

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

To confound schism, may we say that there are not and cannot be "wings" of Social Credit—neither a right wing nor a left wing, a protestant wing nor a catholic wing? As the meaning of words becomes less sharply defined, words and phrases acquire the properties of masks and deceits—as often as not self-deceits (which are deceits at their highest potency in the service of the enemy). We are ready with an example: to *translate* and to *interpret*, the *translator* and the *interpreter*, a *translation* and an *interpretation*, are fundamentally different actions, persons performing fundamentally different actions, and different things. Social Credit is open to understanding, and to presentation, not to interpretation. Its *translation* into action is urgent and most desirable. By one of those happenings which look like coincidence but which may be vastly different in their nature, we are reminded by post as we write these lines that the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and The Fear of the Lord. These are *gifts*—*i.e.*, things given and received from elsewhere, if, by grace, the receiver can receive them, or any of them; and they are *given* to all.

While we are celebrating the obsequies of Mr. Charles Morgan, (*vide Sunday Express*), lamentably departed into the company of the quietist shades, there to divide by a hair falsities about Time and Eternity from their truths, and keep 'em divided, we are not too disconsolate to lift up our hearts with Mr. George Schwartz, whose article "The Committee Shall Have Power. . .", in the *Sunday Times* is full of t-s to be crossed and i-s to be dotted. We will not embarrass him by any further compliment, but ask instead, whether he is "supposed to be" quite sure that the Revolution of Our Times has *not* yet reached these shores and that "the British equivalent of the Fuehrer, Duce, El Supremo or Generalissimo" is not already installed, "fingering his tie, rubbing his chin, and scratching his ear"? After all, "the British equivalent" is subject to all the subtleties.

"There is probably less difference between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee than between Mr. Attlee and Mr. Bevan." (*The Sunday Times*). There is nothing subtle about locking the stable door after the horse has gone.

We have been reading *American Mercury* (25 cents.) containing the article "Freedom's Case Against Dean Acheson" which has been quoted in quarters far from the habits of Mr. Eden, *et al.* The writer is Felix Wittmer, who "on January 3, 1946, with about sixty other lecturers, many of them college professors" was being 'briefed' by

the Honorable Dean Gooderham Acheson, who was soon saying to them that he did not believe the Soviet leaders were bad men. Mr. Wittmer spoke up and asked: "Did it ever occur to you, sir, that that is exactly what the Soviet leaders want you to believe?" There follow this revelation fourteen pages of pretty good evidence against Dean Acheson. What is it worth? Without in the least impugning the sincerity of Mr. Wittmer, we should say just over one ninth of 25 cents., the cost to the consumer of the 128 pages of *American Mercury*. Exposures simply don't count any longer. The exposed thrive on them—look around and see!

We have been asked by several whose names are in every respect very far from being Lot even by marriage (which, in passing, is a name in Hebrew meaning *wrapped-up, hidden, covered*) for an indication of our opinion concerning the National Front Movement founded at Chorley, Lancs., by Mr. Fountaine: "At Last the Truth is Out: Your Country Has Been Betrayed." True enough. Our country has gone on being betrayed for at least three hundred years, and we entirely agree that it is none the better for it. You *might* (with proper facilitation) get enough people to agree that "This country has been betrayed, is being betrayed, is none the better for being betrayed and ought to stop being betrayed" to elect you to the House of Commons—in time. Such an event would be a rather unusual case of the operation of ballot-box democracy; that is to say of something which embodies all of the following: Collectivism, Dialectic Materialism, Totalitarianism, Judaeo-Masonic Philosophy and Policy. These (*vide* the specification published in *The Social Crediter* from time to time) are "The Incompatibles" of Social Credit. We do not believe that any course which is not basically right can prevail. The periodic stripping of the jockeys and their perking-up in fresh, bright, new colours, with whatever seeming reluctance, is a necessary device of the betrayal. Entropy is the rule.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

Supporters of the Social Credit Secretariat and regular readers of *The Social Crediter* are invited to apply for tickets of admission, price 2/6 each, to a Meeting to be held in London on July 12 (6-30 p.m.). Dr. Tudor Jones will address the Meeting.

For correct information concerning the Constitution of THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT,

Social Crediters and others are invited to apply for the Statement published in July, 1949 (*postage 1d.*)

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PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: May 12, 1952.

Floodlighting (Free Current)

Captain Charles Waterhouse asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if he will make a statement as to the directions he will give to the electricity authorities that no current should be supplied free of charge.

Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd: I am not proposing to issue such directions.

