FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Mr. Averall Harriman will come to London within a fortnight. President Roosevelt indicated that Mr. Harriman will handle such questions as the British Defence Estimates, Priorities, and Contracts."

— British Press Communiqué, February 19, 1941.

Messrs. Harriman, the New York financiers, are more or less "Gentile front" for Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb and Company. They were granted enormous concessions, amounting to thousands of millions of dollars, by Lenin and Trotsky, for the industrialisation of Russia. These were carried out in the Socialist paradise practically by slave labour, directed by American technicians, thus providing the American "Prosperity" boom.

Evidently it is not too early to prepare for the "reconstruction" of Europe in general, and Great Britain in particular, through the same channels and by similar "Socialist" methods.

Mr. Knudsen informed the Press that 957 aeroplanes "went to the fighting forces of the United States and Great Britain" in January. You see, we're one great Fighting Force. The only difference is that the British do the fighting and the paying, and the Americans get the aeroplanes and the money. Just like last time.

Amongst the minor horrors of war, is that we appear to be condemned to listen to shopkeepers such as Lord Woolton, who is ostensibly appointed to distribute food, telling us that we are far better off if we don't get it. As quite a lot of people believe that one of the main reasons that we don't get it, is Lord Woolton, might we hint, delicately, that "Ye take too much upon yourselves, ye sons of Levi"?

Scottish Hill Sheep farmers, who graze sheep upon the best of the hill pastures, are on the verge of ruin, or over it, owing to Management from Whitehall. It is felt in Socialist circles that the remedy for this is to appoint a large body of Civil Servants to draft regulations to force the sheep on to deer "forests," which are mainly stones.

One of the great difficulties in the Food Situation, we are informed, is lack of cheese. The British cheesemaking farmer, who made the best cheese in the world, was ruined purposely and consciously in the interests of International Trade, and the surplus milk was either sabotaged or made into umbrella handles. Owing to the activities of the Milk Marketing Board, the price of milk to the consumer has been doubled, the supply halved, the farmer is worse off, and the land wrecked.

— GARIBALDI AND FREEMASONRY

A priest, "M.J.F.", writing to the Catholic Herald, quotes the words of the Prime Minister: — "I speak to you what the diplomatists call words of great truth and respect. We were the champions of the Italian Risorgimento. We were the partisans of Garibaldi, the admirers of Mazzini and Cavour."

The correspondent goes on to say that Garibaldi was Grand Master of the Rites of Memphis and Mizraim when, with 1,000 Masonic followers, he invaded and occupied Naples. Other details are given associating English freemasons with partisanship of Garibaldi and Mazzini; and a Garibaldi dinner at Venice in 1880 is mentioned, whereat every diner received a card with the words:

"To make the Italian people strong it is necessary not only to destroy Christianity but also to make every man an Atheist and then the Italians will be strong and patriotic."

"Signed: Garibaldi."

— OUR HEAD PLANNER

"That was the way our Allied censorship worked in the early months of the war. 'For months,' one London correspondent remarked, 'the British bungled the censorship and then' — a look of hopelessness crossed his face— 'they named Sir John Reith as head of the Ministry of Information.'

"Sir John had been head of the B.B.C. His tenure there was marked by a historic broadcast to the Arabs during a Government propaganda programme in the Middle East. Sir John's experiences with Arab propaganda began when Mussolini was flooding the air waves from Morocco to the Persian Gulf with appeals for his own elevation to the job of protector of Islam. The British programme was designed to combat the Italian radio broadcasts and win the Arabs back. With that in mind, the British representatives throughout the Near East
invited their most distinguished Arabian friends to listen to the first B.B.C. broadcast. They tuned in their radios at the appointed hour and were given a news bulletin announcing that the British had executed a famous Arab sheik—who was a rebel and an outlaw, to be sure, but was admired throughout Islam as a sort of desert Robin Hood. Mussolini’s prospects for a triumphal entry into Mecca were never brighter.

“Something of the same technique was taken into the M.O.I. by Sir John. He took charge at a time when the nerves of both British and foreign newspapermen in London were frayed. Any change in direction of the censorship seemed a good one to the reporters, who crowded into an anteroom seeking to discuss their troubles with the new minister. They waited for hours.

“At last a deathly cold voice through the loud-speaker system gave them their answer. ‘Sir John,’ it said, ‘does not intend to see any journalists.’

“Needless to emphasise, Sir John’s short reign at the M.O.I. did little to win the admiration of American reporters.”

—_Saturday Evening Post, January 5, 1941._

**CATTLLE CAKE ‘SHORTAGE’**

“Many cattle are starving in Angus.” This was how a well-known Angus farmer summed up the effect of the rationing scheme.

“And this is not only true of Angus, but of Tife and Perthshire.

“What makes the position worse is the fact that this need not be, as apparently there is plenty of cake, but because a farmer is ‘surplus’ the department says he cannot get any of it.

