

THE SOCIAL CREDITOR

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 27. No. 21.

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Postage: home 1½d. and abroad 1d.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1952.

6d. Weekly.

From Week to Week

ALIBI: Mr. Churchill, at Ottawa, claimed to have made his living by selling — words.

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During one month, external assistance to India (that sub-continent to whom the British tax-payer owes so much for his having conferred so many benefits) has comprised: —

(1) A Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has arrived in India. After preliminary talks with Ministers and officials in New Delhi the Mission has set out on a tour of the country, and it is expected to recommend a loan to finance certain of India's long cherished development plans.

(2) Following a visit to the U.S.A. by the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission (mentioned in the report for September) it has been announced that the services of five specialists on various aspects of dam construction and design will be made available to India shortly under President Truman's Point Four Programme.

(3) A senior official of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is to visit India to help finalise the Australian contribution of technical equipment under the Technical Co-operation Programme of the Colombo Plan.

(4) The Ford Foundation which sent a Mission to India in August has made a grant of two million dollars for the expansion of agricultural extension services in selected Indian Districts.

(5) The press has reported the arrival on 28th November of the Chief of the Antibiotic and Insecticide Section of the World Health Organisation of the United Nations with another expert and two specially trained Indians to start work on the establishment of the Government penicillin factory at Poona.

(6) Other recent visitors and advisers to India include a United Kingdom expert on animal genetics, a United Kingdom radio engineer, an expert on criminology and penology (Dr. W. C. Reckless) and a population expert (Professor P. K. Whelpton) from the United Nations.

It will be noticed (if without undue demonstrativeness by 'reputable' economists) that each of the items enumerated involves (a) finance and (b) capital (*i.e.*, factory) development, in some cases on a very large scale. There is no reason, therefore, why it should weaken materially the complaint made by a delegate to the F.A.O. Meeting in Rome that the help received by India for her *agricultural* programme was "both meagre and tardy."

It is not intended to turn the world into a fertile field, but to turn what fertile fields remain into factories.

By building and equipping factories consumer purchasing-power is distributed to remove from the market a part of the production of factories already built and equipped. Constant expansion is (by arrangement with dealers in financial credit) the condition of (partial) solvency in both agriculture and industry. By this means real credit is either alienated from the individual to whom it naturally belongs or it is destroyed. It stands out a mile that it is no longer 'governments' in the accepted meaning of the term who are effecting this gigantic expropriation, but 'missions' and 'commissions' which are instruments of Finance, which has obtained for them (on tick) a kind of legal clothing, or cover. In other words, the pit (which is bottomless?) into which the world is being thrust is a conspiratorial device. When does the impeachment begin?

• • •

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Truman "both hope that the initiative taken by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [so it is the Bank which 'takes the initiative'] will lead to a solution of the Iranian oil problem acceptable to all the interests concerned." (*The Daily Telegraph*, January 10.) We are reminded of a cross-examination by the late Sir Edward Carson of an individual whom he desired to discredit: "D'ye dhrink?" — "That's my business." — "Quite so. But have ye any ither business?" There is one "interest," and all the others that are effective are the same. "The World Bank is making quiet plans to run the Anglo-Iranian oil plant as it seems that the British and the Iranians are now in a mood to accept this way out." (*B.C. Economic Times*, January 12.)

From "A History of the Jews in England"

(Cecil Roth)

"A new chapter in the history of the community opened with the coming of William of Orange in 1688. The expedition which led to the Glorious Revolution, inspired as it was by Englishmen and executed by Dutchmen, was to a large extent financed by Jews. Francisco Lopez Suasso, of the Hague, subsequently raised to the dignity of Baron d'Avernas le Gras, advanced the prince the enormous sum of two million crowns, free of interest, for his adventure. (It is said that he refused a receipt, on the plea that if the enterprise were successful, he would certainly be repaid, whereas if it were not, he would no less certainly lose)." (page 184).

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"In 1774, the Postmaster General again gave orders that, while 'the industrious poor of all nations' could be transported to England gratis, Jews are not to be admitted on board the packets unless they paid full passage money (Advertisement of October 10, 1774)" (page 234, footnote).

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: November 27, 1951.