Captain Waterhouse: The London Electricity Board apparently made an arrangement to give a free supply of current to the Ministry of Works for floodlighting. Does the Minister consider it right that the cost should be met by domestic consumers? Is that not bad for the economy of publicly-owned services?

Mr. Lloyd: We ought to remember that before the war all the electricity supply companies banded together to make a similar offer for floodlighting. I think it was in 1935. In this case the proposal is to illuminate in this way a small number of public buildings: the Houses of Parliament, Somerset House, Nelson's Column, and so on. It would be rather a pity, simply because the industry is nationalised, if the Minister restrained the Board in what I believe is a helpful gesture on their part.

Captain Waterhouse: Is my right hon. Friend aware that there is no objection at all to the floodlighting, which is very desirable? It is entirely a matter of whether he thinks it wrong in principle that a publicly-owned concern should make a free gift of current either to a Government Department or to anybody else.

Mr. Lloyd: I certainly do not think it should make free gifts as a general rule, but I do not think there is any case for intervening on this occasion.

Mr. Philip Noel-Baker: When electricity was under private enterprise did not the consumers pay as they do now, and did not the consumers in London benefit from floodlighting?

Mr. Nabarro: In view of the unsatisfactory position in regard to electricity, I beg to give notice that I will raise the matter on the Adjournment.

Sugar Bonuses

Mr. F. Willey asked the Minister of Food whether, in view of the prospect of a very good fruit harvest, he will reconsider the number of sugar bonuses.

Dr. Hill: My right hon. and gallant Friend could only increase the number of bonuses by buying more dollar sugar, and that is out of the question for the present.

Mr. Willey: Does the hon. Gentleman agree that statistics show that we have adequate stocks of sugar now, and would it not be rather silly to allow some of our fruit to be wasted by not drawing on those stocks?

Dr. Hill: Stocks do not permit the four bonuses which the hon. Gentleman has in mind. May I remind him that those four bonuses take as much in sugar as the total of the allocation for the whole of the flour and sugar con-

fectionery trades?

Mr. Willey: I have not asked for four bonuses, but extra bonuses.

Ration Books

Mr. Lewis asked the Minister of Food if he is aware that in the new ration books just issued there are 34 coupon pages, against 28 coupon pages in the last issued ration books; and what is the reason for the additional six pages of coupons; and what extra foods it is his intention to bring on to the ration.

Dr. Hill: The ration book was designed to deal with any emergency that might arise before it ceases to be used in May, 1953. The answer to the last part of the question is, "None."

Broadmoor Inquiry (Membership)

The Minister of Health (Mr. Iain MacLeod): With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and that of the House, I should like to fulfil the promise made by my predecessor on Tuesday last, to announce the arrangements for further investigation of the problems raised by the recent incident at Broadmoor.

I am glad to be able to inform the House that the following have agreed to undertake the inquiry:

Mr. J. Scott Henderson, Q.C.—Chairman.

My right hon. and gallant Friend the Member for Leicester, South-East (Captain Waterhouse).

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Grimsby (Mr. Younger).

Dr. P. K. McCowan, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., Medical Superintendent of the Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries, and President of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

The terms of reference are:

"To inquire into the adequacy of the security arrangements at Broadmoor and to make recommendations."

Mr. Peter Remnant: While congratulating my right hon. Friend on his "jump bid," may I ask him whether the proceedings of the inquiry will be held in public or in private and, if the latter, as I hope they will be largely, will he, when he gets the report, consider publication of the findings and recommendations?

Mr. MacLeod: My hon. Friend will realise that the purpose of this investigation is to inquire into security arrangements and from the very nature of the inquiries it is impossible to conduct them in public. But, on the other hand, the question of procedure is a matter for the Committee itself, and I have informed the chairman that if he desires to hold one or more sittings in public to hear any representations that he may think suitable, I should not object to that.

On the question of the publication of the report, I will, of course, give the fullest information that I can give to the House and to the country either by statement or by a White Paper. But, again, my hon. Friend will realise that I cannot undertake to publish the whole of the report because security arrangements and inquiries will probably be involved.

Lieut.-Col. Lipton: Can the right hon. Gentleman give

an assurance that, pending the issue of such report as may be published, no disciplinary steps will be taken against any members of the staff at Broadmoor until the report is available?

Mr. MacLeod: The hon. and gallant Gentleman is no doubt referring to the fact that an investigation has been instituted by the Board of Control into the conduct of an attendant at Broadmoor. There is a special procedure laid down in these matters called "Estacode" and procedure under that has already been started. It would be quite improper for me to interfere in any way with that. On the other hand, I think it reasonable to say that although that inquiry will proceed, and will proceed to its end, the report of the Committee will be received by me before I take action, if action be necessary, on the disciplinary report which I shall receive in due course.