“The result is that cake manufacturers find their premises packed with cake, and making more, but with no buyers to relieve them of what they have.

“In fact, unless something is done soon to get rid of this cake many manufacturers will have to stop manufacturing.

“I understand many of the large English and Scottish firms have threatened to close down if the Ministry do not do something to assist them and, what is more, do it soon.”

—_Dundee “Courier,” February 18._

Further rationing of cattle-cake has been forecast in the national press during the week.

**FASCIST FINANCIER**

Count Guiseppe Volpi di Misurata, one of the most prominent of Mussolini’s backers, recently visited Vichy and was reported to be “going on to Spain or Portugal to seek contact with British interests.”

U.S. sources suggested, according to the News Review, that Count Volpi was trying to negotiate a separate peace between Italy and Britain, and that his Vichy conversations would cover the French end.

Volpi negotiated peace between Italy and Turkey after Italy had seized Libya in 1911.

He then entered the Banca Commerciale Italiana, and became a millionaire. Subsequently Mussolini chose him as first civil governor of Libya, and it was under his governorship that Libya was colonised by Italians and the desert round Misurata cultivated to produce crops of fruit and vegetables.

On his return to Italy Mussolini made him Minister of Finance. He retired in the early days of the world crisis.

Count Volpi is the chief shareholder of the Lido, and has interests in the International Sleeping Car Company, which runs sleeping cars on Europe’s expresses. He is also chief of the Assicurazioni Generali, the biggest Insurance concern in Italy, where he replaced Jewish Edgaro Morpurgo.

His greatest interest, however, is in electricity concerns. His companies control most of the hydro-electric power stations in the Alps which provide the current for the industries of Northern Italy. Until the war he also owned several electricity undertakings in English provincial districts.

He also has a large stake in SOFINA, the international holding company registered in Brussels which controls electricity companies and transport companies all over the world, including (up to the outbreak of war) some in England, Germany and the United States of America.

In 1939 Count Volpi received the K.B.E., conferred on him by King George in recognition of his ‘eminent services to British industry and culture.

**ELEPHANTS NEVER FORGET**

In André Maurois’s new book, _Why France Fell_, the French author states that among the forces which in this country opposed adequate armed protection to resist Hitler were “the bankers of the City who were concerned about their loans to Germany,” and also “a certain number of persons of importance, terrified by Bolshevism, who believed foolishly that they had found in Nazism a barrier to the Revolution.”

This fact is of course well known to Social Crediters, who are also aware of the names of many of those “terrified persons of importance” now even more frightened in their fight against Hitler. An illuminating fact is that the above quotations were not included in the series of three articles in the _Daily Telegraph_ recently, giving extracts from this book.

Because Westminster has been unable to sweep aside the canons of our alleged Sound Finance we are now all having to face the cannon kindly financed by those “persons of importance” still unhappily at large. Fearing that ocean of Tartaric acid which is USSRia, “those persons of importance” as well as of unimportance are at last assailed with the Blood and Iron-mongery of Bismark’s pupil, the Red paper-hanger with the brown-shirt busily painting the map of Europe Prussian-blue.

Our “great national dailies” frequently cackle in chorus of the marvellous “news value” they give for a penny or twopence a day. “It pays to advertise” is their favourite slogan. Thus at the cost of a few hundred pounds of inkwell money spent on advertising the report of an annual meeting of a bank’s shareholders, it “pays” that bank so well that the grateful newspaper owners carefully “vet” every unpleasant reference to their all-powerful Dictator’s transactions.

“Gratitude is thanks for favours to come,” said La Rochefoucauld. Like elephants, “great national newspapers” never forget. They never forget the kindness of the Money Monopolists who buy advertisement space, the gratitude being two-sided—a double-deal, as it were. Thus the “Security First” of the banks is the corollary to “It Pays To Advertise” of the newspapers. So to hell with “democracy” and “currency-cranks” and “social crediters” and other perverted busbodies who “ought” to be confined within prison-walls as well as within inverted commas whenever reference is made to the annoying species in the chaste columns of our “great national dailies.”

DIWILLIAM BELL.
THE MUD BATH

By B. M. PALMER

Simply because he is my enemy, and he wants me to give him an ell so that he can take a yard. He only made that admission in order to draw a wrong inference from it. Why should I stand in the line of his bullet? I'll get out of the way and let him waste his ammunition.

I am not conducting a friendly discussion with these leader-writers, and the sooner everyone knows this the better. My method is to read their articles hoping to catch them out in a foolish admission; I am hoping for the enemy to make a mistake so that I can take full advantage of it. I am not giving the enemy the benefit of the doubt. There is no doubt as far as I am concerned—war is a rough and hard game—see General Wavell again (I hope this isn't quoting).