Interest Rates

Mr. Austen Albu asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government whether he has considered the effect of the increase of the rate of interest on loans to local authorities by the Public Works Loan Board on the operation of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

Mr. Michael Foot asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government whether he has considered the effect of the increase of interest rates upon the operation of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts; and whether he will amend the Acts in order to overcome the disadvantages from which would-be purchasers under the Acts may not suffer.

Mr. H. Macmillan: I trust that the adverse effect of increased rates on borrowings under these Acts will be balanced by the general benefit to credit and the value of money. I am glad that the hon. Gentlemen are so keen on the purchase of houses by individuals.

Mr. Albu: In view of the answer that the right hon. Gentleman gave to Question 19, does he think the policy of making more houses available for sale at increased loan charges will encourage the giving of houses to those most in need of them?

Mr. Macmillan: This is really not the moment when the hon. Gentleman would expect me to debate the question of the loan charges. There will be a later opportunity for that, and I am quite prepared to discuss it then.

Floating Debt

Mr. W. T. Williams asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the total Floating Debt is owed other than to persons domiciled in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: I regret that this information is not available.

Mr. Williams: Can the Minister explain why it is not available? Is he aware that a number of people in other spheres of public life have made estimates of this and that it is suggested in some places that the total is as great as 40 per cent? Can he confirm or deny that?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: As 92 per cent. of the Floating Debt is in the form of Treasury Bills which, as the hon. Member is no doubt aware, are bearer documents, it would pass the ingenuity of man to make an assessment of who holds them at a particular moment.

Purchase Tax

Mr. Rupert De la Bère asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government can now give consideration to the removal of the Purchase Tax from all household and manufactured goods, with the exception of luxury articles.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: It is difficult to define luxury articles in such a manner as would be generally acceptable, and in addition to that there is the need for revenue. My right hon. Friend will, of course, be considering this and

other taxes before the Budget.

Mr. De la Bère: Is my hon. Friend aware of the sweet reasonableness of my request? Would it not be possible to do something to remove the Purchase Tax from the necessities of everyday life?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: My hon. Friend will appreciate that this and other matters have to be taken into account in connection with the general financial arrangements of the year. I will ensure that my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer is apprised of what my right hon. Friend has said.

Mr. De la Bère: I thank my hon. Friend very much.

Mr. I. Mikardo: Will the Financial Secretary be good enough to send a copy of his reply to the Question to my opponent in the recent Election, who is reported as having given a categorical undertaking that the removal of Purchase Tax would be the very first act of a Conservative Government?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: No, Sir. It is no part of the policy of this Government to indulge in the despatch of unnecessary publications.

Old Age Pensioners (Coal)

Miss Elaine Burton asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the scheme by which old age pensioners obtain their tobacco at a cheaper rate, so that it includes similar concessions for fuel, at least during the winter months.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: No, Sir. The tobacco token scheme allows an abatement of tax. There is no tax on coal.

Miss Burton: Is not the hon. Gentleman aware that in the cold weather fuel means more to old age pensioners than anything else? Would he not consider some slight reduction in this matter? Is he aware that last week the Government refused to reduce the cost of licences for radio to old age pensioners on the ground that they cost very little? Are the Government prepared to do anything at all for them in this matter of fuel?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: A case where no abatement of tax is involved, such as this is not a matter for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor. What the hon. Lady has in mind, I think, is an increased payment in kind in respect of old age pensioners. On that subject I have nothing to add to what my right hon. Friend the Minister for National Insurance said on 19th November. . .

Regulations and Orders

Mr. Charles Grey asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury the total number of Regulations and Orders made or renewed since the present Government has taken office.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: During the period 27th October to 24th November, 1951, 146 Regulations, Orders, etc., were made and none were renewed.

Lieut.-Colonel Marcus Lipton: Has the Financial Secretary personally examined all the Regulations and Orders made since 27th October?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: I have performed all the duties imposed upon me by Parliament.

Imports (Eastern Europe)

Mr. Irving asked the President of the Board of Trade the total value of foodstuffs imported from Eastern Europe, particularly Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania, during the last two years; and the value of commodities imported from the same source during the period.

Mr. Hopkinson: The value of foodstuffs imported from Eastern Europe (excluding Finland and Yugoslavia) in 1950 was £31.6 million, and in the first nine months of this year £40.4 million; total imports during the same periods were £63.2 million and £67.1 million.

