*Mr. Eden:* The right hon. Gentleman will realise that these are very wide-spread increases which will affect every section of the community. We shall obviously want time to study them and want to examine and debate them. Can I ask him now whether I am right in thinking that the Post Office is now making a contribution to the Treasury? If so, can we be told what the amount of that is?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* No, Sir. These proposals are considered in the light of Post Office finances. The right hon. Gentleman will not be unaware that there is such a thing as the Bridgeman doctrine which does have an influence on my mind; but these proposals are related solely to the Post Office.

*Mr. Eden:* May I ask the right hon. Gentleman to apply his mind to the question I have put? I remember that the

Post Office contribution to the Treasury was stopped during the war, and I want to know whether there is now such a contribution being made. The right hon. Gentleman will realise how germane this is to any consideration of these proposals, and that if there is such a contribution it should cease before the public are asked to pay these new charges.

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* The Post Office makes no contribution as such to the Treasury. What happens is that the cash account surpluses of the Post Office go to the Treasury. [*Laughter*] I thought I had made it very clear. All the profits that the Post Office has made over very many years have been taken by the Treasury, and all one has to do is to look at the accounts to see how much has been taken by the Treasury; but the size of any contribution has never yet been determined by anyone.

*Mr. Eden:* Since we are all trying to be as simple as we can, can the right hon. Gentleman tell us what is the amount which the Post Office transferred last year to the Treasury?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* The Post Office did not transfer any money at all. The confusion arises out of the profits on the commercial account and the cash transactions. The right hon. Gentleman's colleague has been in the Post Office and knows that there is a very clear distinction. The result is that the contribution to the Treasury over the last few years has been nil, and apparently it will be nil again this year.

*Sir Herbert Williams:* Is it not a fact that over the last five years there has been a very substantial deficit on the cash transactions and that the Treasury has had to supply the right hon. Gentleman and his predecessors with nearly £40 million out of taxation?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* The hon. Member has made the point—the difference between the commercial account and the cash account. The postal and telephone services have rendered services of £16 million a year to other Government Departments, from which the Post Office gets no cash payments although it takes credit for them in its commercial accounts. The cash transferred to the Treasury over the last four years has been nil, but there has been a substantial commercial profit.

*Mr. Driberg:* When my right hon. Friend says that without these increases the surplus would fall to a very small sum, can he say why the surplus should not fall to such a very small sum if the service to the public is thereby kept cheap?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* I think that the reason is this. The Post Office must put itself in the position of meeting all the costs of the services it gives to the community. The Post Office in making these proposals, which hardly in any instance exceed more than 50 per cent., is very much behind the increases in the prices and costs imposed upon it.

*Mr. Eden:* Would I be right in saying that this extra charge on the public is in very large measure due to the additional demands which the Government Departments make on the services of the Post Office and the consequent effect on their revenues?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* No, Sir, that would be completely contrary to the facts. The fact is that the costs of the materials of the Post Office have greatly increased—public conveyance has gone up by 166 per cent., and copper, and other basic materials, paper and wages, have all increased. All these have gone up to a far greater extent than these

proposed increases.

*Mr. Monslow:* Are these suggested increases in any way due to the improved economic condition now enjoyed by the Post Office workers?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* There has been a 180 per cent. increase as compared with pre-war in the wage charges for the services rendered by the Post Office.

*Mr. Assheton:* Is it not high time that the Government gave up the present practice adopted in the war of not charging the Government Departments for their bills, and therefore leading to great extravagance in telephone and postage by the Government Departments?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* While I have sympathy with the suggestion, I would point out that from a purely Post Office point of view it would require something like 2,000 people to supervise the collection and totalling up of these amounts, which means that in the long run the Post Office would be actually worse off.

*Mr. Collick:* Is my right hon. Friend aware of the very strong objections felt on this side to his proposals, and will he give the House the assurance that none of these proposals will be brought into effect until it has had an opportunity of discussing the whole matter?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* My hon. Friend must face the alternative, which is that the ordinary letter writer, the old age pensioner, will have to subsidise services of this nature, which I am not prepared to agree to.

