

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 30. No. 22.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1953.

6d. Weekly.

From Week to Week

However greatly tempted Mr. Woodruff may be to attribute it to our 'crabbed and bitter intelligence' (*sic*), the sole spark of illumination contributed to the subject of Hilaire Belloc by the blasted printers'-ink-stream we call 'the Press' is, in our eyes, his. It is the notion that the modern Poet of Wine had in his pedigree the inventor of soda-water, the unaristocratic Priestley. It may explain why Belloc never reacted as he should have done to Douglas and Social Credit.

Once, for our sins, we were condemned to furnish a report of Liberal Candidate Hilaire Belloc addressing under the naked gas-jets of a Salford school-room, in winter, on a wet night, the most dejected if not degraded collection of industrial democracy we have ever set eyes on. What liking we have, and it is not inconsiderable, for the injection into all human personality of at least a mild tincture of intellectual arrogance dates from that mad Manchester election night. Did the chief sub-editor want our report? —Not at any price! "Just say he spoke, and put in a bit that sounds funny if you can find it!" Misliked by the groundlings even then, Belloc was the last link between the Ages of Conviction and the Age of Television—or, as one might say, the Age when Vision is From Afar (and the eyes of all are on the Ends of the Earth). This is called 'bringing the ends of the earth nearer'; though nearer to what is not disclosed. With unanimity, so far as our observation goes, the newspapers tell us to forget all about Belloc's convictions. "Pay no attention to what he said, or to why he said it, and exclusive attention to how he said it," is the general direction.

This seems to us a part of the now almost universal drive towards the banishment of policy from human activities. Belloc will live 'as a Writer'—*i.e.*, as a technological functionary. The only thing a man can be is a 'thing'—*e.g.*, a doctor, a lawyer, a film-star, a collier, and so on down to the lowest level of functionaries, a politician. Production is not for consumption. The thing produced does not matter: production is all. Almost we begin to have a fellow feeling for old rascal Voltaire, who would live to destroy a man's opinions and die to defend his right to express them. Sir Harold Nicolson's remark (in the *Evening Standard*) about a career ruined "by a single jibe" (a so-called anti-Semitic jibe) is more flattering to the Peabody Yid than to British publicity. The revenge for protesting against the reduction of human personality to mere 'thing' is to reduce the reputation of a human person to mere 'thing'—a writer: a skill.

The author of a letter to the correspondence columns of

the *Church Times*, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, suggests that "most Americans" can distinguish between Senator McCarthy pursuing his investigations in the full glare of public attention and daily criticism, an un sinister person, and the subject of the 'liberal psychosis' which binds communism and liberalism together in non-resistance to radical direction but resistant to constituted order and authority. We do not know what the power of discrimination of 'most Americans' is; but we are inclined to rate it no higher than that of 'most Englishmen.'

Unquestionably, Russia would be a marvellous addition to the opportunities for exploitation by credit-banking if it fell under the direct control of Wall Street, and doubtless the problem of ensuring that it does so is becoming rapidly more urgent. It used to be said that seventy years was not enough to bring Russia to the state of industrialisation 'enjoyed' by England in 1928. That estimate may not have taken fully into account the assistance which International Finance and Industry together (so-called Great Britain and America) were able and willing to render irrespective of who might be alleged to be the Rulers of Russia. This has been, since as well as during and before the war, stupendous. According to the *Sunday Express*, the Russians are largely incapable through natural ineptitude of making full use of it—they are still "hopeless with machinery." But, according to the estimate, which was an expert estimate, there are still forty-five years of opportunity for finance-capitalism still to run—"Communist-Capitalist" or "Capitalist-Communist" as may be.

Sir Winston Churchill (who does not, after all, seem to have had much of a "stroke") has seemed, for a long time, to be the completely subservient tool of American-Jewish Finance. For this reason, we do not think the following from *Human Events* for July 8 quite so absurd as we might if we read it with considerations of "British" electioneering politics and current "diplomatic" reports exclusively in mind:—

"Apparently, Churchill has cast his lot in with Moscow, and British policy will be firmly against any assistance, moral or material, to the revolt against the Red slave rule. In short, the survival of the Red regime has become one of Churchill's vested interests—and Anglophiles and pinkos in this country [the U.S.A.] are now working diligently towards this end.

"On Capitol Hill, apprehension has risen as the British emissaries [Lord Salisbury and his staff] approach. Members of Congress feel sure that this is the first step in the biggest raid on the U.S. Treasury in history, that Churchill wants to play the broker for enormous dollar sums to be lent

to Britain and Russia—an arrangement which would be finally set at a four-power peace conference.