AGRICULTURE

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Research)

Mr. Iain MacLeod asked the Minister of Agriculture how much has been spent on research into foot-and-mouth disease in each of the last three years; how many research stations specialise in this work; and what is the staff employed at each.

Sir T. Dugdale: Research into foot-and-mouth disease is carried out at the Foot-and-Mouth Research Institute at Pirbright, Surrey. The annual expenditure has been as follows:

	£
1949-50	62,000
1950-51	53,000
1951-52	78,000

The scientific staff, including the Director, at present numbers 20.

Wool Prices

Mr. Watkins asked the Minister of Agriculture what was the price of wool per pound during the years 1938, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

Sir T. Dugdale: The average prices per lb. paid for the home wool clips were as follows:

	Pence.
1938	10 (a)
1941	15.5
1944	17.5
1947	17.44
1950	27.05
1951	72 (b)

(a) Estimated average price. Sales were unregulated, and no precise figure is available.

(b) Guaranteed average price.

House of Commons: May 15, 1952.

Food Supplies

Commander J. F. W. Maitland (Horncastle): . . . I suggest that in a world of contracting food supplies there is one very important source, which has not been discussed at all today, from which we can obtain a greater amount of food than ever before. I refer to the sea.

At the Lake Success conference at which these great food questions were discussed it was admitted that there could be a greatly increased food production from the sea. I want to

press upon the Government that they make the greatest effort to investigate new methods to obtain more food from the sea. It may well be our last resort. We in this country should be in a magnificent position to obtain more food in this way. Our country is an island and we have a fleet of ships, and for hundreds of years we have had the reputation of being great fishermen.

But, as I speak, the Icelandic Government have passed a decree which will reduce the amount of white fish landed in this country by nearly a quarter. That is not romancing; it is a fact. As from today a quarter less fish will be available for catching by our trawlers. It is perhaps one of the most serious crises that the fishing industry has had to face.

. . . Nearly a quarter of the fish landed at Grimsby will be cut off by the closing to British trawlers of Icelandic waters. About 33 per cent. will be cut off for Fleetwood and 22 per cent. for Hull. There may be worse to follow, because Iceland have taken advantage of a recent decree by The Hague International Court which allows Norway to extend the territorial line and also to cut out the indentations of her coastline when determining the limits of territorial waters. If the example set by Norway and Iceland is followed in the Faroes, Bear Island and the White Sea, it will cut off practically all the best and highest quality white fishing grounds from British trawlers.

It means that British trawlers are faced with disaster. It means unemployment at Grimsby, Hull and Fleetwood. The Foreign Secretary has addressed a note to the Icelandic Government, and we have not yet heard what is the reply. I want to press upon the Government to the utmost of my power that they should realise the seriousness of the situation. Not only does it mean the loss of a certain amount of very valuable food, but it means that all our trawlers will be completely put out of action. They cannot be sent out to new fishing grounds because they have been specially designed for the grounds they fish. It would mean that we should have to design an entirely new type of trawler.

. . . Here is a case where co-ordination really is needed. I implore the Government to look at this matter in all its seriousness. I am amazed that there has not been greater anxiety in the country regarding a matter which affects our well-being as much as this does, and that greater publicity has not been given to it.

Now I turn to another matter closely akin to what I have been saying. In this country one can have a bit too much of fish. There is no question about it—it is not fish that the Englishman wants to eat. He would like to eat meat. [HON. MEMBERS: "Red Meat."] I want to remind the Government and impress on them the fact that out of fish can come meat. At the present moment we are making in this country 70,000 tons per year of animal feedingstuffs through fish meal. That is a high protein food which our young animals need. At the same time we import 70,000 tons of fish meal. That does not seem to me right at this time of economic crisis. We ought to push on with providing more factories capable of making fish meal. I want to see the Government, and the White Fish Authority in particular, do all they can to see whether we cannot produce more of these protein feedingstuffs from fish from our own resources.

(continued on page 6.)

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

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Saturday, June 7, 1952.

General MacArthur and the Enemy Within*

In an address to the joint session of the Mississippi Legislation on March 22, General MacArthur said that the Truman Government was "steering the United States down the road to Communism as surely as if the Kremlin were charting the course." He pointed out that the pattern of American taxation was being brought into line with the Karl Marx Communist theory, and that as the Government "tears down our structure of constitutional liberty, it rears the threat of converting us into a military State."