*Mr. Boyd-Carpenter:* In view of the fact that these proposals really amount to taxation, will the right hon. Gentleman not reconsider the plea that has been made to him and give an undertaking, apart from the telegraph charges, that these charges will not come into effect until the House has had an opportunity of expressing its view?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* The necessary Statutory Instruments will be laid and can be discussed. I want to disabuse the hon. Member's mind that this has anything to do with taxation. This is something related to the Post Office finances and Post Office finances alone.

*Mr. Eric Fletcher:* Do I understand that the increase in local telephone calls from 2d. to 3d. applies only to kiosks and not to private subscribers, and if so, why?

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* It applies only to public call boxes. It does not apply to the other type of calls because, as Members on both sides know, in 1949 there was a Bill before the House which had certain disagreeable features and was withdrawn. My mind is not closed to the necessity of looking at that problem again, because it is not right that only persons in public call boxes should meet the whole of the charges that are to be made.

*Mr. R. V. Grimston:* Is it not a fact that if the Post Office were to receive payment from other Government Departments for services rendered there would still be according to the right hon. Gentleman's statement, a small surplus, and that these extra charges would, for the time being at all events, be unnecessary.

*Mr. Ness Edwards:* I cannot with any assurance or confidence give the House the assurance that if these charges were not imposed there would be a Commercial Account surplus at the end of the year. There is grave doubt about

(Continued on page 6).

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### From Week to Week

IRONY OF THE WEEK: "I know this Budget will not be popular, but I claim that it is honest." (Mr. Gaitskell).

"The whole of our civilisation rests upon the possession of the means of payment. It need not so rest, but it does in fact so rest. Taxation in money, fines as a punishment for legal offences, and other devices, quite apart from the use of money as a medium of exchange, are all devised with a view to make the power of the creation of money the fundamental power of civilisation. This power is fraudulent both in fact and ownership." *The Times* calls the Budget a bad Budget. It doesn't dislike it nearly enough to establish it as an honest Budget. Mr. Gaitskell's honesty is the honesty of Robin Hood who took all you had and gave you back your car fare.

• • •  
*Everybody's* has noticed the muttering and grumbling about the Census. "That is the loyal Britisher's way of blowing off steam—and, after all, it amounts to no more than a hiss." Well, quite a lot of people have been driven from the stage by hissing.

• • •  
 "The Emperor's former progresses pale into insignificance when compared with what has been planned for to-morrow. . . . General MacArthur's triumphal progress from the Embassy to the Haneda airport involves a distance of some 10 miles. As his car moves in the early morning light through the newly swept streets. . . . The Japanese police expect some millions of Japanese to line the route to make obeisance to their beloved leader. In the words of the headquarters statement the Japanese will 'bow in humble appreciation to the Supreme Commander who came into Japan with the surrender. . . ." (*The Times*, April 16.)

If Congress doesn't fall for him, had the victorious Russians not better invite him to take Stalin's place? Or the Germans Hitler's? Or the French Petain's? Or the British Churchill's? The only people in the world contented with their ruler seems to be the people brought to their knees by the first atomic bomb.

Or is this the interpretation:— ". . . his authority will be respected and guarded by the subjects themselves, it will receive an apotheosis in the admission that with it is bound up the well-being of every citizen of the State, for upon it will depend all order in the common life of the pack. . . ."—"Our Ruler" (*The Protocols*).

### From The Borough

By the Rev. GEORGE CRABBE (1810).