“What precise publicity twist will be adopted to put over the primary mission is not as yet discerned. But the original argument of the British for a meeting with Soviet Russia has worn pretty thin. Churchill thought that, whatever the enduring value of Moscow’s word, at least one would know with whom we were dealing—Malenkov. But today, all reports suggest that a triumvirate—Malenkov, Beria and Molotov—heads the USSR and no one actually knows which is the “boss”—or really whether all three are still alive or not. How can the Western powers make a deal—under the circumstances?”

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: June 25, 1953.

Social Service Expenditure

Mr. Shepherd asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) the percentage of the revenue devoted to social services in 1939 and the percentage so devoted in 1952;

(2) the percentage of the national income devoted to social services in 1939 and the percentage so devoted in 1952.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: It is estimated that social service expenditure by all public authorities in Great Britain, on current and capital account, amounted to 12 per cent. of the gross national product in 1938-39 and about 17 per cent. in 1952-53. Exchequer expenditure on social services was about 27 per cent. of total ordinary revenue in each of these years. Grants made to local authorities for specific social services, and the net amount of grants to insurance funds, are included in the latter percentage. The food subsidies are not taken into account in these percentages except to the extent that they relate to welfare foods.

Sir W. Smithers: Will my hon. Friend carefully read the leading article in “The Times” this morning entitled “The cost of security”?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: I always read the leading article in “The Times.”

Cinemas (Tax Receipts)

Mr. H. Wilson asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the figures of Entertainments Duty recorded in respect of cinema attendances in May, 1952, and May, 1953, respectively, and the percentage fall between the two periods.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: About £3.30 million in May 1952, and £3.07 million in May, 1953, representing a drop of about 7 per cent.

Mr. Wilson: In view of this serious fall, which the Chancellor admitted on Monday was giving him cause for concern, will the Financial Secretary ask his right hon. Friend to reconsider the answer he gave, that he will not take any action on this question until next year, and in view of the serious problem facing the industry at present, will he consider some new Amendment before the Report stage of the

Finance Bill which will deal with the problem disclosed by this answer?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: The danger of jumping to conclusions on the basis of one month’s figures is illustrated by the fact that the receipts for April, 1953, show a slight increase over those for April of the previous year. With regard to the more general matters to which the right hon. Gentleman referred, I would remind him that this matter was debated fully on the Committee stage of the Finance Bill and that after debate the Committee recorded a decision on the matter.

Mr. Wilson: But is the hon. Gentleman aware that that is a very misleading answer, because figures were given in this House on Monday, and not contested by the Government, which show that for the six months from November last to April there was a fall of 7 per cent., that for the months from January to March there was a fall of 8 per cent. compared with last year, that only in April—which was an abnormally wet month over Easter which is bound to affect these figures—was there an improvement compared with last year? Therefore, this May figure does not represent only this one month but a continuance of a trend of six months?

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter: All those considerations were amply and admirably deployed by the right hon. Gentleman during the debate to which I have referred, but I must remind him that, notwithstanding this, the majority of the Committee decided against it.

Agriculture

Supervision and Dispossession Orders

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Agriculture the annual cost to the taxpayers and ratepayers, respectively, of the supervision and dispossession of farmers and smallholders; and how many persons are employed in these duties.

The Minister of Agriculture (Sir Thomas Dugdale): I cannot give a figure for the annual cost, but I can say that none of it falls on the rates. No one is employed exclusively on this work.

Sir W. Smithers: Will the Minister stop this waste of public money, and is he aware that the British public will not tolerate this Gestapo for much longer? May I also ask him to read a letter in the “Manchester Guardian” this morning, written by Mr. Holden Wood, which I think will interest him very much?

Sir T. Dugdale: That is an entirely different question.

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Agriculture if he will now introduce legislation to ensure that farmers and smallholders who are dispossessed should have the right to appeal on points of fact and of merit to a traditional court of law.

Sir T. Dugdale: I have nothing to add to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend on 5th March.

Sir W. Smithers: Is my right hon. Friend aware that there is no real difference between the powers of dispossessing farmers which he exercises and those in operation in Russia and other Soviet countries? Will he introduce legislation immediately to give dispossessed farmers a right of appeal

to a traditional court of English law on points of fact and of merit?

Sir T. Dugdale: Perhaps my hon. Friend will look at the answer I gave him on 5th March.