The details of these imports are as follows:

Value £'000

	Food and Drink (i)		All other Imports	
	Year 1950	January-September, 1951	Year 1950	January-September, 1951
Hungary	328	—	46	4
Bulgaria	1	0	52	46
Roumania	373	1,274	197	114
Soviet Union	13,621	21,855	20,603	17,642
Poland	14,191	14,111	4,973	2,408
Eastern Germany	(ii)	—	(ii)	2,001
Czechoslovakia	3,084	3,136	5,698	4,557
TOTAL	31,598	40,376	31,569	26,772

(i) Class I (less tobacco) of the Official Import List.

(ii) Imports from Eastern Germany were not shown separately prior to 1951.

National Finance (Food Subsidies)

Mr. Osborne asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on food subsidies for each year separately since the end of the war; and what has been the average price level of the food subsidised taking 1945 as 100 per cent. basis.

Sir A. Salter: The following are the amounts spent on food subsidies, starting with the financial year 1945-46:

£265.5 million.	£484.5 million.
£325 million.	£424.8 million.
£391.6 million.	£400.3 million.

The average price levels of subsidised foods have been calculated for the calendar years starting with 1945 and taking that year as 100.

The average prices asked for in the second part of the Question are:

100.	113.2.
101.5.	120.6.
102.3.	127.7.

Mr. Lewis asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give the cost of food subsidies in each of the six years following the First and Second World Wars.

Sir A. Salter: The cost of food subsidies since the Second World War has been as follows:

	£million
1945-46	265.5
1946-47	325.0
1947-48	391.6
1948-49	484.5
1949-50	424.8
1950-51	400.3

The main element in these figures is the net trading deficit of the Ministry of Food, incurred in order to keep down the

cost to the consumer of basic foodstuffs. During and immediately after the First World War, it was the Ministry's general policy to be self-supporting. It did, however subsidise the growing of potatoes at a cost of £965,000 in 1918-19. There was a bread subsidy, for which the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies accounted, costing approximately £50 million in 1918-19, £50.5 million in 1919-20, and £39.7 million in 1920-21. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland in 1921-22 incurred a total loss of £18.2 million on a guarantee of minimum prices for wheat and oats.

(Continued on page 7)

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THE SOCIAL CREDITER

This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *Home and abroad, post free:*
One year 30/-; Six months 15/-; Three months 7s. 6d.
 Offices: (Business) 7, VICTORIA STREET, LIVERPOOL, 2, Telephone: CENtral 8509; (Editorial) 49, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD, LIVERPOOL, 15, Telephone: SEFton Park 435.

Vol. 27 No. 21.

Saturday, January 19, 1952.

How Much Do You Know?

How much do you know of the fantastic facts that came to light in Canada when a Russian cipher clerk walked out of the Soviet Embassy with the spy list in his attache case?

Tauntingly, a Sunday newspaper asks you. This on January 13, 1952. We have just been looking over correspondence with the late Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P. concerning the difficulties he experienced in getting copies of the Report of the Royal Commission early in 1947. The first copies we know to have been sent to England were sent to the editor of this review and 'lost' in the post. When later consignments began to arrive they came in dribbles. Only after 'bombardment' would even H.M. Stationery Office obtain it—to 'run out' of supplies almost immediately. Although there was no evidence of extensive sales, it became unobtainable even in Canada. At one time M.P.s could not get it in the House of Commons. Newspapers would not hear of it. Several Chief Constables in England tracked it down, to the publishers of this journal: they were the sole vendors.

What wasn't news in 1946 is news in 1952. As the newspaper says: 'fantastic'!

A Note on Motor Insurance

The following throws some light on the way in which institutions extend their control over individuals by means of forms, questionnaires and declarations demanded of the latter. In many cases there is no sanction behind these demands until they are established by custom, and they may be resisted simply by being struck out before the form is signed.

A reader was recently sent a Motor Accident Report Form from a large Insurance Company. At the bottom was the following statement for signature:

"I/We hereby authorise the Company and/or any Solicitor(s) instructed by them, to deal with all matters arising from this incident in their discretion and, if they deem it expedient, to admit liability and/or negligence on my/our behalf in connection with any claim(s) or legal proceedings."