Masons are ours, Freemasons—but, alas!  
 To their own bards I leave the mystic class;  
 In vain shall one, and not a gifted man,  
 Attempt to sing of this enlighten'd clan:  
 I know no word, boast no directing sign,  
 And not one token of the race is mine;  
 Whether with Hiram, that wise widow's son,  
 They came from Tyre to royal Solomon,  
 Two pillars raising by their skill profound,  
 Boaz and Jachin through the East renown'd:  
 Whether the sacred books their rise express,  
 Or books profane, 'tis vain for me to guess;  
 It may be, lost in date remote and high,  
 They know not what their own antiquity:  
 It may be too, derived from cause so low,  
 They have no wish their origin to show:  
 If, as crusaders, they combined to wrest  
 From heathen lords the land they long possess'd;  
 Who were at first some harmless club, who made  
 Their idle meetings solemn by parade;  
 Is but conjecture—for the task unfit,  
 Awe-struck but mute, the puzzling theme I quit:  
 Yet, if such blessings from their order flow,  
 We should be glad their moral code to know;  
 Trowels of silver are but simple things,  
 And aprons worthless as their apron-strings;  
 But if indeed you have the skill to teach  
 A social spirit, now beyond our reach;  
 If man's strong passions you can guide and bind,  
 And plant the virtues in the wayward mind;  
 If you can wake to Christian love the heart,  
 In mercy, something of your powers impart.

But as it seems, we masons must become  
 To know the secret, and must then be dumb;  
 And as we venture for uncertain gains,  
 Perhaps the profit is not worth the pains.

When Bruce, that dauntless traveller, thought he stood  
 On Nile's first rise! the fountain of the flood,  
 And drank exulting in the sacred spring,  
 The critics told him it was no such thing;  
 That springs unnumber'd round the country ran,  
 But none could shew him where they first began:  
 So might we feel, should we our time bestow,  
 To gain these secrets and these signs to know;  
 Might question still if all the truth we found,  
 And firmly stood upon the certain ground;  
 We might our title to the mystery dread,  
 And fear we drank not at the river-head.

### On Planning The Earth

By GEOFFREY DOBBS.

K.R.P. Publications, Ltd.

6/- (Postage extra).

## Freemasonry

## Mgr. Dillon's Edinburgh Lectures of 1884 Republished

## "THE WAR OF ANTICHRIST WITH THE CHURCH"

## REFERENCES TO T.S.C.:—

T.S.C., May 21, 1949: "... there has come into our hands a copy of the lectures delivered by Monsignor George F. Dillon, Missionary Apostolic, Sydney, in Edinburgh in 1884 . . ."

June 4. (From Week to Week).

June 18. Palmerston and Freemasonry. Three chapters from Dr. Dillon's "War of Antichrist with the Church."

June 25. former continued.

July 2. paragraph. page 8 (postponement of completion: "dealing as it does, with the virtual attainment of 'the object of the labour of ages' . . . undesirable . . . should be divided.")

July 9. Quotation of chapters completed. Enquiry for further copies of book. Announcement that a photostatic copy had been prepared.

July 16. "The *Little Tiger* of the Revolution." ("Among the documents reproduced by Dillon . . .")

(Page 4) "To date, the above work, the availability of which we asked our readers to test has been reported . . ."

July 23. "Freemasonry and the Revolution." ("The following documentary notes . . .")

Before proceeding to a eulogy which some of our readers may consider extravagant, we enter a mild protest on the score of the following words on the dust cover of the re-edited Edinburgh Lectures of Mgr. Dillon now published (April 10, 1951) by The Britons Publishing Society at the price of 5/-:

"No advertisement for it produced a reply, no effort discovered a clue to a trace of a copy anywhere. A fortunate acquaintance with Father Fahey caused him to lend from his archives his precious copy for this re-printing and to write a preface for it."

Our protest is a mild protest because we are completely indifferent to every peccadillo of personal 'credit'-snatching in the accepted acquisitive sense. Our objective is Social Credit, an objective which evidently is not universally shared. When we were asked, at the time of our first revelation of the nature of Dr. Dillon's work, and what it entailed for British politics, and world politics, whether we would republish the text of his Lectures, we said 'no,' that it seemed to us to fall particularly within the field of Ecclesiastical Authority, particularly in view of its explicit connection with the Encyclical, *Humanum Genus*; that its relation to Social Credit was secondary, though important, as that of any other exposure of obstruction, Judaism, and all the brood of heretical beliefs and subversive intrigues. If, on this ground, anyone should conclude that this note is superfluous, we invite him to think again.