Sir W. Smithers: But my right hon. Friend has not done anything.

£ Sterling (Purchasing Power)

Mr. H. Hynd asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to publish a further table showing how the purchasing value of the £ has fallen month by month since October, 1951.

Mr. Maudling: Taking October, 1951, as 20s. the figures, based on the Interim Index of Retail Prices of the Ministry of Labour, are as follows:

	s.	d.
1951—October	20	0
November	19	11
December	19	9
1952—January	19	5
February	19	5
March	19	4
April	19	0
May	19	0
June	18	8
July	18	9
August	18	10
September	18	10
October	18	8
November	18	9
December	18	7
1953—January	18	7
February	18	7
March	18	5
April	18	3
May	18	4

House of Commons: June 26, 1953.

Merchandise Marks Bill

[Lords]

Order for Second Reading read.

The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Peter Thorneycroft): I beg to move, "That the Bill be now read a Second time."

This is a small, but, I hope the House will agree, a useful Bill. It is designed to extend the provisions of our law which protects the public against false and misleading trade descriptions of goods. It may be helpful to us to assess the value and purpose of the Bill if I say a word or two about the background against which it is introduced.

The vast majority of traders in this country will, of course, be unaffected by the Bill, because they describe their goods in honest, temperate and moderate terms, well within what is permissible in this or previous legislation. Indeed, the large bulk of traders will welcome this Bill in so far as it prevents unscrupulous traders from competing unfairly with them.

The second thing I would say is that neither this Bill nor any other can or will protect the unwary purchaser against

all the wiles of an unscrupulous seller. Nor, may I add, should it attempt to do so. The legal maxim *caveat emptor* has a deal of merit in it. The best safeguard for the buyer is to look before he buys, and the best sanction at his disposal is to take his custom elsewhere if he is dissatisfied with the quality of what he receives.

... One thing is, at any rate, quite plain. In general, no one is compelled to describe his goods at all. There are certain exceptions to that. There are, for instance, the Acts dealing with drugs, seeds and assay marks on silver, but in general, taking the broad range of merchandise in this country, no man is compelled to describe his goods.

The effect of the legislation is that if a trader elects to describe his goods he must be careful that he does not describe them falsely. . . .

... Shortly, the object and purpose of this Bill is two-fold. First, it widens the definition of trade descriptions so as to include certain significant characteristics now widely mentioned, so that any mis-description of them becomes an offence and, secondly, the definition of false description is widened to include misleading descriptions. I should like to say a word as to how that is done, because it is easier to state the objective which one has in mind than to translate it adequately into the phrases of a Bill. . . .

Mr. Ellis Smith (Stoke-on-Trent, South): I beg to move, to leave out "now," and at the end of the Question to add:

"upon this day six months." . . .

Dr. Barnett Stross (Stoke-on-Trent, Central): I beg to second the Amendment.

I do so on two grounds, first, because it is my view that it does not attempt enough in the way of protecting the consumers. The speech of the President himself went a very long way to confirm me in that view. When he described the Bill he watered down even the small powers that appear in it by the explanation which he gave us. My second reason is because no protection whatsoever is given to our manufacturers against the unscrupulous use of our trade marks, patents or designs by competitors who may export to our Dominions, the Commonwealth or to the Colonies.

The powerfully documented and exhaustive speech made by my hon. Friend has made it clear that in his view—with which I agree—our economic future depends in part at least upon maintenance of the highest possible standards in everything we export. We cannot export good things if shoddy things are being made at home, because a market of that kind cannot be divided into two parts. Therefore, if our goods are to be sought for abroad it will be not only on the ground of price, because, ultimately, slave labour from other countries may defeat us, but on the grounds of quality. We shall have done our duty by our people in this House if we see to that. . . .

... Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell us how many prosecutions there have been in the 60 years or so since the first Act [the first Act of 1887] was passed? I know this question was asked in another place and the answer was given that there were less than 100 prosecutions, but I think we are likely to get more accurate information from the Parlia-

(continued on page 7.)

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. 30. No. 22.

Saturday, July 25, 1953.

A "Witness"

That talented lady Rebecca West reviews for the *Sunday Times* (in so far as a newspaper article of to-day is a review at all) the English edition of the book, *Witness* by Whittaker Chambers, disclosing incidentally that in translation to this side of the Atlantic it has lost a fifth of its 800 pages.

