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The World After Washington (II)

by C. H. DOUGLAS.

(Concluded)

Interest attaches to the date at which the following article by Major C. H. Douglas was first published. It was 1921. It is reprinted now because of the assistance it may give to many outside our immediate circle in clarifying their ideas of the world which has to be put straight—for it is still THE WORLD AFTER WASHINGTON which we inhabit.

We began by saying that this world is a testing ground for theories, and we can proceed by the proposition that every organisation, social, industrial, national or cosmopolitan, is the incarnation of a theory, of which, sooner or later, the individual is the judge. An organisation such as, for instance, the World Financial Organisation, may appear, and may in fact stand, for numbers of quite disconnected objects so long as its general validity and usefulness is not clearly challenged by the supreme arbiter, the self-conscious spirit. But when that time comes every organisation has to declare its strong suit, and discard from weakness.

Now, that is the position of the Doctrine of Original Sin to-day, incarnated ultimately in the Financial Temples of Wall Street, with Chapels-of-Ease in Lombard Street, the Rue Scribe, and elsewhere. Only a few years ago the proposition, that the object towards which the High Priests of those temples were working was the raising of the standard of living, and an increase in the amenities of life, passed without more articulate and reasoned dissent than was contained in sporadic strikes of disgruntled "workers," mostly on pretexts which could be shown without difficulty to be either illogical or absurd. But one veil after another has been torn from this fairy-tale by patient, acid, investigations into the methods of Financial Sabotage; the investigations carried on almost independently by widely separated persons and groups, mostly engineers, in the great industrial and financial countries; and it has become quite clear that

the object of the Financial System under which we live (let it be clear that no personal attack is necessarily involved) is *not the distribution of goods and services up to the limit to which they can be produced. It is employment—employment for its own sake.* The street-corner orator, who always exaggerates, calls it slavery, but of course that is absurd. No one is forced to compete for employment who is willing to starve, although the converse is not true.

It is necessary to rescue the foregoing statements from the damning charge of rhetoricism. It would be possible to fill pages with statistics of the undistributed output, actual and potential, of the fields, factories and farms of this country alone. It would be possible, and rather amusing, to tear to bits the latest financial bluff that we are a poor, poor country after the war and that our acres of new factories, filled with the finest machinery the world could produce—most of it adaptable to peace uses—our farms developed by the stress of demand, our stupendous reserves of motor and marine transport, didn't really mean wealth at all. But an extract from a speech by Senator E. F. Ladd, as reported in the Congressional Record, 67th Congress, 2nd Session (December 15, 1921, Washington, U.S.A.) is sufficiently illuminating. He said:—

"This country [U.S.A.] alone has resources more than sufficient to feed, clothe, and shelter the entire population of all civilised countries. Probably it would not be too strong a statement to say that with our present man-power, and material equipment, properly and effectively applied to our natural resources, we could furnish all the principal necessities for the economic support of all the people of the earth for years to come. It has been computed that we have standing room for all the human beings now living in the world in the State of Texas alone, giving to each individual 66 square feet of space. It has been estimated that California alone could furnish all necessities and many luxuries for one-half of the present population of the United States. That section of the country usually referred to as the N-W could feed the present population of the United States, with the exception of such things as are grown in tropical countries, without any great strain upon its resources, and its surplus will be sufficient to purchase these products. Taken together with the Pacific North-West it could furnish all the bread-stuffs, meat products, dairy and poultry products, wool, flax, shoes, lumber, iron, steel, coal and water power, the entire country could use in the next 500 years."

"The like could be said of almost any other great subdivision of the United States, yet there are millions in this country to-day who are facing a winter of threatened suffering from exposure and lack of food. At the same time, the farmers of this country have produced so great an excess of food that it cannot be carried over by our transportation, marketing, and credit system, and placed in the hands of

consumers even though we have employment at prices within their reach. We have ample resources of coal and other fuel to meet all needs for industrial and domestic uses of our people and more; yet many parts of the country are facing the practical certainty of a fuel famine in case the winter should be severe."

Now, it is the fact which lies embedded in the above statement which must be grasped before any useful conception of the World Situation can be formed. The problem which is racking the world to-day is not a technological or agricultural problem, and so "increased production" is no remedy for it; it is not an administrative problem, and so Socialism, in the ordinary acceptation, is no remedy for it; it is a directive and distributive problem, and so in the truest sense *though not in the orthodox sense*, it is a political problem, because the direction of policy and the control of distribution are both resident in Finance.

Let no one ride off with the idea that the United States is a special case. With all her natural resources, her problems are identical in character, and even greater in severity than those afflicting Great Britain. Apart from the fact that these islands are much nearer to being potentially self-supporting than financial interests would have us believe, the question turns on a totally different matter, which is only remotely affected by natural resources; that is, that the buying power distributed to individuals during the process of production is not available as effective demand for more than a fraction of the product.