Enquiries in a friendly quarter in the insurance trade elicited the advice that there was nothing to prevent a policy holder from crossing out the words "and/or negligence" if he did not admit negligence, and he also gave a brief account of the case, celebrated in insurance circles, which caused these words to be added to the declaration on the form.

This was the case of *Groom v. Crocker (1938) 2 All England Reports 394*. Briefly, the circumstances were these:

a car driven by a Mr. Groom, with his brother as passenger, was damaged by a lorry which came out of a side turning onto a major road. The lorry driver, in the view of everyone, was solely to blame, and he was, in fact, fined for dangerous driving. Mr. Groom's brother, who sustained a fractured skull, sued for damages, the insurance company, through the terms of the policy, having control of the proceedings. The insurers of the two vehicles, however, made a 'knock for knock' agreement, which meant that they did not care who paid the damages so long as they were kept as low as possible. Mr. Groom, the driver, therefore, was made a co-defendant, and negligence was admitted on his behalf, but denied on behalf of the lorry driver, presumably on the expectation that a jury would award smaller damages against a brother who had not, in fact, been negligent than against a stranger who had been negligent. Even so, the brother got £900 damages, but Mr. Groom, the driver, brought an action for libel, and recovered £1,000 damages, and this was upheld in the Court of Appeal. This he was able to do only because a letter had been sent from the defendant's to the plaintiff's Company's solicitors containing this 'admission' of negligence on his behalf. He had no redress whatever against the pleading in Court, which was privileged.

The addition of the words "and/or negligence" to the forms, following this case, seems to imply a claim on the part of Insurance Companies to the right of false pleading with impunity if it should be to their financial advantage. This being the state of the trade it is not, perhaps, surprising that compulsion should have to be used to force people to insure. 'Third Party' Motor Insurance was the first compulsory insurance, which opened the way to the rest, and it seems to be responsible for a large proportion of the growing number of road accidents, for it gives drivers the impression that they can kill or injure other people with immunity from any serious or long-term consequences to themselves; and they may also be prepared to run greater risks of death or injury themselves because they are 'covered' against financial consequences. In a world largely ruled by considerations of money it therefore makes driving in such a way that a large number of accidents must inevitably occur a 'financial proposition' for the drivers

"Ike" Clears It with Vishinsky

An Associated Press telegram to the *Vancouver Sun* published on January 9 says reporters in Paris asked Russia's Andrei Vishinsky for comment on Gen. Eisenhower's statement saying, in effect, that he was willing to accept nomination for the U.S. presidency.

"Let him run," said Vishinsky with a chuckle. "I have no objection."

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Theology and Modern Science

The following is a full translation of the allocution which Pope Pius XII delivered on November 22, when he attended the opening of the new academic year of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. It was delivered in Italian. The cross-headings and the paragraphing follow the text of the Osservatore Romano. The Translation is The Tablet's, from whose pages we reproduce it by kind permission of the Editor.

"This meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences brings Us an hour of serene happiness, for which We are grateful to the Almighty. At the same time, it affords Us the welcome opportunity to spend some time in the company of a select group of eminent Cardinals, illustrious diplomats, outstanding personages, and of you yourselves, the members of the Pontifical Academy, who are indeed worthy of the solemnity of the gathering. For, by your research, your unveiling of the secrets of nature, and your teaching of men to direct the forces of nature towards their own welfare, you preach at the same time, in the language of figures, formulæ and discoveries, the unspeakable harmony of the work of an all-wise God.

"Indeed, according to the measure of its progress, and contrary to affirmations advanced in the past, true science discovers God in an ever-increasing degree—as though God were waiting behind every door opened by science. We would even say that from this progressive discovery of God, which is realized in the increase of knowledge, there flow benefits not only for the scientist himself when he reflects as a philosopher—and how can he escape such reflection?—but also for those who share in these new discoveries or make them the object of their own considerations. Genuine philosophers profit from these discoveries in a very special way because, when they take these scientific conquests as the basis for their rational speculations, their conclusions thereby acquire a greater certainty, while they are provided with clearer illustrations in the midst of possible shadows, and more convincing assistance in establishing an ever more satisfying response to difficulties and objections.