She has made the book seem not only important—"one of the most remarkable books written in our time: remarkable in its timelessness"—but important to us. We too are timeless. Miss West does not visibly pursue this idea; but she does not obscure the fact that the book exposes some of the mainsprings of human action, and it is the mainsprings of human action that are the chief concern of anyone who desires even passively, and still more actively, to expand the conscious Life. This statement may seem unnatural: how can anyone expand a thing 'passively'? To a greater extent than possibly anyone else, Social Crediters realise that, for the time being at all events, mere absence of resistance to natural growth (passivity), particularly if the nature and meaning of the growth are imaginatively recreated and approved, is important—probably more important than anything else in circumstances when most active forces are harnessed to Evil (or to the Evil One). It seems to be his ignorance of this that occasions Miss West's impatience with Whittaker Chambers's "great nonsense." Like the genteel unskilled, or the genteel underskilled of our European middle-stratum, Whittaker Chambers 'kidded himself' that Communism, which is "not morally congenial to the heirs of Western culture," might have been "a way out for the stranded bourgeoisie, that it might have offered jobs for the boys with haloes thrown in, and that maybe if indiscreet people would keep silent about the real nature of Communism a packaged Eden might yet be dispensed from under the Red counter."

This, of course, is very familiar psychology to us. It is the psychology of the 'joiners'—of all the 'joiners.' What is of more interest is the discernment Miss West displays in extending its range to explain the "hatred that crackles" wherever the "aching sense" is salted by exposure, "the fierce campaign waged by many intellectuals who are not Communists, against anybody who exposes Communist activity."

One passage Miss West quotes which convinces us of the authenticity of this contribution to "the most spurious and corrupting controversy ever artificially stimulated for the purpose of confusing public opinion on a vital issue." It is the following:—

"I am an outcast. My family is outcast. We have no friends, no social ties, no church, no organisation that we claim and that claims us, no community. We could scarcely be more foreign in China than in our alienation from the life around us. If we tried to share with it our thoughts, it would draw away, uncomprehending. If it tried to share our hopes with us, we would draw away uncomprehending. It does not want what we want. We did not want what it wants. It puts the things of the world first. It knows what it wants better than we know what we want."

Yes, it does "know what it wants better than we know what we want"—not merely as a formula, but in its heart and mind and soul. The tragedy of the 'movements' of history is that they have all been movements, flights, in pursuit of fictions, 'vital lies.' Man has not yet learnt to move unswervingly towards his desire. The sub-human has learnt nothing else.

SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT

LECTURES AND STUDIES SECTION

Diploma of Associate

The following candidates satisfied the examiners at the recent examination for the Diploma of Associate (Easter, 1953):—

England

Fynn, C. G.
 Wainwright, A. H.

Canada

Clark, W. J.
 Devenish, H. P.
 Jukes, A. H. (Major).
 Leith, A.
 McQuaig, K. L.
 Piddington, Miss S.
 Richmond, G. G. F.
 Richmond, M. K.

There were seventeen entrants and answer papers were received from sixteen of them.

The examination paper was as follows:—

Diploma of Associate of the Social Credit Secretariat, April, 1953.

N.B.:—Candidates must attempt to answer all questions.

1. What is a "tax"? In what circumstances is taxation (a) economically, (b) politically justifiable?
2. Explain the phrase "price adjustment." What reason is there for the proposal to distribute a "national dividend" in addition to adjusting prices?
3. What is "Mortmain"? Discuss its implications.
4. Write short notes on
 - (a) Personal security.
 - (b) Social obligation.
 - (c) Authority.
 - (d) "Rousseauism."
 - (e) Sanctions.

(Candidates are not precluded from quoting—with references—from the work of others, but credit will be given mainly for evidence of their own personal competency.)

Neglected Books

by DENIS GOACHER.

" . . . creative literature is the only thing that can explain to man the nature of his fellow men."

So wrote Ford Madox Ford *circa* 1921, and few would dispute the statement. Ford was then still pleading the cause of a few writers (among them James Joyce, Ezra Pound, Richard Aldington) and the need for them to be heard above the babel issuing from those twin juggernauts, academicism and the commercial press. The need is perhaps more urgent than ever before, although the names of the neglected authors have in some instances changed; but even more striking is the fact that many of the books which need to be studied are almost impossible to obtain. One of the most disagreeable anomalies of our civilisation is that, of the books one really requires, many are out of print, or even forgotten. There are several reasons for this virtual 'censorship' and I can best illustrate my meaning by giving the facts of a few flagrant cases.