One more point:— Mgr. Dillon's work in its new guise is called "Grand Orient Freemasonry Unmasked—as the Secret Power behind Communism." Dr. Dillon's evidence leads to the conclusion that Lord Palmerston was Grand

Patriarch of the Illuminati, and, "as such, the Ruler of all the secret societies of the world." For all we know, the Grand Orient Lodge of France may have swallowed its parent; but it would not be serviceable to opposition to the present evil rulership of mankind should any false limitation be set to its identity. As Fr. Fahey says in his Preface, replacing the original preface by Dr. Dillon, the object of the author was to give a clear outline of the "whole question of secret, atheistic organisation, its origin, its nature, its history in the last century and in this [18th and 19th], and its unity of Satanic purpose in a wonderful diversity of forms."

We have no fault to find with the abbreviation of the text (107 lines of the original and 19 pages near the close have been removed) or the notes (128 lines do not appear); while in one instance 40 lines of useful quotation from a cited document have been added.

Nothing in the foregoing is in any sense a qualification or a reservation of our opinion that the conjoined work of Fr. Fahey and The Britons Publishing Society is an event of major importance in world politics. Everything possible should be done to secure for the book the widest possible distribution. We make no attempt to review it. The nature of its contents should be already known and familiar to readers with the extensive extracts before them which we published two years ago.

Fr. Fahey's preface, however, deserves special notice, for in it the discussion has been carried farther than the events preceding 1884, though not to the point, in which we are particularly interested, of the identification *in person and in place* of the heads of the world's present mischief makers. The *nature* of the mischief we know, and how far it percolates in society. "Mgr. Dillon," says Fr. Fahey, "does not speak explicitly of the two currents of thought and action proceeding from the Masonic French Revolution, namely, the current of Rousseauist-Lockian-Masonic Liberalism and the current of Socialism and Communism. Implicitly, however, he does so when, on the one hand, he foreshadows the United States of Europe and World Federation, and, on the other, quotes the infamous Declaration of the International in 1868."

This Preface is also valuable for its quotations from the Encyclical *Humanum Genus*, which is as elusive as the publishers correctly assert the daughter work itself to be, and all that is said concerning the Naturalistic Messianism of the Jewish nation is deserving of close study. The following seems to us to be correct:— "The Jewish nation is a *non-secret* organised naturalistic Force, that is to say its naturalistic opposition to the Mystical Body of Christ is openly proclaimed. Freemasonry, the organised naturalistic Force acting in subordination to and in conjunction with the Jewish nation is a *secret* society or group of societies, for its naturalism or anti-Supernaturalism is *secret or camouflaged*."

The following words, *inter alia*, of Pope Leo XIII. are cited:—

"Freemasonry is not only not opposed to the plans of Socialists and Communists, but looks upon them with the greatest favour, as its leading principles are identical with theirs."

(Fr. Fahey alleges that "It is regrettable that the Encyclical on Freemasonry is omitted from the collection of the Letters of Pope Leo XIII, published by the Bruce Publishing

\* Unstated in our pages, two readers at least did, in fact, obtain copies on loan through their local Municipal libraries.

Company, Milwaukee.”)