Having been away from the American scene for a number of years, it is not surprising that General MacArthur should, upon his return, be forcibly struck by the progress made towards the totalitarian State during his absence. The Socialist policy of "gradualness" has been so successful in all English-speaking countries, that many people either do not realise that their liberties are being filched, or feel that there is nothing the individual can do to halt a "trend." The greatest menace to Western Civilization is not Moscow, as far too many anti-Communists believe, but the deliberate exploitation of the threat of military war to force individuals to accept the very Communist policies they are allegedly opposing.

General MacArthur draws attention to a most important matter when he compares the destructive taxation policies in the U.S.A. with those recommended by Marx and Engels. High taxation in Australia is at present sabotaging the economy far more extensively than are the Communists. When they first came to office, Mr. Menzies and his associates spoke loudly about the evil sabotage of the production by the Communists. But they subsequently intensified Communist policies, particularly by their banking legislation. The Communist Manifesto advocates the centralisation of credit control in the hands of the "State." It is true that the Menzies Government has not openly nationalised the banks, but "State" control of credit policy in Australia is now almost complete. If elected at the next Federal elections, Dr. Evatt will be able to complete the task.

Like the U.S.A., Australia is also being forced along the road to a Communist objective. One of the greatest problems now confronting the Australian people, particularly those who live in the big cities, is how they are going to

*From *The New Times* (Melbourne), April 4. The complete supersession of direct taxation by indirect taxation in Great Britain is to be accomplished, we are told, within the next five years.

obtain adequate first-class food within the near future. Moscow cannot be blamed for the reluctance of Australian wheatgrowers to produce more wheat, or the inability of poultry farmers to produce adequate eggs because of the high price of wheat. But if food shortages should lead to the introduction of severe food rationing in Australia, it will have been a major victory for the Communists—a victory granted them by their "opponents."

Unless the Federal Government challenges the canons of "sound finance," it is certain that it must impose more and more Communist policies in an attempt to prevent the economy from collapsing. Present financial rules make it imperative that there be either inflation or deflation. The Communists are always the victors. While agreeing that the Communists provoke much industrial trouble, present financial rules cause considerably more. That is why the Communists, both known and unknown, bitterly oppose any proposal for financial reform and a decentralisation of credit policy.

Introducing "The Social Crediter"

In introducing *The Social Crediter* to prospective new readers, it is suggested that numbers containing articles and paragraphs of special appeal might be used. Some recent instances are listed below. Copies are available at sixpence each, post paid to any address, from K.R.P. Publications, Ltd., 7, Victoria Street, Liverpool 2:—

- Jan. 5—Treachery in the Middle East.
- " 12—International Finance: Finland, Paraguay and Italy.
- " 19 and 26—The Pope's address on Science and Theology.
- Feb. 2—Usurpation of function by Insurance Companies (C. H. Douglas).
- " 9—Lord Lovatt on "Sheep and Cattle Production."
- " 16—The Constitution: Mutilation by *The Times* of Mr. Winston Churchill's broadcast.
- " 23—"Board Hunting" (Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs).
- Mar. 1—Canada a Kingdom? (Mrs. Davidson's letter to a Toronto newspaper).
- " 8—Mr. Sam Bronfman's protégé and N.A.T.O. (Quoted from Mr. A. K. Chesterton.)
- " 15—House of Commons debate on the Companies Bill.
- " 22—Decline of Rome (H. Swabey).
- " 29—Lord Wavell on Education.
- April 5 and 12—Education *versus* The Educationalist State. (Dryden Gilling Smith.)
- " 19—Decline of Rome (H. Swabey).
Education *versus* The Educationalist State.
- " 26—From Week to Week.
Education *versus* The Educationalist State.
- May 3—Monarchy (Norman F. Webb).
- " 10—A Speech by the Duke of Bedford.

On Planning The Earth

By GEOFFREY DOBBS.

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Decline of Rome: Justinian

By H. SWABEY.

The domestic affairs of Constantinople, the new Rome, were disturbed by a *violence* which the shouts of Justinian (527-565) in the hippodrome were powerless to check. "Be mute, ye Jews, Samaritans and Manichaeans," he yelled. His long reign is notable for wars, plagues and laws: but Gibbon considered war, plague and famine as evil and artificial, not as benefits or safety-valves like the Malthusians.