It may be thought that, for some of the books cited, I am stretching the application of 'creative.' This word has too often become synonymous with 'imaginative.' Such categories are always unsatisfactory, for obviously a work of science can be 'creative' and, on the other hand, a novel by Fielding or Wyndham Lewis can not be described adequately as imaginative. All good writing juts out through such arbitrary boundaries and a new block of knowledge is revealed with contours of its own. Suffice it to say that the books I shall name all reveal a labour towards clarification which, in the most genuine sense of the word, can be called *creative*.

The most interesting phenomenon of the booktrade is that, now, the most important books in the English language are published in America. Sometimes they are printed in England later, more often not at all. Of the books I shall deal with only one appears under an English imprint.

In America, the country of 'witch hunts' and an ever increasing muffling of the individual voice, there are still many escape channels from which 'thinking to some purpose' and the real facts emerge.

The Law of Civilisation and Decay by Brooks Adams, published in 1895, is now a 'respectable' American classic, despite the fact that the implications of the story told constitute the most damaging indictment of modern America available. Curiously enough the first edition appeared in England, published by Sonnenschein, American publication taking place a year later. There has been no reprint in England and it can only be obtained from America with some difficulty.[*] This book is a history of the Western world from Rome to the close of the 19th century and, in particular, an 'economic' history. It traces with relentless accuracy the decay which always attends unbridled economic expansion. To dispel possible confusion let me say at once that this view is altogether different from the Marxian inter-

[*]Major Douglas, who had both the original edition, which he had annotated marginally in contradiction of some of the author's misconceptions concerning the effects of the misuse of money, and the recent American edition (re-edited), was comparing the texts; but his notes on this matter are, unfortunately, not available.

pretation of history: whereas the materialist Marx sees history as a struggle between classes for the 'means of production,' Brooks Adams sees the struggle of mankind as one between the 'imaginative type' and the 'economic type.' So long as a civilisation values the 'mysteries,' the 'religious life,' the 'life of the mind,' *etc.* above the mercantile instinct, it is on the upgrade. When scepticism appears and the acquisition of money has become the principal aim of men's lives, decay has set in. That, very roughly, is Brooks Adams' 'theory of history.'

History as taught, and for the most part written, pays scant attention to economics and yet, without knowledge of the function of 'money power,' no understanding of a civilisation like our present one is possible. Brooks Adams' analysis of usury and the part it plays in economic expansion and subsequent decay: of the connection between the various heresies, Lollardism, Calvinism (and their close descendant Puritanism) and the exaltation of acquisitiveness above godliness, in the name of 'godliness,' are but two of the subjects on which he throws light. Many a graduate with a degree in History from an English university would be amazed to find how many indispensable facts he has *not* been taught.

One can dogmatically say that without some such guide as Brooks Adams, European history cannot *now* be understood, and yet no edition has appeared in England for 57 years and it can only be imported with difficulty.

(2)

Science and Sanity by Alfred Korzybski was published in 1933 in the U.S.A. There has been no British publication and although the book can be obtained through an English agent the imported edition is expensive. It still remains the best introduction to General Semantics and should be much more widely known, even by those not professedly interested in that science. Certainly, if his lessons were digested, there would be far less of the semantic confusion and muddled terminology which mars almost all contemporary literary criticism.

A word here about 'semantics.' The indiscriminate use of this term has bred much confusion so that, from being a branch of philology, it has been stretched to cover a vast area ranging from the syntactic approach of Rudolph Carnap to Ogden and Richards. 'The Meaning of Meaning' and beyond. The 'meaning of meaning' is incidentally a good definition but strikes many people as irritatingly paradoxical. The Greek verb *semaino* = to signify, to mean: *semantikos* is equivalent to our word 'significant.' It is the investigation of what our language signifies, and of the unspoken assumptions which have determined the structure of our language, which is the business of semantics.

Korzybski has developed what he calls a Non-Aristotelian system designed to point out the errors, and the 'assumptions' underlying those errors, of our language. I shall not attempt to give a summary of the work here—the scope of the book will be apprehended by looking at some of the introductory passages.

"Technically we are very advanced, but the elemental premises underlying our human relations, practically since Aristotle, have not changed at all. The present investigation reveals that in the functioning of our nervous

systems a special harmful factor is involved, a 'lubricant with emery' so to speak, which retards the development of sane human relations and prevents general sanity. It turns out that in the structure of our languages, methods, 'habits of thought' orientations, *etc.*, we preserve delusional, psychopathological factors. These are in no way inevitable as will be shown, but can be easily eliminated by special training, therapeutic in effect, and consequently of educational preventive value. This 'emery' in the nervous system I call identification. It involves deeply rooted 'principles' which are invariably false to facts and so our orientations based on them cannot lead to adjustment and sanity."