Also bearing on the Encyclical is the following:—

“In the Encyclical Letter, *Humanum Genus*, Pope Leo XIII. condemns the Naturalism of Freemasonry and not only makes no distinction between the different branches of Freemasonry, but teaches that no such distinction is to be made. He alludes to the controversy about God, or rather about the ancient landmark of the Great Architect of the Universe, between Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry and the French Grand Orient, but says that the fact that there has recently been a controversy about such a fundamental truth of the natural order as the existence of God is a clear proof of the inevitably corrupting influence of Masonic Naturalism or Anti-Supernaturalism. The Pope does not exempt from condemnation the sections of Freemasonry that retain the ancient landmark. No, the condemnation of Freemasonry in the Encyclical is universal without any attenuation in favour of what is called Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry. The text of Pope Leo XIII with regard to God runs as follows:

“Although as a rule they (the Freemasons) admit the existence of God, they themselves openly confess that they do not all firmly assent to this truth and hold it with unwavering conviction. For they do not attempt to hide the fact that this question of God is the chief source and cause of discord amongst them: nay, it is well known that recently it has been the subject of a serious disagreement in their ranks. As a matter of fact, however, they allow their members the greatest licence on the point, so that they are at liberty to hold that God exists or that God does not exist, and those who obstinately affirm that there is no God are admitted just as readily as those who, while asserting that there is a God, nevertheless have wrong ideas about Him, like the pantheists. This is purely and simply the suppression of the truth about God while holding on to an absurd caricature of the Divine Nature.”

PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 3)

it, and it would be quite wrong of me to mislead the House about it.

House of Commons: April 5, 1951.

### Durham County Council (Appointment of Teachers)

Miss Irene Ward asked the Minister of Education whether he will now make a statement on the results of the conversations between the National Union of Teachers and the Durham County Council

Mr. Hollis asked the Minister of Education whether he will now make a statement concerning the recent conversations between representatives of the Durham County Council and the National Union of Teachers about the appointment of teachers in Durham.

Mr. Tomlinson: No agreement was reached at the meeting. The Durham local education authority did not see their way to abandon their practice of questioning teachers about their union membership. In the result a situation arose which constituted a definite threat to the education service. I have, therefore, taken action against the local education authority, as I warned them last November I should, under Section 68 of the Education Act, 1944.

Miss Ward: In view of the fact that this is a free

Assembly supporting the Minister in his action, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, for the purpose of the record, he will publish his letter in HANSARD, so that it may be a guidance to those who come after this House of Commons?

Mr. Tomlinson: Yes. The letter can be published in HANSARD. It has already been published in another place.

Mr. Hollis: Has the attention of the right hon. Gentleman been called to the statement—the alleged statement—of a member of the Durham County Council, made subsequently to this letter, that his letter does not forbid answering the so-called obnoxious questions? Will the right hon. Gentleman make it categorically clear whether he agrees with that interpretation or not?

Mr. Tomlinson: That is something which has not been brought to my notice until this moment. I should like time to think about it before commenting on it.

Mr. Blyton: Is my right hon. Friend aware that Middlesex County Council ask questions about political faith, and as the National Union of Teachers have not the guts to take action against them—[HON. MEMBERS: “Oh.”]—yes, it is true—is he prepared to issue a direction against Middlesex County Council?

Mr. Tomlinson: In circumstances similar to the circumstances that have already arisen in Durham I will direct the Middlesex County Council or any other local authority.

Miss Horsbrough: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if the fact of his sending this letter, and the words that it contains, do not now show that he regrets the decision of the council, which he, and those who sit behind him, refused to regret on 13th March?

Mr. Tomlinson: I regret a lot of things about this business. My principle regret is that the interests of the children seem to be taking third, fourth and fifth place instead of first.

Mr. James Hudson: Does the possibility of action against the Middlesex County Council or any similarly acting county council depend only upon initiative taken by the National Union of Teachers, or can any step be taken by the Ministry where the Union fail to carry out their obligations?

Mr. Tomlinson: My responsibility is to see that the administration of education is maintained.

Following is the letter:

3rd April, 1951.

Sir,—I am directed by the Minister of Education to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 2nd, 1951, and to state that he has noted the information contained therein.