NATURE AND FOUNDATION OF THE PROOFS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

"Thus stimulated and guided, the human intellect approaches that demonstration of the existence of God which Christian wisdom recognizes in those philosophical arguments which have been carefully examined throughout the centuries by giants in the world of knowledge, and which are already well known to you in the presentation of the 'Five Ways' which the Angelic Doctor, St. Thomas, offers as a speedy and safe road to lead the mind to God. We have called these arguments 'philosophical.' This does not mean that they are *a priori* arguments, as they are accused of being by a narrow-minded and confused Positivism. Even though they draw their demonstrative force from the power of human reason, they are nevertheless based on concrete realities, established by the senses and by science.

"In this way, both philosophy and the sciences, by means of activities and methods which are analogous and mutually compatible, carry on their work. Though in different measure, they all make use both of empirical and of rational elements and co-operate in harmonious unity for the discovery of truth.

"But, if the primitive experience of the ancients could

provide human reason with sufficient arguments to demonstrate the existence of God, then with the expanding and deepening of the field of man's experiments, the mark of the Eternal One is discernible in the visible world in ever more striking and clearer light. Hence it seems helpful to re-examine on the basis of new scientific discoveries the classical proofs of the Angelic Doctor (St. Thomas, 1 p., q. 2, art. 3); that is to say, to inquire whether, and in what degree, a very profound knowledge of the structure of the macrocosm and the microcosm contributes towards strengthening these philosophical arguments. It is also helpful to consider, on the other hand, if, and to what degree, these proofs have been weakened, as it is not infrequently affirmed, by the fact that modern physics has formulated new basic principles, ruled out or modified certain ancient ideas, whose content was perhaps judged in the past to be fixed and definitive, such as time, space, motion, causality, substance—into the physical foundations from which they flow—although question which now occupies us. The question, then, is not one of revising philosophical proofs, but rather of inquiring into the physical foundations from which they flow—although limitations of time will oblige Us to restrict Our attention to only some few of these foundations. There is no reason to be fearful of surprises. Not even science itself aims to go outside that world which today, as yesterday, presents itself through these 'five modes of being' whence the philosophical demonstration of the existence of God proceeds and draws its force.

TWO ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COSMOS

"From these 'modes of being' of the world around us, which, in greater or less degree of comprehension, are noted with equal evidence by both the philosopher and the human mind in general, there are two which modern science has, in a marvellous degree, fathomed, verified and deepened beyond all expectations: (1) the mutability of things, including their origin and their end; and (2) the teleological order which stands out in every corner of the cosmos. The contribution thus made by science to the two philosophical arguments, which hinge on these facts and which constitute the first and the fifth ways of St. Thomas, is most notable. To the first way physics, especially, has provided an inexhaustible mine of experiments, revealing the fact of mutability in the deepest recesses of nature, where previously no human mind could even suspect its existence and vastness. Thus physics has provided a multiplicity of empirical facts which are of tremendous assistance to philosophical reasoning. We say 'assistance' because the very direction of these same transformations, precisely in view of the certainty afforded by physics, seems to Us to surpass the value of a mere confirmation, and acquires almost the structure and dignity of a physical argument which is in great part new and more acceptable, persuasive and welcome to many minds.

"With similar richness other sciences, especially the astronomical and the biological sciences, have in our own day contributed to the argument from such a vast array of knowledge and, so to speak, so stupefying a vision of the conceptual unity animating the cosmos, and of the teleology directing its movements, as to anticipate for modern man the joy which the poet imagined in the empyrean heaven when he beheld in God, 'into one volume bound by love, the same that the universe holds scattered through its maze.' (*Paradiso* 33, 85-87.)

"Nevertheless, Providence has disposed that, just as the notion of God, which is so essential to the life of each individual, can be gathered easily from a simple look at the world—in such a way that not to understand the voice of creation is foolishness (*cf.* Sap. 13, 1-2)—so, also, this same idea of God finds confirmation in every new development and progress of scientific knowledge.