"... we discover the astonishing, yet simple, fact that even now, we all copy animals in our nervous responses, although these can be brought to the human level if the difference in the mechanism of responses is discovered and formulated.

"Once this is understood, we must face another necessity. To abolish the discrepancy between the advancement of science and the power of adjustment of man, we must first establish the science of man-as-a-whole, embracing *all* his activities, science, mathematics and 'mental' ills *not* excluded."

The discovery that we 'copy' animals would not surprise, indeed it would delight, many people, but Korzybski is very adamant on that point.

"We discover that there is a sharp difference between the nervous reactions of animal and man, and that judging by this criterion, nearly all of us, even now, copy (his use of the term copy is explained later) animals in our nervous responses, which copying leads to the general state of unsanity reflected in our private and public lives, institutions and systems... The old dictum that we 'are' animals leaves us hopeless, but if we merely *copy* animals in our nervous responses, we can stop it, and the hopeless becomes very hopeful, provided we can discover a *physiological* difference in these reactions.

"Few of us realise the unbelievable traps, some of them of a psychopathological character, which the structure of our ordinary language sets before us. These also make any scientific approach *or agreement on vital points impossible*. We grope by animalistic trial and error, and by equally animalistic strife, wars, revolutions, *etc.*

"Our rulers: politicians, 'diplomats,' bankers, priests of every description, economists, lawyers, *etc.*, and the majority of teachers remain at present largely or entirely ignorant of modern science, scientific methods, structural

linguistic and semantic issues of 1933, and they also lack an essential historical and anthropological background, without which a sane orientation is impossible.

"... 'Few of us realise that, as long as such ignorance of our rulers prevails, *no solution of our human problems is possible.*'"

Korzybski's book is not quite the universal panacea he anticipated, of course, but his investigation of the primitive assumptions inherent in the very structure of our languages (which cause the 'clots' and semantic blockages we are all familiar with), the effect of those 'clots' on the nervous system, and his work on colloids, are all of vast and urgent importance.

The passage given above, dated 1933, shows that in twenty years nothing has changed for the better.

(3)

Our next book is a novel: it is called *The Revenge for Love* and is by Wyndham Lewis. Distinct from our other cases in that it is published in England (it first appeared in 1937, reprinted 1952) and has taken 15 years to appear in America, the reasons for its neglect are both more obvious and very interesting. If the reader will cast his mind back he will recall, no doubt with some grim amusement, that during the decade and a half stretching from 1930 to 1945, a great many of the literati, and all 'advanced' people, were 'Pink to Red' or, at worst, 'Left.' Things have now changed greatly, and while 'Left' is still (though only just) 'respectable' the red ties would now burn the fingers that once tied them, and whole chapters of their owners' lives are kept embarrassedly 'quiet.' And of course there have been some spectacular public renunciations; the penitents, having bravely overcome their wicked craving for the Red drug, hopefully anticipating gratitude for their 'honesty.' I need not here go into how 'timely' these confessions and furtive concealments have been, or how they have kept abreast of international events. Suffice to say that world politics have coerced us all (these loons are merely politics' more naïf dupes) in to shifting our ground. And this brings me to Mr. Wyndham Lewis's book. Its principal character, Percy Hardcaster, is a Communist, a *real* Communist. That is to say he is a working man (a former bricklayer) honestly and purposefully striving for the downfall of the ruling class and the hegemony of his own. And he is no 'cut out,' no 'type,' but a fully extended character, cunning, candid and quite unromantic, in short a professional revolutionary. It is the best portrait of a proletarian communist that has yet appeared in English fiction. The impact of this character on a number of salon 'pinks' and bourgeois reds forms one of the themes of the book, and the latter are of course appalled by his 'cynicism' and lack of romantic idealism.

On one level this brilliant book is an exposé, an exposé of drawing room communism, and an exposé of the scarcely visible political mesh ensnaring us, but above all it is a work of art, and as that it must be judged. To the question "is it pro or anti communist?" the emphatic answer is, neither. In so far as a work of art is the result of visual and auditory experiences, this is the work of a man who, quite unconcerned with 'propaganda,' has set down those

DR. AND MRS. C. G. DOBBS would welcome, for periods up to a week or ten days during August, 1953, a few people as (expense-sharing) guests who would be interested in combining a holiday in North Wales with a serious study of Social Credit. Applicants should be annual subscribers to *The Social Crediter*, or strongly recommended by social crediters of long standing.