I have also been asked why I don't leave the Jews, Freemasons and financiers to their own devices, while I get on with the dissemination of truth. They are sure to be defeated in the end.

By whom?

This is like saying “Yes, I know the enemy is creeping up in the rear, but it will be best not to pay any attention to what he is doing, as no doubt he will come a cropper before long.”

A soldier can't afford to take risks of that sort. We must fight the enemy where he is to be found, not wait, hoping that he will put himself into a position most favourable to ourselves. He'll be a fool if he does. And the enemy isn't a fool, whatever else he may be. To imagine that all our opponents are earnestly seeking for enlightenment and are willing to learn anything from us is one of the biggest tactical errors we can make.

The attitude of the enemy has been defined by themselves at least once:—

"I'm afraid some of my readers have been kidded into trying to argue banking and credit in the columns of the local press. Believe me, there is no more unprofitable hobby under the sun. There are enough substantial quotations in existence to prove to the uninstructed bankers that they do create within themselves the means of repayment."—Editorial (page 242) in Branch Banking, July 1938.

That is not the attitude of an earnest seeker after truth. It is the attitude of one who would deny something if he could. But he has found the position untenable. Better abandon it.

We know that we are fighting more than the “Bankers” now. The war is in sober truth a total war. But it is a war just the same, and we shall have to fight for every position we take.

It seems that in the light of these considerations there is no such thing as “destructive” or “constructive” criticism. In every case one takes the course the situation demands. To classify criticism in this way, label one sort “constructive” and the other “destructive” and to say that the first is “better” than the second is quite beside the point; it is in fact, trying to bring in the moral question once again.

You have to judge by results, and if you can't see any results, I feel rather sorry for you. I won't even take the trouble to point them out to you. “None so blind . . .” And this part is meant for someone. It is for the man who said, “Well, it's been going on for twenty years,” implying that we ain't seen nothing yet, and never will.

Some people have no time sense.

It seems that mountain guns are tested by dropping them from a great height, and rifles for trench warfare are buried in mud for two days before being passed as suitable.

These attacks against morale, which all of us have to bear and which come indirectly from the enemy (where else could they come from?) can only be countered in one way. We have to be strong enough to withstand them, as it is impossible but that they should come. We know that we are going to be buried in mud at intervals—Why not be prepared?

We all of us have moments of clear sight when the whole field of battle is free of mist; we know what has been done, and what there is to do. These are moments of inspiration. We must remember them when the mist comes.

TO LONDONERS

Please see back page for notice of the next re-union of the London Liaison Group.
down and the mud rises. What we have already seen is still there. We have to beware of physical and mental states which seem to contradict what we have already honestly observed. Though millions of people should see nothing but the mud and mist, such lack of vision cannot change what is behind them.

I suppose we have all had the curious sensation of being alone in a world of lunatics. Of course this is a delusion—we never are. But for goodness sake, don't fall into the opposite error and feel a lunatic in a world of the sane. Don't let the mud down you. February 19.

FLEXIBLE BARTER SYSTEM IN AMERICA

The following outline of the proposed expansion of the Interim Programme, Treasury Branch system, in Alberta (a full account of which appeared in "The Social Crediter" of October 29 and November 5, 1938) is taken from a recent statement by Mr. E. C. Manning. Observers in Alberta are of the opinion that, "with the indicators pointing to imminent financial collapse in Ottawa, the Interim Programme will stand out as a pointer to the proper scientific financing of the war."

The right to barter their own goods is an unquestionable property right of our people and, therefore, within provincial jurisdiction without a shadow of doubt. We have seen how much conflict can arise from any action which involves the financial system—and we are most anxious that no such controversy should be perpetuated at the present time when the need for national unity and full support for the federal government in our war effort are so essential.

We are confident that no such conflict will arise if our people merely exercise their constitutional property rights by using a barter system of their own, which does not interfere with the monetary system but rather acts as an auxiliary to ensure that it operates more efficiently.

At first this may appear to be a complete and far-reaching departure from the present Treasury Branches scheme. Actually, it will involve very few changes and will be nothing more than an expansion of the present services with the introduction of certain new features.

The new features being introduced are:

1—Existing transfer voucher deposits will automatically become cash deposits from a date to be announced later.

2—A new non-negotiable transfer voucher will be introduced for the transfer of "trade claims."

3—"Trade claims" will be claims on goods and services as between having accounts with the treasury branches. They will not be a claim on cash.

4—Persons may acquire trade claims for goods or for services from treasury branches for money. Such money received by the treasury branches for trade claims will be available for obtaining goods which have to be brought into the province or which cannot be obtained for trade claims or barter.

5—Retail merchants accepting trade claims for their goods will be assured of satisfactory arrangements for the replacements of such goods.

6—Consumers obtaining goods from co-operating retail merchants with non-negotiable transfer vouchers will be entitled to a 5 per cent. bonus in trade claims on the price of all such goods bearing the Alberta Trade Mark and on a like amount of other goods obtained with transfer vouchers in any month.