"Wishing to give here only a rapid summary of the priceless services rendered by modern science to the demonstration of the existence of God, We shall limit Ourselves, first of all, to the fact of changes, pointing out principally their amplitude and vastness, and, so to speak, their totality, which modern physics meets in the inanimate cosmos. We shall then dwell on the significance of their direction, which is likewise verified by science. Thus, in Our treatment of these points, We shall, so to speak, be lending an ear to a miniature concert of the immense universe, which nevertheless has a voice strong enough to sing 'the glory of Him Who moveth all that is.' (*Paradiso*, 1, 1.)

A. THE MUTABILITY OF THE COSMOS

The Fact of Mutability

(a) IN THE MACROCOSM

"At first sight, it is rightly a source of wonderment to recognize how the knowledge of the fact of mutability has gained ever greater ground, both in the macrocosm and in the microcosm, according as science has made new progress, as though confirming with new proofs the theory of Heraclitus: 'Everything is in flux.' As is known, our own everyday experience brings to light an immense number of transformations in the world around us, both near and far away, particularly the local movement of bodies. But, over and above all these local movements strictly so-called, the manifold chemico-physical changes which take place in the world are equally noticeable, as, for example, the change in the physical state of water in its three phases of steam, liquid and ice. We are aware, also, of the far-reaching chemical effects produced by the use of fire, the knowledge of which goes back to prehistoric times, and of the weathering of rocks and the corruption of vegetable and animal life. This common experience is corroborated by the natural sciences, which have taught people to understand these and other similar changes as processes of destruction and construction of corporeal substances in their chemical elements; that is to say, in their tiniest parts, the chemical atoms. Going still farther, natural science made known that this chemico-physical mutability is not, as the ancients thought, restricted to terrestrial bodies, but even extends to all the bodies of our solar system and of the great universe, which the telescope, and still more the spectroscope, have demonstrated to be composed of the same kind of atoms.

(b) IN THE MICROCOSM

"Nevertheless, in the face of the undeniable mutability of even inanimate nature, there still rises the enigma of the unexplored microcosm. It seemed, in fact, that, unlike the organic world, inorganic matter was in a certain sense immutable. Its tiniest parts, the chemical atoms, were indeed, capable of combining in most various ways, but they appeared to be endowed with a privilege of eternal stability and indestructibility, since they emerged unchanged from every chemical synthesis and analysis. A hundred years ago, the elementary particles were still regarded as

simple, indivisible and indestructible. The same idea prevailed regarding the material energy and forces of the cosmos, especially on the basis of the fundamental laws of the conservation of mass and energy. Some natural scientists went so far as to consider themselves authorized to formulate in the name of their science a fantastic monistic philosophy, whose sorry memory is linked up with the name, among others, of Ernest Haeckel. But in the very lifetime of the latter, towards the end of the last century, even this oversimplified conception of the chemical atom was shattered by modern science. The growing knowledge of the periodic system of chemical elements, the discovery of the corpuscular radiations of radioactive elements, along with many other similar facts, have demonstrated that the microcosm of the chemical atom, with dimensions measured in ten-millionths of a millimetre, is a theatre of continuous mutations, no less than the macrocosm known to all.

IN THE ELECTRONIC SPHERE

"It was in the sphere of electronics that the character of mutability was first established. From the electronic structure of the atom there emanate radiations of light and heat which are absorbed by outside bodies, corresponding to the energy level of the electronic orbits. In the exterior parts of this sphere there takes place the ionization of the atom and the transformation of energy in the synthesis and analysis of chemical combinations. At that time, however, it was possible to suppose that these chemico-physical transformations provided one last refuge for stability, since they did not reach the very nucleus of the atom, which is the seat of its mass and of the positive electric charge which determine the place of the chemical atom in the natural system of the elements, and where it seemed science had found, so to speak, an example of an absolutely stable and invariable being.

AND IN THE NUCLEUS

"But, already at the dawn of the new century, the observation of radioactive processes, which, in their last analysis, were connected with a spontaneous breaking down of the nucleus, began to exclude any such example. Hence, once science had established the fact of instability, reaching down into the deepest depths of known nature, there still remained one further perplexing fact, since the atom was apparently unattackable, at least by human forces, because in the beginning all efforts to hasten or to retard its natural radioactive disintegration, or even to break down inactive nuclei, had failed. The first very modest attempt to break down the nucleus (of nitrogen) goes back to hardly more than three decades ago, and it is only in recent years that it has been possible, by bringing into play tremendous forces, to produce very numerous processes involving the formation and the breaking down of nuclei. Although this result—which, in so far as it contributes to the cause of peace, is certainly to be inscribed among the glories of our century—represents in the field of practical nuclear physics no more than a preliminary step, nevertheless it provides for our consideration an important conclusion; namely, that atomic nuclei are indeed, by many orders of magnitude, more firm and stable than ordinary chemical compositions; but, this notwithstanding, they are also, in principle, subject to similar laws of transformation and hence are mutable.