Enquiries should be made to Mrs. C. G. Dobbs, Bodifyr, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

experiences with dazzling clearness. And there, most certainly, is the 'rub.'

We have seen that *The Revenge for Love* was published in 1937: that is, right in the middle of the Spanish Civil War. Quite a number of 'pink' intellectuals had joined the International Brigade or the International Red Cross and all of 'liberal' persuasion were engaged in a riot of indignant protest. Imagine the horror when, into this scene of sentimental, sometimes generous but largely irrelevant flurry, there fell a book, quite unconcerned with ideological abstractions, which displayed by example the tactical lies and cynical deceit inherent in *all* political activity. The last thing these fumbling political tyros wanted to hear was the truth about the international communist party. Not that the writer set out to do this, but since the good artist cannot avoid conveying at least one aspect of truth, such facts unavoidably emerged.

And so the brigade of reviewers operating at that time somehow contrived to notice *The Revenge for Love* hardly at all. In some cases it was not even reviewed. And we were treated to the embittering spectacle of the greatest living English writer being boycotted, because a number of influential persons in our air-tight literary world were stung by what they considered to be a reflection on their political parlour games.

Above all I do not want the reader to think of this book as a tilt at local issues. That point (the political atmosphere of the time) has only been laboured in order to show the damage that can be done by malice and professional intrigue among writers of ideological inclination.

The book was reissued in 1952 and still ignored: yet this is Wyndham Lewis's best novel and one of his very best books. Its neglect is a disgrace. Such neglect, nowadays, does great harm both to a writer's reputation and his pocket. Careless people have flung the charge of 'paranoia' at Mr. Wyndham Lewis: how empty such a charge appears in the face of evidence of *real* persecution.

(To be continued.)

PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3.)

mentary Secretary. To leave it always to the other fellow to do the right thing is not a good principle. If we legislate and impose certain penalties for a breach of the law, should not the Board of Trade be prepared to incur the cost of prosecutions rather than to leave it to merchants, who are defrauded by unscrupulous competitors, or to trading associations who have to band themselves together to do the work which ought to be done by the President in his Department? I am not arguing for innumerable prosecutions, but we have a right to ask for vigilance on behalf of honest traders who are trying to keep up the highest possible standards for their goods, whether they are manufacturing or merchanting them.

In Clause 1 it is proposed to strengthen the original Act by adding the word "misleading" after the term "false trade description." So it is strengthened in that misleading descriptions will be a breach of the law if this Bill becomes an Act. Yet the President of the Board of Trade himself

pointed out that one has to be careful. Like my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, North (Mr. Willey) I would urge him not to use the old phrase *caveat emptor* over and over again. We are living in a different world from that of 1887 or the world of 100 years ago. The world then was simple and transparent compared with the complex world we live in today. New products come out of the laboratories of the chemist, new processes are today so complicated that it is impossible for the average citizen to know anything about their origin.

May I give one example which I once brought to the attention of the Minister of Food? Albumen is still used today, as it has been for hundreds of years, in the making of meringues such as we eat frequently in the Dining Room as a sweet. In the old days, certainly in 1887, meringues were made from the white of eggs, but now there is another source of albumen. It comes from blood collected in slaughterhouses, citrated and sent to factories where the albumen is extracted and used in confections. Is it not misleading if people do not know that? A point we should discuss carefully in Committee is that nowadays there are sins not only of commission but of omission which result in deception.

We should consider the position of a Hindu, Mohammedan or a Jew eating, in good faith, confections made from citrated pig's blood. It is a little unfair. Is it not reasonable to ask about the quality not only of textiles and pottery but of other things, and not only what is the origin and source of the production, but what is the quality and the fitness for function, particularly when there is so gross a deviation as the one I have mentioned? That is only one example. The chemist's laboratory is a den of magic; there is almost nothing he cannot give us if we ask him for it.

I heard the President of the Board of Trade make a howler this morning in all good faith. He said there were very few cases in which there was misrepresentation. I wonder if he realises that, when new products are put on the market which replace previous and dearer products, once a few members of the trade accept the new products because they are fit for function as far as they are concerned, everyone else must accept them or go out of business? I will give an illustration.