7—Arrangements will be made to provide proper facilities for retail merchants, wholesale merchants, manufacturers and producers, in order that they may participate in the benefits of the programme with a minimum of inconvenience to themselves.

8—Contingencies such as leaving the province for residence elsewhere, travel, etc., will be provided for in case of depositors accumulating trade claims.

9—In order to assure no disruption of the treasury branch services a period of a full month will be provided for the introduction of these new features and the signing of new agreements.

I should emphasise that the operation of the interim programme will continue to be absolutely voluntary and the new features like those at present in operation will depend solely upon their merits to win the support and co-operation of all.

The foregoing preliminary announcement is necessarily only a bare outline of the main features. Further details will be announced later.

We are inviting the most searching scrutiny of the new features by business men in every sphere of production and trade. Already we have had valuable assistance from the suggestions and constructive criticisms which some of these have made. I am confident that when the new services go into operation and the people have an opportunity of studying them fully and carefully, they will realise their great possibilities for the future welfare not only of Alberta but of all Canada.

(With acknowledgements to "Today and Tomorrow").

SO BOMBS ARE GOOD FOR US —THEY MAKE WORK!

"Mr Keynes recently remarked that war damage to buildings ought not to be viewed altogether with dismay. 'Damage of this kind (he said) is up to a point an opportunity. It is only when it gets beyond a certain point that it becomes a disaster.' This dictum can, of course, be read in conjunction with Mr. Keynes's suggestion that the compulsory savings he advocates—or used to advocate—should be released at the onset of the first post-war slump; and it is obvious that rightly timed and executed, rebuilding might be of the greatest help when work is most wanted. . . . ."

—Extract from an article "New England" in "The Economist" February 15, 1941.

TRIBUTE TO LABOUR

"Gossips believed, in fact," says a contemporary, "that Roosevelt's new choice [of ambassador] was intended to emphasise his recognition of Labour's big stake in the war."

So that's why he chose a millionaire!
"THE NEED FOR MONETARY REFORM"

Mr. Hepburn's statement to the press following his speech at the Dominion-Provincial Conference.

My first proposition is that the authority for creating money now vested by the Constitution in the Dominion Government should not be delegated by any other authority, public or private.

The Government being the sole creator of money, it therefore follows that during this time when the very existence of the State is threatened that the Government should not be required to hire or borrow money from others and to pay high rates of interest, except what might be termed a reasonable service charge, for the use of the very thing which the Dominion Government alone has the right to create.

By attempting to prosecute the war, which is in fact a great industrial and economic effort, by means of money either exacted at burdensome rates from the taxpayers or borrowed at unreasonably high rates of interest, is merely to load the Government with extra burdens which discourage and prevent an all-out participation in the war effort of the democracies.

In Canada the authorities seem to have determined upon a three per cent. war; but looking at a recent transaction in money in the United States, one realises how unnecessary it is to pay high interest rates on money required for the national security. President Roosevelt recently asked for a loan of $500,000,000 at an interest rate of three-quarters of 1 per cent. per annum for a period of four years. The reply was most impressive.

Instead of offering Mr. Roosevelt $500,000,000 the people of the United States offered him $4,000,000,000. Money, eight times the amount asked was available at a low rate of interest which practically represented a service charge. This was the most impressive demonstration of the fact that, in wartime high interest rates need not stand as an impediment in the way of the sovereign power in obtaining money desired for Governmental purposes. While President Roosevelt has in many respects revolutionised the monetary system in the United States there is no policy of inflation in that country. Statistics show that the circulation of real money in the United States is approximately $70 per capita, whereas the circulation of real money in Canada is around $30 per capita. By real money here I mean what is ordinarily known as till-money and I am not dealing with the volume of cheque money by which American nations carry on a large proportion of their business.

In times of war Governments must face these facts and must realise that so long as the goods and services necessary for the prosecution of the war efforts of the nation are available, the problem of creating money to secure these goods and services is of very secondary importance. That this truth is disregarded is evidenced by the statement made last July by the Minister of Munitions and Supply who said that the Government had not yet decided that they should build airplane engines in Canada and cited as the first, and apparently the most important difficulty, the amount of capital involved. This statement, it is interesting to note, was made shortly after the disastrous British defeat in Flanders and while Britain's plea for planes and more planes was still ringing in our ears.

In this time of great crisis there now develop two schools of thought—one holding that money should occupy the driver's seat, that our whole war effort should be predicated upon our ability to tax or borrow at a fixed rate of interest; to tax and borrow with the inevitable result that the power to produce and expand is restricted and dwarfed. Whenever you create a condition whereby producers of wealth are so heavily taxed that they are incapable of paying their taxes and enjoying a healthy development and expansion, you bring about economic disorder and take away from the nation the very means of saving itself.