Two Persian monks smuggled silk worms' eggs from China, but Gibbon regrets that it was not the art of printing, "already practised by the Chinese." This was naïve. The church of St. Sophia was built, apparently in six years, while the Cathedral of New York (the largest Gothic pile in the world, to last for at least five thousand years, according to the manual) has been in building since 1892. Justinian revived the taxes and imposed heavy customs: "the oppression was retaliated on the helpless consumer; the poor were afflicted by artificial scarcity and exorbitant price . . . ; and a people might sometimes complain of the deficiency of water and bread." He seems to have revalued the copper money and left the gold coin alone. But "the frauds of a Syrian banker were introduced into the administration of the finances." Monopolies were sold now and then. The schools of Athens and the consulship of Rome were suppressed, but they were in a sorry state by that time.

The frontier fortifications were built up, but Montesquieu remarked that like France, the Empire "was never so weak as when every village was fortified." Africa was conquered, and the vessels of the Jewish Temple were deposited "in the Christian church at Jerusalem." Sicily and Italy were also taken by the general Belisarius, with a small army, in contrast to General Mark Clark. ("Curiosity alone interrupted the peaceful occupations of the husbandman or artificer"). The Italian king, says Gibbon, displayed "the basest passions, avarice and fear." In this phrase, there is a remnant of the hierarchy or scale of values, but the civilized idea of the Just Price had evidently been lost. The Jews of Naples "who were rich and numerous, resisted, with desperate enthusiasm, the intolerant laws of Justinian." But the king was deceived by a Jewish humorist who "gratified his contempt and hatred for *all* the Christians," by a divination with thirty hogs. Belisarius entered Rome in 536, and Italy was a province of the Empire (*cf.*, a forty-ninth state): the city changed hands five times, in the next few years.

Justinian, received from a Frank an "insidious offer of federal union," but the emperor's policy was to divide the barbarians. However, the annual inroads of Bulgarians, Slavonians, Lombards and Turks were devastating; and there were disputes with the Persian king, apparently over a gold mine in Trebizond, which may have originated the Argonauts' quest for the Golden fleece. There was a flourishing slave trade nearby. Gibbon also mentions the Abyssinians and their invasion of Yemen, caused by the Jews there ("powerful and active in exile") successfully urging their prince to "retaliate the persecution inflicted by the imperial laws on their unfortunate brethren." He concludes that, "If a Christian power had been maintained in Arabia, Mahomet must have been crushed in his cradle."

The increase of taxes caused mutinies in Africa, the Moors pushed forward, and the country was depopulated. A heavy assessment provoked a Gothic revolt in Italy. Soon after, the Senate virtually expired. A comet appeared during the reign, and Gibbon makes a remarkable prophecy, referring to the investigators of comets, that "in the year 2355, their calculations may perhaps be verified by the astronomers of some future capital in the Siberian or American wilderness."

Plagues started in the year 542, and continued for 52 years. They were probably the result of carnage. But the following conclusion belongs rather to the last civilized English generation, perhaps, before that which was cut to pieces in the first World War than to modern scarcity economists: "his reign is disgraced by a visible decrease of the human species, which has never been repaired in some of the fairest countries of the globe." This was owing to "*the triple scourge of war, pestilence and famine,*" and millions died. Total war, the great preoccupation or even end of the twentieth century, was yet to come; organisation and Rothschild (*etc.*) financing were pre-requisites.

Laws and Law

Justinian is remembered for his attempt to bring order into the mass of laws that bewildered his subjects. The civil, or Roman, law has had more effect on the laws of Scotland and of the Continent than on those of England, for Edward I acted as the national Justinian and English common law has stood alone, but the work of Justinian, and his helper Tribonian, *etc.*, although it failed to remove inconsistencies, deserved attention, and is summarized in chapter XLIV. We read that "the primitive government of Rome was composed, with some political skill, of an elective king, a council of nobles, and a general assembly of the people." The king alone proposed the laws. "The *civil* law is attributed to . . . Servius; he balanced the rights and fortunes of the seven classes of citizens."

The Twelve Tables of the Roman laws ("written in characters of blood") regulated the coinage, which then consisted of copper money, and decreed that a man should be sold for debt. But this ancient standard was "overwhelmed by the weight and variety of new laws," for the Romans did not follow the example of the Locrians, according to which the proposer of a new law stood with a rope round his neck, and if it was rejected, he was strangled. A secret ballot was eventually introduced, but the Romans who "had aspired to be equal, were levelled by the equality of servitude." Magistrates were allowed to pronounce Edicts, to elucidate ambiguous laws, but the danger was emphasised when edicts became perpetual, and were merely the expression of an emperor's will. He was said to be "released from the laws . . . the pleasure of the emperor has the vigour and effect of law."