In the old days anyone buying a loaf of bread knew what it was. Today, that is not the case. I am told that in the United States, since fat savers or fat extenders have come into use to replace animal fat, about 150 million lb. of animal fat which used to go into bread has been denied to citizens of that country each year. These savers and extenders are made up in the petrol trade and are by-products of petrol distillation. Is it not misleading that people should be eating and wearing things of whose source and origin they have no idea? It may be thought that I am putting the point extravagantly, but we are facing new situations in our civilisation and we ought to bear that in mind.

I wonder whether, by the time this Bill has become an Act, the Minister of Food will be able to label things as he has been labelling them in the past. For example, he describes one form of jam at present as "Full Fruit Standard." I would take that to mean, as would every housewife on reading it, that it is full of fruit. In fact, it contains about

30 per cent. or 35 per cent. of fruit; and it is fruit which is brown in colour, bought from abroad as a rule, impregnated with sulphur dioxide which we used to forbid before the war.

It then has to be boiled to get rid of the sulphur dioxide which, although not poisonous, is unpleasant. The colour then clears and becomes pallid and is then dyed artificially. And then we have the label "Full Fruit Standard." It is at least a euphemism even if it is not a downright deception. I hope we shall be able to influence Ministerial Departments through legislation of this kind not to label things in this misleading way.

. . . Advertisement has, like everything else, undergone a great change since 1887. My hon. Friend did not mention this and the President of the Board of Trade did not speak of it. I believe that it is a powerful and dangerous weapon for bringing about a misguidance of people's views. At its best, it can be most useful, but it tends nowadays to be persuasive. Its purpose is not to discuss goods, but to make people buy the goods. That is the difference that has taken place over the last 50 years.

Sometimes advertisements use techniques which are most undesirable—namely, the technique of urging or imposing upon the citizen who reads the advertisement the fear of being a social outcast. I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary agrees that in the basis of "plugging" things like deodorants and chlorophyll toothpastes, the technique that is used is to make particularly young people and women frightened that they will become social outcasts and that their armpits and their mouths are objectionable. It is a form of childish black magic and we ought not to allow people to have it imposed upon them, particularly when what is said is not even true.

Everybody associated with medicine or science knows that chlorophyll does not take away bad smells at all. Therefore, I am looking forward to seeing those people change the quality of their advertisements and "plugging" their toothpastes in a more reasonable fashion. I have no objection to the green colour, but it should not have attached to it statements which are unproved, but which, on the other hand, can be proved to be false.

The great majority of our newspapers and periodicals have their own standards with reference to what they will allow to be advertised and what they will not accept. The great majority of our periodicals and newspapers would not allow what creeps into the pulp magazines for advertisement. It is there that, perhaps, the least critical of our people are subjected to advertisements of a most misleading type and attempts to extort money from them in devious ways.

One knows of the advertisements for rejuvenation cures which no reputable newspaper today would accept, and of the so-called cures for incurable diseases. They always select psoriasis as one because they know very well that it is not curable by any means that we have available but is always likely to appear to get better for a while. They get, I suppose, considerable sums of money from people by falsely advertising in this way.

The grossest form of deception and exploitation which I have ever seen is the attempt which is made—I have no

doubt, very successfully—to sell a little pottery doll called a pixie, or Cornish pixie. If one buys it, he is told that he will draw money in the football pool, make a lucky marriage and that kind of thing, and there purport to be extracts from letters from people who write about how much money they have had, and so on.

Really, that is too bad. I want the Parliamentary Secretary to give us his views and say whether his Department will look at these things and whether they are going to put a stop to people using the technique of what is virtually highway robbery against simple, decent, credulous people. There is nothing wrong in being credulous, but since folk are essentially credulous we must look after them and protect them. That is what this House is for. . . .

THE BRIEF FOR THE PROSECUTION

by C. H. Douglas.

This book is the last of the contributions to the understanding of world politics written during the war of 1939-1945 by the author of SOCIAL CREDIT. The series began with THIS 'AMERICAN' BUSINESS (August, 1940) and continued and expanded with THE BIG IDEA (1942), THE 'LAND FOR THE (CHOSEN) PEOPLE' RACKET (1943), and, PROGRAMME FOR THE THIRD WORLD WAR (1943).

There is no comparable commentary on the causes of the war and the ultimate seat of responsibility for the threat to civilisation and even the continuance of human life, which outlasts the coming of "Peace," by any writer in any country.

It embodies an analysis of the policy now known as *Mond-Turnerism*.

8/6 net.

K.R.P. PUBLICATIONS, LTD., LIVERPOOL, 2.