Heavy taxation is bound to grind down the primary producers. We are wedded to a condition of affairs brought about by people who desire to maintain high interest rates and who constantly spread abroad the fear of the consequences that follow in the train of inflation. An increase in the quantity of money is not of itself inflation. The problem as I understand it, is not the issue of new currency to retire all existing bond obligation, thereby flooding the country with useless and worthless paper money, but rather to make available sufficient new currency in order to take care of the expanding requirements of war time.

I shall be glad at some future time to discuss this question at further length and to deal with some of the conditions brought about by high interest rates, particularly those which attach to obligations issued long before the war and which will continue to burden the debtor Governmental authorities for more than a score of years to come.

In attacking this problem, Canadians will look to the Bank of Canada which must not be operated for gain or to serve selfish interest but should rather aid primary producers and should assist in the solution of the financial problems of the Provinces and municipalities of the nation.

This war in which we are engaged is not being waged for money and its cost will never be expressed in terms of money. The real cost will be written in terms of human sacrifice. The sooner we realise this great truth the sooner will we bend every effort toward pouring what Britain sorely needs munitions, planes, and ships, regardless of any monetary considerations.

(With acknowledgements to "Today and Tomorrow").

DAWES-YOUNG LOANS INTEREST

"Sir Eric Phipps (British Ambassador) was present, as was Mr. Harry Hopkins, confidant, it seems, of President Roosevelt. . . ."

"Another guest, George Harrison, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, was very much concerned about Germany being commanded by Britain to pay 6 and 7 per cent. interest on the Dawes-Young loans while U. S. creditors under the same plan receive nothing.


— The Dodd Diary in the "Sunday Dispatch."
Sir Archibald Wavell on Generals

The Times has just published General Sir A. Wavell’s Lees-Knowles Lectures on The Art of Generalship.

Generals have had a bad press. They are, however, not the only experts who have had a bad press. Broadly, a good press has been reserved for rather a long time past exclusively for those experts who specialise in everybody else’s business but their own. Anyone who produces anything for other people to consume must know how to do it.Producers of all kinds have had a bad press, and the bigger the producer and more vitally important his output the worse the press. The worst press has been reserved for Douglas and his Social Credit ideas.

The Times seems loth to break with this vile tradition even to make an exception of this great general whose successes have delighted the public. “Reproduction in whole or in part forbidden.” The unusual and German-sounding prohibition deprives us of opportunity to quote from the Lectures. Perhaps The Times feared we might launch out into parallel columns: Wavell on the left, and Douglas on the right. Or it may have thought that if the whole tribe of evening-paper leader-writers were let loose indiscriminately on the subject matter, public morale might rise to an ‘unbalanced’ level.

“The general must know how to get his men their rations and every other kind of stores needed for war.”

This is not from Wavell, although he quotes it. The sentence is attributed to Socrates and Plato’s copyright has presumably expired, like Macaulay’s, who wrote:—

“In seasons of great peril
’Tis good that one bear sway,

Then choose we a dictator
Whom all men shall obey.
And let him be dictator
For six months and no more,

No mystery surrounds the interest taken by many Social Crediters in the ideas of soldiers.

Soldiers and soldiering are concerned with the employment of forces for political ends. The soldier’s policy is given. He takes his policy from his government; even when he might easily enforce his policy on his government. If this should happen, he would, however, only replace his government, and become somebody else’s government as well as the enforcer of that government’s policy. Assuming that enough physical force is available for the purpose compliance with a given policy of this kind can be enforced. Agreement, however, is something which cannot be enforced. If agreement can never be enforced, while compliance can always be enforced, it seems on the surface as though the world of human beings were destined to be conducted eternally on the lines of a tyranny of some kind—a reign of terror punctuated by an occasional rain of bombs. To most men this is an unwelcome conclusion.

The moralists seek to escape from it by pointing out that both the bombs and the terror may be avoided. “Victory” may always be secured by ‘not wanting’ the result; the individual wants. By this moralistic device of the “larger Victory,” compliance and agreement are rendered indistinguishable. At the same time, the tyrant, supported by the moralistic ingenuity, thinks his will has become indistinguishable from God’s will. The ease, apparently, with which this transference from one category to another—from human-tyrannical to Divine, and from resisted to willed—can be effected suggests that the employment of forces for political ends has its counterpart in the employment of forces for individual ends. In political dynamics, soldiers have probably the last word; but concerning what that word means for individuals, and for human society, social dynamics has the last word, and for its pronouncement soldiers might be quite unnecessary. They might not. If The Times was right in suggesting that we are mistaken in believing the introduction of bayonets into Alberta impossible, the generals might be very useful to both the social crediters and the non-social crediters (if any) in Alberta. The social crediter is interested in war because he is engaged in warfare. But he is not waging war to impose ‘his plan’ or his ‘government’s’ plan. He is not waging war to impose his ‘Social Credit Order’ on Alberta, or on Canada, or on England, or on Germany. His war is being waged to take the lid off an old natural order which the ‘new orders’ of human devising submerge. The evidences in favour of the view that this process of submersion is actually and potentially dangerous to the whole fabric of human society are not relevant to this article.