"At the same time, it was possible to establish that such processes have the greatest importance in the economy

of energy of the fixed stars. In the centre of our sun, for example, according to Bethe, and in the midst of a temperature which goes as high as some twenty million degrees, there takes place a chain-reaction returning upon itself, in which four hydrogen nuclei combine with one nucleus of helium. The energy thus liberated comes to compensate the loss involved in the radiation of the sun itself. Also in modern physical laboratories, through bombardment with particles endowed with tremendous energy or with neutrons, successful efforts are being made to effect transformations of nuclei, as can be seen in the example of the atom of uranium. In this connection, mention must also be made of the effects of cosmic radiation, which can break down even the heaviest atoms, thus not infrequently liberating entire swarms of sub-atomic particles.

"We have desired to cite only some few examples, but such as could establish beyond all possible doubt the explicit mutability of the inorganic world, large and small; the countless transformations of the forms of energy, especially in the chemical decompositions and combinations taking place in the macrocosm and, in no smaller degree, the mutability of chemical atoms, even down to the sub-atomic particles of their nuclei.

The Eternally Immutable Being

"Therefore the scientist of today, directing his gaze more deeply into the heart of nature than his predecessor of a hundred years ago, knows well that inorganic matter is, so to speak, in its innermost being, countersigned with the stamp of mutability, and that, consequently, its existence and its sub-existence demand a reality entirely different, and one which is by its very nature invariable.

"Just as in a picture done in chiaroscuro the figures stand out on a background of darkness, and only in this way achieve the full effect of form and life, so also the image of the Eternally Immutable Being emerges clear and resplendent from the torrent which snatches up and carries off with itself all the material things of the macrocosm and the microcosm in an intrinsic mutability which knows no pause. The scientist who stops on the brink of this immense torrent finds repose in that cry of truth with which God defined Himself: 'I am what I am' (Exodus iii, 14), the God to whom the Apostle gives praise as to the *Pater luminum, apud quem non est transmutatio neque vicissitudinis obumbratio* (James i, 17).

B. THE DIRECTION OF TRANSFORMATIONS

(a) IN THE MACROCOSM; THE LAW OF ENTROPY

"Modern science has not only widened and deepened our knowledge of reality and the vastness of the mutability of the cosmos; it likewise provides us with valuable indications on the direction taken by the processes of nature. As late as a hundred years ago, especially after the discovery of the law of the conservation of energy, it was thought that natural processes were reversible. Consequently, in conformity with the principles of the strict causality, or rather the determination, of nature, an ever-recurring renovation and rejuvenation of the cosmos was regarded as possible. Through the law of entropy, however, discovered by Rudolph Clausius, it was recognized that the spontaneous processes of nature are always accompanied by a diminution of free and utilizable energy. In a closed material system this conclusion must lead, eventually, to the cessation of processes

on a macroscopic scale. This unavoidable fate, from which only hypotheses—sometimes unduly gratuitous—such as that of continued supplementary creation, have endeavoured to save the universe, but which instead stands out clearly from positive scientific experience, postulates eloquently the existence of a Necessary Being.

(b) IN THE MICROCOSM

"In the microcosm, this law, which is basically statistical, is not applicable. Besides, at the time when it was formulated, practically nothing was known regarding the structure and the behaviour of the atom. However, recent atomic research, as well as the unexpected progress of astrophysics, have made it possible to achieve surprising discoveries in this field. Here we can only allude briefly to the results of these discoveries, but they can be summed up by saying that both atomic and intra-atomic development are clearly marked with a sense of direction.