Imperial rescripts were multiplied to the confusion of the public. Justinian had the ordinances after the time of Hadrian revised and presented in the Code, while the spirit of Roman civilians was expressed in the Digest or Pandects. His Institutes gave an outline of the laws, but the addition of Edicts and Novels is said by Montesquieu to shew the prince's "venal spirit." The Institutes deal with *Persons, Things, Actions, Wrongs*. (Blackstone divided his work

into *The Rights of Persons, The Right to Things, Private Wrongs, Public Wrongs.*)

Gibbon remarks that "the distinction of ranks and persons, is the firmest basis of a mixed and limited government . . . Two hundred families supply, in lineal descent, the second branch of the English legislature, which maintains, between the king and commons, the balance of the constitution . . . The perfect equality of men is the point in which the extremes of democracy and despotism are confounded . . . the spirit of [Justinian's] laws promoted the extinction of domestic servitude." The law of England, of course "abhors, and will not endure the existence of, slavery within this nation" (*Commentaries of Blackstone*).

Roman family life was harsh: "The law of nature instructs most animals to cherish and educate their infant progeny . . . But the exclusive, absolute and perpetual dominion of the father over his children is peculiar to the Roman jurisprudence . . . An imperfect right of property was at length communicated to sons." But its modification was not due to the best of motives, for "a private jurisdiction is repugnant to the spirit of monarchy."

Marriage laws fluctuated: ("A specious theory is confuted by this free and perfect experiment, which demonstrates, that the liberty of divorce does not contribute to happiness and virtue.") Guardians, unless the father had signified otherwise, were the paternal kindred of the nearest degree (*cf.* the common law, "the next of kin, to whom the inheritance cannot possibly descend.")—*Commentaries*.)

The civilians' idea of property was that "the original right of property can only be justified by the accident or merit of prior occupancy . . . The savage who hollows a tree . . . becomes the just proprietor of the canoe . . . the new form, the produce of his time and simple industry, belongs solely to himself . . . The active insatiate principle of self-love can alone supply the arts of life . . ." The tradition that each Roman was endowed with an inheritance of a small plot of land (two *jugera*) referred to conquered territories, of which the conquerors retained a third, and so did the restriction on individual holdings. Aliens were excluded from holding certain forms of property. The civilians' general idea of property "is that of simple, uniform, and absolute dominion." When a man died "all his descendants . . . were called to the inheritance . . . The insolent prerogative of primogeniture was unknown." Blackstone ("the orthodox judge") is cited as claiming it was unjust only in the opinion of younger sons; but wills are not mentioned. Also, "the simplicity of the civil law was never clouded by the long and intricate entails . . ." Gibbon and Blackstone wrote in the period between feudal "incidents" and penal death-duties [compare, *The Land for the (Chosen) People Racket.*]

It was certainly useful to have two words, *commodatum* and *mutuum*, to distinguish the loan of things that were not and were consumed by using them, while *location* expressed hiring. ("It may be fairly supposed that every man will obey the dictates of his interest.") Usury, which had been discouraged by the Twelve Tables, was set by Justinian as illegal when certain rates were exceeded by certain classes. The ordinary rate was six *per cent.*, the nobles were confined to four, tradesmen were allowed eight, and twelve was allowed to nautical insurance. The editor states

in a realistic note, "If a war-contribution was levied on any state, some *publicanus* was always ready to advance the money at twelve *per cent.*, which was the very lowest rate, but often as high as twenty-four and even thirty-six *per cent.*" War has paid off even better since then.

The following is instructive if we wish to understand Nuremberg, and other abuses: "the invention and frequent use of *extraordinary pains*, proceeded from the desire to extend and conceal the progress of despotism." Also, the servile senate "was always prepared to confound, at the will of their masters, the judicial and legislative powers . . . the freedom of the city evaporated in the extent of empire, "that is, in the melting pot." On another subject, Montesquieu remarked that "our natural horror of vice may be abused as an engine of tyranny," which gives an insight into puritanical socialism.

The assembly of the centuries originally tried capital charges, but as this body was unwieldy, their office was delegated. A majority of "judges," who were often praetors, performed an analogous office to a unanimous jury, and these "judges" were selected from different groups at different times. In civil cases the praetor ("raised and disgraced by the will of the emperor") was the judge. In earlier times, voluntary exile or death secured the heirs of the accused, for he was innocent until he had been proved guilty.

In spite of these efforts, however, Gibbon concludes that "the government of Justinian united the evils of liberty and servitude: the Romans were oppressed at the same time by the multiplicity of their laws, and the arbitrary will of their master."

PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3.)

I would particularly draw the attention of my right hon. and gallant Friend to what has been happening in the whaling industry. Up to recently, when a whale was boiled down into oil 70 per cent. of the protein value of the whale was blown overboard. Recently, at considerable expense, British firms have installed special machinery which is able to deal with what are called the "solubles," when the whale has been boiled down, and turn them into high protein feeding-stuffs. Let me give an example of how valuable this can be. From the production of 55,000 barrels an additional 5,000 tons of this protein food can be made available—in addition, and over and above the 55,000 tons of oil which was all that was the whale harvest before.

I am told on the best authority I can get that this food can be brought into this country at prices equivalent to equivalent foods sold here today. I have been told, too, that in the past—I hope it is different in the future—these firms have had the greatest difficulty in getting the feedingstuffs department of the Ministry of Food interested in these whale solubles. I ask my right hon. and gallant Friend to give us an assurance that he will look into this matter—and I should like a reply to this—to see that those very valuable sources of feedingstuffs are not lost to the country. . . .

Mr. Wilfred Fienburgh (Islington, North): . . . There have been references to the difficulties of buying food because of our balance of payments problems, but that is a ludicrous misunderstanding and misapprehension of cause and effect. One of the greatest reasons for our balance of payments

difficulties is the grossly increased price of primary products in the world. Food prices have gone up in world markets because of a change in the terms of trade as between the manufacturers of goods and the primary producers, and that is why we are suffering from our balance of payments problem now. Therefore, if we are to accept the excuse given by the Minister of Food, it becomes clear that the only way he sees of getting out of his difficulties is to sit and wait for a miraculous flow of currency into our coffers, or, alternatively, to hope that world food prices will fall very severely.

I am going to be startlingly unorthodox and say that I sincerely hope that world food prices and the prices paid to the primary producers of the world do not fall catastrophically. Such an event would be politically and economically disastrous in the long run. We have evidence in "The Times" today to support this because rubber prices have fallen. The result is, in the words of "The Times":

"The Malayan Government's ability to fight Communist terrorism may soon be dangerously reduced, and Indonesia is already plagued by unemployment and dissatisfied smallholders."

A similar catastrophic decline in food prices paid to primary producers and peasant producers of the world will mean very severe economic disaster and political unrest that will provide an excellent breeding ground for Communist ideology. It is because many Governments realise this that they are underpinning farm prices. This is being done in the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. There is no hope of a sudden fall in the world food prices which will rescue us from our difficulties. In areas where prices are not economically underpinned by Governments, that fall in prices will bring political disaster to the communities concerned.

Another thing that we must bear in mind is the continual drift away from the land in many areas of food production in this world. It is very serious in this country, but in the primary producing areas of the world the drift is even more serious. In the United States of America in the past 10 years the rural labour force has gone down by 16 per cent. and in the last year by 6 per cent. In Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden, the rural labour force has gone down by 20 per cent. in the last 10 years. In France it has gone down 23½ per cent. in the last 40 years.

Part of this decline in manpower is compensated for by greater productivity per man, though not all of it. Although grain production is now a few per cent. above pre-war, production in fats, oils and meat is still below the pre-war figures. In big part this is due to the drift away from the land. If there were to be a reduction in the prices paid for the primary products on world markets, that drift would be accelerated.

We have to remember that a primary producer of the world stands at the neck of the grain sack and doles out ultimately what is to be put on world markets. We can try all sorts of devices. In this country we have succeeded better than others by our planning by consent of the agricultural community. The Russians and the new republics of Eastern Europe have failed in their attempts to collectivise farming. France has failed in her attempts to allow a completely free market in agricultural products.

We have to recognise, whether or not we like the political motive which inspires primary producers, that they will

produce to the extent that they find economic incentive in producing. If they were so imbued with the spirit of co-operation, if they regarded the management of their land throughout all the broad acres of the world as a charge placed upon them by humanity for the sake of humanity, perhaps their reactions would not be the same.

But we have to treat them as we find them, and, as we find the primary producer, he will plant only if he is satisfied that he will get a reasonable economic return; he will put his goods on the market only if he is satisfied that that return will be forthcoming. No amount of coercion, no amount of investigation, will do anything to prevent him from so doing.

... I am not arguing that there should be a wild upswing in world prices, because that would have a diminishing effect on world production. If a man can produce enough to supply his normal desires out of working on two acres instead of three, he will work on two and we shall lose the product of the extra acre. I am arguing that there should be a continuance of the policy of long-term bulk contracts with the primary producing areas of the world, so as to give a reasonable and economic return to the producer and a reasonable purchasing price to the consumer.