The explanation of this apparently paradoxical fact is somewhat complex, but the fact itself is now hardly challenged by any competent authority. It ought to be obvious with this fact in mind that a country which cannot buy its own production cannot buy goods exchanged for the unliquidated surplus, and, consequently, only the distribution of the original fraction of production is affected by such exchange. That is the position of every industrial nation to-day.

Again, the definite charge which is here made, that the energies of the working population are perverted by the financial system so that scientific and industrial progress is persistently thwarted in its task of releasing men and women from the bondage of purely economic production, is not made on the ground of any abstract or doctrinaire theory of "right," or "justice." On the contrary, all such ideas belong to the static world beloved of the Doctrine, whereas our hope lies in Social Dynamics. In plain English, that means that when, say, Professor Soddy, is engaged on critical investigations connected with the structure of the atom, it is absurd that he should not have someone to black his boots if that is the only way to get them blacked. But it is equally absurd that any human being should black his boots if the work can be well and conveniently done by a quiet little machine operated by the tide in the Bristol Channel.

And the outcome? Well, War, Murder, Inconclusive Revolution, Chaos—or a change in the Financial System. The strategy of Wall Street and branches is plain enough and sound enough *in vacuo*—in an abstract world in which all the factors are "given." It is to support and stimulate all movements which attack private, personal, and individual means of livelihood and consequent liberty by the steady inculcation of the idea that economic "work" is the only

title to life ("Down with the parasites!"), and the devising of means to sabotage production and raise prices, and so maintain and enhance the illusion of scarcity. ("We are a poor country after the war—only hard work and economy can save us.")

Carried to a successful conclusion this results in bringing the world under the sway of the purveyors of Employment. At the same time, with the aid of the same plea for economy, and by the exercise of financial pressure, steps are being taken to force the reduction of armaments in every country, so that only a highly specialised naval, military, and aerial caste, trained to rigid obedience, and with a strong class bias shall retain the determinant of armed force. By the control of credit, which controls policy, the local, omnipotent police forces thus formed, will be at the behest of the money kings; and one squadron of bombing aeroplanes will be happy to show any social or industrial malcontents what's what.

It is not a negligible scheme, but it is not so good as it looks, by reason of its dependence upon time. Much of the best talent in the world is in those ranks of society equally removed from great wealth and that utter submergence which makes intelligent action almost impossible; and many of the individuals possessing it are feeling the pressure of the policy while not yet entirely disarmed. Out of these, technicians, professional men, and others, action may come. High Finance will not have a complete walk-over.

The methods by which the great and final effort to subordinate Humanity to a system—to make men the slaves of machines rather than machines the servants of men—can be effectively countered are technical matters for experts and so out of place here. But they are known. It may be well to point out that the ballot-box has very little to do with them.

Governments, Cabinets, Ministers of State, are administrators, not originators of policy. The battle cries of the hustings do not touch the questions of credit-control and price-making, nor does the mechanism exist at the moment by which the political democracy could be made effective on such issues. Similarly, when elected, the "representatives" of the people can vote on a machine-made issue, or can abstain from voting, but it is elementary knowledge that none of them can create a live issue and keep it alive against the "interests."

Let it be repeated—you do not capture policy by capturing administration, but you do acquire control of administration if you are in a position to impose policy.

There is no time to lose. The easy method of delegating some one else to pull the hot chestnuts out of the fire is not going to meet this emergency. If, however, the manufacturers, traders, engineers and professional men of Great Britain could be persuaded to stop repeating the optimistic sentiments served out to the Press from the Bank Parlours, and would look facts in the face, as the English of Elizabethan days looked a very similar situation in the face, then there might be just enough time.

From Week to Week

Not only is control of finance and control of news concentric, but control of news in itself is concentric. This, in fact, is true of 'news' in the sense of both information,

and ideas. New, original ideas are extremely rare. The ideas (or in most cases, opinions) people hold they have acquired almost always from outside themselves. In a certain sense, ideas are actual organs of the mind. They act in one sense like the digestive organs of the body, breaking up 'information' into assimilable and non-assimilable elements; and the former are fitted in to the existing structure of beliefs. In another sense, ideas act like a filter before the lens of a camera, presenting Reality in one colour only. Thus to a mind organised by particular beliefs, some 'facts' are self-evidently 'true,' which to a mind differently organised, are as self-evidently 'false.' This is the basis of the perfect sincerity with which people propound quite different views.