Not altogether irrespective of the nature of the forces, soldier and social crediter share a common interest in all matters concerning the nature and employment of forces.

Do the lectures as reprinted in The Times reveal an exceptionally high level of English competency and practical common-sense? We do not think so. They reveal an exceptional individual adhering with exceptional tenacity to the standard natural level of English practical common-sense. They come so refreshingly from the pages of The Times only because English practical common-sense rarely finds any representation therein.

T. J.
“The Economist” Endorses Douglas’s Analysis

“. . . the sum of the wages, salaries and dividends, distributed in respect of the world’s total production will buy an ever-decreasing fraction of it, and can never control it.”—Major Douglas in Economic Democracy, published in 1920.

“The problem of the Budget in war-time is a continuous Battle of the Gap. Expenditure is chronically in excess of what can be raised by taxation or borrowed from savings. But there should be a gap is almost inevitable; . . . “There is thus a prospective deficit of at least £3,300 millions, or, say, £300 millions a month. But the deficit is not the same thing as the ‘gap,’ in what is coming to be the accepted connotation of the word, for there are several sources of funds at the Treasury’s disposal which, while not taxing revenue, are nevertheless non-inflationary. The most important of these is, of course, the borrowing of genuine savings. Another is the realisation of foreign assets and a third is the accruing surplus on a number of funds such as the Unemployment Fund. But the conclusion reached a fortnight ago was that while the deficit can hardly be put at less than £300 millions a month, these non-inflationary sources can hardly be put to more than £150 millions a month, leaving a real ‘gap’ of £150 millions a month.

“This distinction between the deficit and the ‘gap’ is the chief source of confusion, genuine or induced, in discussions of fiscal policy.” . . .

“Out of the present total expenditure, say £4,400 millions a year, it may be that £800 millions a year is paid for by these methods [the selling of assets in the U.S.A.]. The balance would then be at the rate of £3,600 millions a year now, and we may guess that it will be at least £4,500 millions in the coming financial year.” . . . “Against this £4,500 millions, revenue, as estimated a fortnight ago, will bring in, without any increase in taxes, no more than £1,700 millions. Having left the realisation of foreign assets aside, we are left, of course, with a diminished total of non-inflationary sources of finance. Indeed they are unlikely to be much, if any, more than the gross total of subscriptions to Government loans. We can allow a maximum of £1,200 millions a year, leaving a ‘net gap’ of £1,600 millions a year, or, say, £150 millions a month.”

“... The existence of a ‘gap’ financed by the creation of credit does not make a rise of prices inevitable. It creates a greater quantity of purchasing power than can be spent on the available goods at present prices. But if rationing is all-inclusive enough, if the Prices of Goods Act is strictly enforced, if wages and material prices are kept down, this additional purchasing power may find it impossible to spend itself. It would, therefore, be a mistake to lay the blame for the rising prices from which we have suffered, are suffering, and shall suffer on Budgetary policy alone, without also blaming the Government’s policy for industrial and raw material prices, which positively encourages them to rise, and on its complete lack of any wages policy at all . . . .”


“We have The Economist’s admission, then, that the banks are creating at the present time at least £1,600 millions of credit a year and lending this sum to the Government in order that the nation can purchase the whole of the products of industry—and this is with many millions of the able-bodied men of the nation in unemployment, severely restricted by bureaucratic methods.

What is to be noted from this admission by The Economist? Firstly, in the words of Douglas in Economic Democracy: “Now, it must be perfectly obvious to anyone who seriously considers the matter that the State should lend, not borrow, and that in this respect, as in others, the financier usurps the function of the State.” So the £1,600 million should be claimed as the nation’s credit, and not regarded as a debt to the banks.

Secondly, this gap is still present in time of peace, that is, the gap between the aggregate prices on production and the nation’s income and this gap must be bridged as it is in war-time by the use of credit created and issued by the banking system. But in peace time instead of the Government having the spending of this new money it must be distributed direct to the consumers of the country for them to spend. Thus, assuming that the population of this country is 40 millions and that the Gap is only £1,600 millions, £40 per head will have to be distributed to every citizen in the country as purchasing power over and above what they receive as wages, salaries or dividend, whether this is done by paying them a cash dividend or applying the amount or part of the amount to a reduction in prices.