"To illustrate this fact, it will be sufficient to cite the example, already mentioned, of the behaviour of solar energy. The electronic structure of the chemical atoms in the sun's photosphere releases at every moment into the surrounding space a gigantic quantity of radiant energy which does not return. This loss is compensated from within the sun through the formation of helium from hydrogen. The energy thus released comes from the mass of the hydrogen nuclei, which, in the course of this process and in a small degree (7 per cent.), is converted into equivalent energy. Therefore, the process of compensation takes place at the expense of the energy which, originally, in the hydrogen nuclei, exists as a mass. Thus, in the course of billions of years, through a process which is slow yet irreversible, this energy is transformed into radiations. A similar process is found in all radioactive processes, whether they be natural or artificial. Thus here also, in the microcosm strictly and properly so-called, we find a law indicating the direction of evolution, a law which is analogous to the law of entropy for the macrocosms. The direction of spontaneous evolution is determined through the diminution of utilizable energy in the structure and the nucleus of the atom, and, up to the present time, science knows of no processes capable of compensating or annulling this exploitation through the spontaneous formation of nuclei having high energy value.

(To be concluded.)

PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3).

Food Production

Mr. M. MacPherson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he proposes in order to increase the tillage area.

Mr. J. Stuart: I hope for some extension of the 1952 tillage area in Scotland as part of the expansion programme, under which farmers are being asked to maintain at least the present acreage of potatoes and sugar beet, to increase the acreage under wheat, and to secure the greatest possible production of oats and barley for the maintenance of our increasing livestock population. These objectives have already been discussed with the chairmen of agricultural executive committees. The Government have under urgent consideration the whole question of food production, including the optimum balance to be aimed at between crops and livestock production.

Canon and Communism

Under the heading "CANON ATTACKS HOLY WAR ON REDS," the (London) Evening Standard on January 4 published a photograph of Canon Collins underneath it a subscription, 'It is appalling,' and then said:—

Canon L. J. Collins, Canon and Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral, spoke about Communism at a meeting in London to-day.

He was addressing hundreds of students aged 15 to 19 from Britain and overseas, who are attending Christmas holiday lectures in the Central Hall, Westminster.

The lectures have been organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship (a United Nations organisation).

Canon Collins said:

"It seems to me that unfortunately religions make people, or tend to make them, singularly against freedom.

"It is a peculiar thing that the very spirit of religion is freedom and yet those bodies which are created to incorporate religious ideas into an organizational set-up themselves nearly always inspire hindrances to freedom.

"Personally, I believe the church to which I belong makes the gravest possible error in demanding that a person, in order to be a member of the Church of England, must subscribe to the creeds.

"To say that before you can be religious you must subscribe to an intellectual statement of the faith seems to me to be utter nonsense and wholly irreligious.

"The real heart of religion was love. Religious freedom meant fundamentally, freedom to love, from the Christian point of view. Freedom to love in the way God loved.

"True religious freedom, as I see it, is freedom for men and women and young people to live a life in the pattern of Christ; to live a life which really respects personality, regardless of what nation it belongs to or what beliefs it might hold.

"I am not quite sure that in this country we have yet achieved religious freedom. I am not quite sure that we have really eradicated religious intolerance."

Canon Collins said that he spoke as a man who quite blatantly and publicly disbelieved in the Communist

philosophy, and who had never been or so he hoped, a political innocent.

"I believe that in the Communist regime there are bitter cruelties of human personalities which we ought to stand against.

"But with all that preliminary, I think it is appalling religious intolerance for any person, under the guise of standing in the name of Christ—who stands for love—to set out on a crusade which may easily only end in a holy war against Communists and Communism, as though it is the anti-Christ.

"That to me is utterly irreligious.

"If we really have eradicated in this country religious intolerance, if we really stand for religious freedom, we shall stand for permitting a Communist to express his point of view.

"I hope sincerely none of you here who is a Christian will permit yourselves to be caught in the trap of—in the name of religion, in the name of love—behaving in a way which is wholly hate."

The theme of to-day's lectures was religious freedom. Rabbi Leslie Edgar (Senior Minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue) said that religious freedom involved no persecution, no pressure and no compulsion.

"There must be no restriction of opportunity because of a man's religion.

"There must be the right to proclaim one's religion and to propagate it actively."

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Published by the proprietors, K.R.P. Publications Ltd., at 7, Victoria Street, Liverpool, 2. Printed by J. Hayes & Co., Woolton.