The importance of early indoctrination has been understood, implicitly or explicitly, for a very long time. Thus the Jesuits are credited with the statement that if they can have the training of a child until it is eight (or thereabouts) anyone can have it after that. That, of course, was in the days before Universal 'Education.' Nowadays, it is well understood at the centre of control, and the methods of mass communication have made the mass-conditioning of minds possible on a scale probably never dreamt of by the Church.

Thus few people are aware these days how little they really *know*; nearly everyone has an opinion on nearly everything, and sincerely believes his opinion to be right. One atom-bomb exploded, one hint from 'The Centre,' and the Press of Britain and America is filled with letters from the Intelligentsia, each proving *de novo* that the event constitutes a final argument for the necessity of a World Government with exclusive control of THE BOMB. How else, indeed, could such modern swear-words as "McCarthyism" have so instantaneously gained world-wide currency?

"A sensational speech by Senator Jenner given in Dallas the same day drew attentive consideration around the Capital. The Indiana Republican Senator reminded his hearers that the struggle for China and Korea was 'lost in Washington.' He saw a 'tug of war' between two forces—the 'pro-Americans' and 'the other, a network whose members deliberately disregard our Constitution, our President and our Congress.' He emphasised that 'this collectivist machine operates, in part, in the State Dept., in part in the White House Secretariat, in the super-Cabinet agencies of national defence, in the Foreign Operations Administration, in the C.I.A. But a substantial part of it operates outside government . . . in the Press, in the parties, in the colleges, in the labour unions, in business, in the United Nations. . . . They operate as one from some control tower we cannot see.'"

—*Human Events*, February 19, 1955.

The group referred to by Senator Jenner is known in the U.S.A. as the 'liberal' group, and the same group is easily identifiable in Britain and Australia. In all countries it manifests, for those with eyes to see, every evidence of manipulation from 'The Centre.'

President Eisenhower has announced that his Government will give away to foreign countries £1,250 million of the American people's production during the next year.

Mr. Gaitskell has announced that Mr. Butler will give to the British people as a General Election gift (or should it be a bribe?) £140 million of their own money which he has collected surplus to his Government's needs.

• • •

Simple Simon met a Pieman
Going to the fair.
Said Simple Simon to the Pieman
"Let me taste your ware."
Said the Pieman to Simple Simon,
"Show me first your penny."
Said Simple Simon to the Pieman,
"Sir, I have not any."

(Professor Sir Francis) Simon in *Lloyds Bank Review* for April, 1955, has discussed the implications and applications of the "peace" time uses of Nuclear Energy. He says:—

"Under-developed countries are often under-developed just because they have no power available, and the impact of nuclear energy on them is bound to be considerable. It might seem at first sight that this particular application is of no great interest to this country, if not actually against our interests, in that it might remove the ground from under our feet by accelerating still further the spread of industrialism over the whole world and so reduce our sources of income. Such an attitude, however, would be quite mistaken; in actual fact the export of nuclear power stations is an ideal example of the kind of export on which this country will have to live in an ever-increasing measure."

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A speaker at a United Nations Association gathering has suggested that this country and others should export their police forces to Russia and China, and they in turn should send theirs here—to ensure that there is no favouritism.

• • •

Mr. J. B. Priestley, at the Liberal Party Assembly on April 15th, moved a nine-point resolution designed to ensure that our bureaucracy plays the game. It was not, or not allowed to be, suggested that the British public does not want to play this game at all, or that anyone should be allowed to 'sit this one out' was not mentioned. We understand that the Liberal Party Caucus accepted the motion. We do not apply the comment to Mr. Priestley, but we should say that anything which the Liberal Party advocates is suspect.

Mr. Priestley's wife, Miss Jacquetta Hawkes, in her book *Man on Earth* in saying "we all have to find our own right balance of the mind, of activity, of creativeness . . ." suggested "many might begin just by staying at home." And we think that is just about the best advice Mr. Priestley could have given the delegates. As it was, among other commendable things Mr. Priestley had to say, was to enunciate a "simple formula to counteract Communist propaganda": "We have only to make ourselves as free as we pretend to be. Let the free world really be free. Let us restore to the members of our society those essential civil liberties we have been busy taking away from them over the last thirty years."

We suggest that Mr. Priestley stays at home a little more and thinks that one out properly, because it implies a remedy at the roots, not palliatives.

The Policy of Social Credit

(Concluded from *The Social Crediter* for April 2.)

Industrial Society And Policy.