The Minister recognises that the Authority have not proceeded to implement their original intention of serving dismissal notices on their employees who did not produce by a prescribed date evidence of membership of a union or appropriate professional organisation. The procedure, however, which they have been following recently of asking candidates for appointments to teaching posts at their disposal whether they are members of such a body and the modified procedure which it is now proposed to follow instead are no less objectionable. For whether it is put to all the candidates for appointment to a particular post or only to the candidate who is considered to be most suitable for appointment, an inquiry about membership of a union or other appropriate organisation must be presumed to be a determining factor in the Authority's choice. Otherwise there would be no point in asking it.

The Minister warned the Authority in his letter of November 22nd, that if, as a consequence, of their action, the education service was, or appeared likely to be endangered, he would be obliged to inter-

vene. Since a considerable number of teachers in the Authority's service is now, as a direct consequence of the Authority's action, considering resignation from that service, there is a definite risk that the Authority will be unable to discharge their statutory obligations under the Education Acts.

In all the circumstances the Minister is satisfied that the Authority have acted and are proposing to act unreasonably with respect to their power of appointment of and control over teachers. Accordingly, the Minister, in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 68 of the Education Act, 1944, hereby directs the Authority to refrain from taking any steps to ascertain whether applicants for teaching posts at the disposal of the Authority are, or intend to become, members of a trade union or a professional organisation.

I am to request that the receipt of this letter may be acknowledged and that the Minister may be given an immediate assurance that the authority will comply with the direction forthwith.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. N. HEATON.

Authorised under Section 3 (2)  
of the Education Act, 1944.

### Sulphur Supplies

*Mr. Osborne* asked the President of the Board of Trade if the supplementary quota of 19,000 tons of sulphur which is being given by the United States Department of Commerce to meet our current production needs will be sufficient to avoid the previously anticipated 40 per cent. cut in rayon production; and if he will make a statement.

*Mr. H. Wilson:* The 19,000 tons provided by the United States authorities are to cover the period until export allocations for the second quarter of the year are notified. Until our allocation is known, I cannot say whether or not the effect on rayon production will be of the magnitude previously anticipated.

*Mr. Osborne:* As the Minister warned the industry that there would be this 40 per cent. cut, is he aware that it will mean an increase in the cost of utility garments as well as a shortage of supplies? Cannot he say to the trade and to the nation that this 19,000 tons of sulphur will at least keep us going for the next three months?

*Mr. Wilson:* I said that a cut of the order of 40 per cent. would be inevitable if the allocation were not increased above 81,000 tons. Until I get a clear statement that we are to get more than 81,000 tons in the second quarter, I cannot give the assurance for which the hon. Gentleman rightly asks.

*Mr. R. S. Hudson:* Even if the allocation of raw sulphur is sufficient to avoid this cut, would the right hon. Gentleman explore the possibility of substantially increasing the production of sulphuric acid in Germany in order to get increased supplies from there?

*Mr. Wilson:* We are doing everything possible, and allowing free importation of sulphur and sulphur products from wherever they may be found. It is a very long job indeed to increase the production of sulphuric acid, particularly in this country.

*Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre:* In view of the low delivery of sulphur compared with what we want in the first quarter, is this figure of 19,000 tons to be taken as an advance on what we are to receive in the second quarter and as having

nothing to do with the possible increase required in the first quarter?

*Mr. Wilson:* We all hope that this will be 19,000 tons in addition to the figure of 81,000 tons, but although we have made many representations and asked for more information for industry, in order to know where it stands, we have still had no confirmation of that.

*Mr. Harrison:* Will my right hon. Friend see if there are any prospects of supplies of synthetic or manufactured sulphur, so that we may be relieved of trespassing on supplies from the United States of America?

*Mr. Wilson:* I am not aware of synthetic or manufactured sulphur, but we are pushing ahead very fast, as I have explained to the House, with the use of anhydrites, pyrites, spent oxide and other substances.