Prices, therefore, will have to go up. I have continually pressed that this country should, despite our depressing economic circumstances at the moment, take the lead in the world in facing the problem of the development of the under-developed areas.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food (Dr. Charles Hill): ... A good deal has been said about the possibility of bulk purchase leading to international friction. Much has been said about the loss in skills that it involves.

Mr. Follick rose—

Dr. Hill: I cannot give way. Much has been said, rightly, about the loss of quality that it involves. But I suggest that if there is an argument of even greater importance it is that where the price in such contracts or long-term arrangements is out of touch with reality in the form of the world price, and where such money is not going to the producer but is siphoned off for other non-food purposes in the process of payment, the bulk purchase arrangement in the end has a discouraging and disincentive effect on the food producers of the world and is harmful to the people of this country.

Even so, where contracts are entered into, it is all too common for subsequent agreement to be reached on increased prices. Consider what happened under the bulk purchase arrangements with the Argentine in the last five years: 378,000 tons of meat were received by us in 1947; 280,000 tons were received in 1948; there was a slight increase to 294,000 tons in 1949; we received 236,000 tons in 1950; and we received 87,000 tons in 1951. [HON. MEMBERS: "So what?"] Bulk purchase as we have seen it, while justified on certain grounds and in certain circumstances, has been accompanied, in the case of this principal exporting country over the last five years by a steady decrease in the amount of meat. [Interruption.]

... Let me come to the Budget exercise. I have referred to the fact that when the new Government entered upon office they found the subsidy outgoings running at some

£20 million above the level of £410 million. Subsequently, as the Committee well know, the Chancellor estimated that when further cost increases were taken into account subsidies would be running at the order of £50 million a year over the ceiling of £410 million. In his Budget statement my right hon. Friend contemplated, first, a reduction from £410 million to £250 million, and secondly, an expansion of the exercise to bring in a sum of the order of £50 million by which the subsidies were running over the £410 million level.

There are, I suppose it can be said, two philosophies behind the food subsidy position. On the one hand, there is the attitude that the subsidy should be so arranged as to ensure that the neediest member of the community can buy the food he needs at fixed prices and, having decided that level, to subsidise everyone equally, whatever his means. The previous Government did not adopt that extreme principle for, as my right hon. Friend demonstrated today, in the rather more than two years from 1st April, 1949, to 31st July, 1951, the price level in this country went up by £250 million a year. Let the Committee remind themselves that the figure includes not only the changes in subsidy level but the increased prices throughout that period.

The only compensating advantages for that rise in the cost of food were the changes in National Assistance rates, amounting in total to £28 million and the increase in retirement pensions last year, amounting to £33 million. In other words, the background against which to examine what Her Majesty's Government have done and the test by which to judge the sincerity of what hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite say, is the history of the last two years.

The other approach to this problem is to make sure by a policy of social benefits that no one is prevented from buying his needs in food and, subject to this, to leave people to spend their own money wisely or foolishly as they may decide. That means that, subject to a fair and successful system of social benefit payments, people should pay what food costs and know what it costs, and spend their money on necessities or luxuries as they may desire.

If we examine the Budget picture as a whole, we find that whereas, by the Chancellor's action, the level of food subsidies has been lowered by £160 million in a full year the gains to the people, including social benefits and Income Tax reliefs—[*Interruption.*] I know that hon. Gentlemen do not like this, but the gains to the people of this country amount to £308 million a year.

. . . Despite the jeers of hon. Members opposite, and admitting that there may be much discussion as to the distribution of the reliefs which make up the total of £308 million, the plain fact remains, unwelcome though it is to hon. Members opposite, that on balance £160 million was added to the cost of food and £308 million returned to the people of this country. . . .

Finally, much has been said in the course of the debate to suggest that our balance of payments difficulties have little or nothing to do with our food position today. May I give some examples of the additional foods which would be available if we had the currency? Sugar, oils and fats—[*Interruption.*] The attempts of hon. Members to secure that my remarks will not be heard are fruitless. Sugar, oils and fats, cheese, meat, bacon, dried fruit, canned salmon; all are available in the world if we had the currency

to buy them.

The Opposition are seeking to exploit the inevitable consequences of the measures to deal with the inheritance they left. The very existence of the crisis is denied for their purposes. In other words, the Opposition are seeking to separate cause and effect, and so to turn the inevitable hurts of our struggle for solvency into the festering sores of party strife.

(To be continued.)

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