"When we do things under the compulsion of Society, we are blood corpuscles, not individuals; we are doing them in the interests of *Society* primarily, and only secondarily, if at all, in the interests of our own individuality. As society is at present constituted, it is quite definitely to its advantage, and tends to the perpetuation of the present form of society, that Lancashire mill operatives should work the maximum number of hours at a very dull occupation, with the minimum change of work, and if individuals had no interests as such, that is to say, if they were Robots, contemporary society would probably work very well, and no difficulties would arise. But Lancashire mill operatives are developing individualities, and their interests are clearly not the same as those of Society as at present constructed. In one way or another the various units which compose the Society are proclaiming unmistakably their objection to a purely passive role, and the conflict which we see proceeding all over the world at the present time will clearly determine whether Society has power to remould the individual so that he becomes purely a passive agent in respect of purposes which he cannot understand, and has no means of estimating, or, on the other hand, whether the individual by non-co-operation or otherwise, can break up or remould Society.

"... The test of a natural law is that it is automatic and inexorable, and the proof of the contention which is advanced in this book, that as soon as Society ceases to serve the interests of the individual, then the individual will break up Society, is proved by the course of events at this time; and those persons who wish to preserve Society can do no worse service to their cause, than to depict their idol as an unchangeable organisation whose claims are to be regarded as superior to those of the human spirit.

"The stage is set for a change of mechanism; in place of a Society based on restraint, a Society based on the conception of assistance, of co-operation, is overdue. Let us be clear that the only assistance which is tolerable or acceptable is that which can be declined if it is not wanted."
—C. H. Douglas: *Social Credit*.

Parliamentary Democracy.

"A further example of the perversion and misuse of words, in order to obtain the defeat of the concrete embodiment of those words, is in regard to the common use of the world democracy, and its glorification as an end in itself. In so far as the word is used to suggest the detailed administration of public affairs by the majority, it is a pure fantasy, and not only has never existed but it would seem probable, could never in the nature of things exist. In any kind of world of which we have any conscious experience, it would be a nightmare. If ten men be selected at random, and problems of graded difficulty be submitted to them, it is possible that the very simplest problem will be solved by all of them, but a point will be rapidly reached at which a decreasing minority will have any grasp of the subject at issue. In so far as the matters submitted to their judgment are not matters of precedent (and progress consists in a constant departure from precedent) it is certain that the minority of our selected ten will tend to be right, and the majority will always be wrong. On matters of

policy, however, in sharp contradistinction to the methods by which that policy should be carried out, the majority may be trusted to be right, and the minority is very frequently wrong. To submit questions of fiscal procedure, of foreign affairs, and other cognate matters to the judgment of an electorate is merely to submit matters which are essentially technical to a community which is essentially non-technical. On the contrary, broad, and even philosophical issues, such as, for instance, whether the aim of the industrial system is to produce employment, or whether it is to produce and distribute goods, are matters of policy, and it is noticeable that such matters are kept as far as possible from the purview and decision of the general public. In fact, the aim of the political wire-pullers is to submit to the decision of the electorate, *only alternative methods of embodying the same policy.*

"The domain of policy comprises the removal of executives if the results achieved are unsatisfactory. Although the general public has partially awakened, during the past few years, to the immense power exercised by the permanent and superior Government Services, it is probable that few persons who have not intimate experience of the workings of a great Government Department, understand how completely the Permanent Heads of those Departments are immune from public control. They are, in the first place, appointed under a system which ensures that they shall possess a habit of mind suitable for incorporation in the formal machine of government (and in passing it may be noted, that for success in this initial stage, a purely Classical education is almost essential). Once appointed, their promotion and success is subject to secret influences whose ramifications may be said to extend to the ends of the world. The ostensible, 'Political' head of a great Government Department, is a mere tool in the hands of the superior Permanent Officials (and this is pre-eminently so in the case of the Treasury). It is not a difficult matter for the Permanent Officials of a Government Department to obtain the removal of the Political Head of it, but it is a matter of practical impossibility for the Political Head to obtain the removal of one of his own Permanent Officials. As a result, 'Democracy,' of which we hear so much, is defeated at the source; and it is this brand of ineffective democracy, forming the best possible screen for the operation of forces which are invisible and are not subject to criticism, which we are constantly exhorted to preserve.

"It should be clear without reiteration that this condition of affairs can only exist to perfection as a result of collectivist psychology. The prime duty of a State servant is obedience—impersonality; a surrender of individual judgment to a policy not necessarily understood. As we have previously indicated, there is a great deal to be said for this arrangement in the practical world of affairs, provided that the sources from which the policy originally proceeds are such as will stand the light of the fullest publicity; but when, as is the case at present, the policy is derived from sources which shun publicity by every means in their power, unquestioning obedience, so far from becoming a public duty, becomes a public danger.—*Social Credit*.

A list of publications which give a full explanation of Social Credit policy and the strategy taken to implement it may be obtained from the publishers of this paper.