*Mr. Drayson:* Will the Minister assure us that he is doing all that he can to facilitate the importation of sulphur chemicals? Is he aware that these chemicals are available on the Continent, but that the 33½ per cent. *ad valorem* duty makes the price to the manufacturers prohibitive? Will he discuss this matter with the Treasury to see if, while the shortage exists, the duty can be waived?

*Mr. Wilson:* This seems to be another question. Many manufacturers in this country have been buying sulphur and other products at four, five and six times the American price, so I would not have thought that the duty which the hon. Gentleman has mentioned would stand in the way of importation.

### Raw Cotton Supplies

*Mr. Assheton* asked the President of the Board of Trade if he will now make a further statement with regard to supplies of raw cotton.

*Mr. H. Wilson:* I regret that I am not yet able to make a further statement.

*Mr. Assheton:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the increasing anxiety about this matter? How soon will he be able to make a further statement?

*Mr. Wilson:* I have, I think, already stated in the House what is the allocation of raw cotton granted by the United States Government. There has been a commodity conference on cotton, but there will be no further action taken by them until the prospects for the new crop year are available.

*Mr. Osborne:* Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that the supplies of raw cotton are adequate to meet the rearmament demands?

*Mr. Wilson:* I have said on a number of occasions that I am not at all satisfied that the allocations of cotton granted to us, even allowing for the very big purchases which are being made in other countries, are adequate to meet our requirements.

*Mr. Harrison:* Has my right hon. Friend made inquiries into the possibility of increasing supplies from Egypt and the Sudan?

*Mr. Wilson:* We have scoured the earth for supplies of cotton and we have got increased supplies wherever they can be got.

### Foreign Countries (Wool Requirements)

*Mr. Osborne* asked the President of the Board of Trade what official confirmation he has received from the United States Government of their intention to purchase for stockpiling purposes 350,000,000 pounds of wool; what representations he has made to them; and if he will make a statement on the effect of such stockpiling on the cost of clothing.

*Mr. H. Wilson:* The requirements of wool of the United States and of other countries for all purposes including stockpiling will be among the matters to be considered by the Wool Committee of the International Materials Conference which is meeting at the present time in Washington. In these circumstances, I should prefer not to make any statement on this subject for the present.

*Mr. Osborne:* While not wishing to embarrass the Minister while negotiations are going on, may I ask whether he has been officially informed by the United States authorities that they intend to stockpile to this extent?

*Mr. Wilson:* No, Sir, we have had no official intimation to this effect, though information has reached us from usually reliable channels which suggest that there was something in this story.

*Mr. Paget:* Is not the trouble here that the American Government have not adopted bulk buying and that, in consequence, private buyers have forced up the price?

*Mr. Wilson:* The world wool problem is not a question of whether it is bulk bought or privately bought, but of how much is being bought.

### Drunkenness (Metropolitan Area)

*Mr. Dodds* asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for drunkenness took place in the Metropolitan Police district during the calendar year 1950; and what was the comparable figure for 1946.

*The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ede):* Sixteen thousand seven hundred and sixty. The comparable figure for 1946 was 9,107.

*Mr. J. Hudson:* In view of the deplorable increase in the number of cases of drunkenness in the Metropolitan area and the decision of the House of Commons to increase the facilities for drinking during the Festival of Britain, has any thought been given to the necessity for greater safeguards in the supply of drink during the Festival of Britain?

*Mr. Ede:* The figures which I have given to the House have caused me very serious concern, and I am investigating the causes which can be assigned to them and what action, if any, can be taken to secure a reversal of the position.

*Mr. Shepherd:* As there was a greater consumption of liquor in 1946 than in 1950, is not the obvious remedy to increase the supply.

*Mr. Somerville Hastings:* Can my right hon. Friend say whether this unfortunate result is to be found only in London or whether there has been an increase in the figures in other large towns?

*Mr. Ede:* I regret to say that such figures as I have been able to examine as a result of the reports of Brewster Sessions, and so on, indicate that this trend is prevalent all over the country.

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