J. M.

THE EFFECT OF INCOME TAX

In a recent debate in Parliament Mr. Culverwell, M.P. for Bristol West, read out part of a letter from a coal-owner:

“Another serious matter is, of course, voluntary absenteeism, and as the war wage has gone up the absenteeism has increased. The younger men are the principal offenders and do not hesitate to inform the managers and officials that they will only send sufficient coal to enable them to earn the minimum wage, whereas they could be earning considerably more. Another reason they give is that they do not intend earning sufficient wages to pay Income Tax.”

The same thing occurs in many large factories, including those making munitions.

Mr. Bevin’s solution is to use compulsion to abolish voluntary absenteeism.

SIR OTTO NIEMEYER

Sir Otto Niemeyer has accepted an invitation to serve as chairman of the Court of Governors of the London School of Economics and Political Science in succession to Lord Stamp, who served as chairman from 1935 to 1940.

DISTRUST

“Admiral Francois Darlan . . . never liked the British, even when France was an active ally. ‘I don’t trust them,’ he said, ‘not even Winston Churchill.’”

—“Pertinax” in the Montreal Standard.
February 12.

WAR DAMAGE BILL

(T102 columns).

First Schedule.—Constitution and Procedure of the War Damage Commission.

Major Milner: I beg to move, in page 52, line 14, to leave out paragraph 3.

I move this amendment in order to call attention to the increasing tendency in recent Acts of Parliament to debar Members of this House, not to mention Members of another place, from occupying positions on such a Commission as that which we are now setting up. This procedure originated in the days of Queen Anne, in 1707, when the Succession to the Crown Act made acceptance of office under the Crown a disqualification for membership...

In 1707, patronage was a very great thing and it was necessary to provide that the Executive should not have too much patronage, and certainly not secret patronage. The position today is entirely different. All these appointments are made in the light of day, and there seems to be no special reason for debaring Members of Parliament from acceptance of office, for example, on the proposed War Damage Commission. In these days, all should be able to pull their weight, not only in Parliament, but elsewhere, in any position in which their experience and knowledge would be of use. On the contrary, we see that, little by little, the ordinary Member is being more debarred. Nevertheless, one reads in the newspapers that special provision can be made. One reads that it is proposed to bring before this House a Bill whereby the right hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty (Mr. M. MacDonald) may take the High Commissionership of Canada and yet retain his position in this House. It is possible, in what the Government consider to be appropriate cases, to make provision that acceptance of an office which may last for a long time and be carried on thousands of miles away from here, is not incompatible with membership of this House. On the other hand, one reads, as I did this morning, that another hon. Member has been appointed to be Governor of Burma, and will have to vacate his seat.

The situation is full of inconsistencies, and the Government ought to take it up. Members of this House can serve in the Army, the Navy or the Royal Air Force and can draw double salaries whereas, if I may say so without offence, the hon. and learned Member for North Croydon (Mr. Willink) is doing extremely useful work in connection with evacuation in London and is not, I think, in receipt of or entitled to take any salary for his work. That applies also, I think, to my hon. Friend the Member for North Tottenham (Mr. R. C. Morrison) who is filling a most important position connected with the Ministry of Supply, but is similarly not entitled to draw appropriate remuneration therefor. If those members had no private means they would not be able to give their effort and time to the service of the State and the existence of these provisions debar those without such means from doing outside work without remuneration. By the War Damage Bill Members will be debarred from sitting on the Commission but on the Forestry Commission, the Bacon Development Board and other Boards they are entitled to sit.

A precedent is therefore being set up, with all these new bodies which, in wartime, are more numerous than ever, that Members of this House should be debarred from appointment to them. That ought not to be the case, particularly in wartime. What a good thing it would be if the great majority of Members of this House were associated with definite work apart from membership of this House, in support of the war effort, and were able to bring their expert knowledge and experience to the service of the country and of the House. The practice of which I complain ought to be discontinued and, indeed, I should be prepared to do away with the Act of 1707. It does not necessarily ensure the right men getting the right position, and in these days it does not seem necessary to debar Members of this House from occupying positions of this sort. Contrary to the old days, all these matters are now dealt with in the light of day. Then again, special provision, some Members can occupy some positions while in other cases they cannot do so.

Sir H. Williams: I am going to oppose this Amendment for precisely the same reason as my hon. and gallant Friend moved it. I have with me a copy of the OFFICIAL REPORT for the last Sitting Day, containing a list of members of His Majesty’s Government. Seventy-one Members of this House are now Ministers of the Crown; if each has a Parliamentary Private Secretary, that makes 142. There are also two Ambassadors and one Commissioner. I am in favour of Queen Anne. We are getting on to dangerous ground when a quarter of this House is in the service of the Crown, and I hope that note will be taken of a situation which is developing unfavourably.

The Attorney-General: Quite apart from whether it would be right or wrong in war-time, it is relevant to point out that the activities of this body will certainly last after war-time. Therefore there is no question of what might or might not be justified in war-time. Another point which I hope the Committee, and perhaps the hon. Gentleman who moved this Amendment, will accept as another reason against the Amendment, is that this Commission will be charged with semi-judicial functions. In cases where judicial or semi-judicial functions arise it is desirable that hon. Members should debar ourselves from serving. My hon. Friend who moved the Amendment suggested that there was some recent tendency to treat it as automatic. I do not think that is so. For example, in the Regional Commissioners Bill this House made the exception by which Members of this House were debarred from serving.

Major Milner: Having regard to what has been said, I am prepared to ask leave to withdraw the Amendment, but I think that there should be some consistency in this matter....

February 13.

Oral Answers to Questions.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Financial Assistance

Mr. Deniliee asked the Minister of
Health whether he can now make any further statement as to the number of local authorities which will, in war-time, require financial assistance to enable them to carry on; the number and aggregate amount of loans which have been sanctioned for the purpose, and the number of applications which are still under consideration; and whether this aid connotes any measure of Treasury control?

Mr. E. Brown: Financial assistance of an aggregate amount of £362,000 has been advanced to 14 local authorities. Applications are under consideration from the 28 Metropolitan boroughs and five other authorities. In addition I have received joint representations from nine county boroughs which have suffered severely from enemy air raids. No estimate can be made of the number of local authorities who may eventually require financial assistance, as this will necessarily depend on the course of the war. Assistance will be conditional on the examination of estimates of expenditure and receipts and the securing of reasonable economy consistent with the maintenance of essential services, but apart from this, the receipt of assistance does not connote close control of the activities of the local authority.

Mr. Denville: Can this money be considered as a loan and, if so, what interest will have to be paid?

Mr. Brown: Perhaps the hon. Member will put that down in precise terms.

"DAILY WORKER" AND THE "WEEK"

Sir Waldron Smithers asked the Home Secretary whether he is in a position, without prejudicing the national interest, to publish a balance-sheet for the last available financial year of the Daily Worker and the Week?

Mr. Peake: No question of prejudicing the national interest arises, but my right hon. Friend is not in a position to draw up and publish such balance-sheets.

Sir W. Smithers: May I take it that a balance-sheet is not available?

Mr. Mabane: I am told that the Daily Worker is a private company, and the balance-sheets of private companies are not normally available.

DETERMINATION OF NEEDS BILL

(73 columns)

[This Bill modifies the household means test for unemployment assistance. An amendment for the complete abolition of the means test was moved by Mr. Ness Edwards and seconded by Mr. Ellis Smith. Supporting the amendment, Mr. A. Bevan, while admitting that there was 'a good deal of advance' in the Bill, said:—]

First, the honour of the British Labour Party is involved in it. There is no simple political issue upon which we have pledged ourselves so deeply as this matter of the household means test. I was in the House in 1934 when the Bill was introduced establishing the Unemployment Assistance Board. There were only 40 or 50 of us, and we kept up a day-by-day battle against it. We had demonstrations in the country. There is not a Member before or behind me who has not pledged himself more deeply than any single politician has ever been pledged. Is there a man here who has not committed himself on the platform at some time to abolition of the means test altogether? Nothing does more deadly damage to democratic institutions than for politicians to run away from their pledges. We sit here because we made that pledge. Many Members would not be here if it were not because of that, and it is dishonourable in the extreme to run away at this moment. There is no justification for running away at all; indeed, the national interest is bound up with it, because the morale and well-being of our people are the best single contribution that we should make to the national effort. . . .

There is another aspect of this matter which is equally serious. When my hon. Friends entered the Government it was recognised that a new and unique Parliamentary situation had been created and that it would be a great test of the flexibility, resiliency and dignity of our Parliamentary institutions. I suggested, and I understood that the House and Mr. Speaker accepted it, that the Opposition would be wherever opposition disclosed itself and that the Government should collect their majority from the House by free and open discussion. I understood that that was to be our procedure and that the procedure would not be to attempt to drive an unpopular Measure through the House by backstairs methods and by bullying Members into acquiescence. Now I understand that the Parliamentary Committee of the Labour party have decided to hold a special meeting next Tuesday morning in order to bring to book those Members who dare to fulfil their pledges in the House. Why are they going to do that? Because when they go to their constituents they will be asked why it was that A, B, C and D went into the Lobby and they did not, and they do not want to have the unpleasantness of having to reply. Why should we allow them to bury their consciences secretly? Why should we exempt hon. Members here from the obligation of making public explanations of their public conduct and permit them clandestinely and secretly to violate their pledges? It is not in keeping with the honour of a Member of Parliament that he should seek to find in closed and secret rooms upstairs an excuse for betraying the people whom he represents in the House of Commons. That is exactly what the right hon. Gentleman is doing.

[The Amendment was lost by 173 votes to 19.]

February 18.

Oral Answers to Questions.

(35 columns)

LOUGH SWILLY.

Professor Savory asked the Secretary of State for Dominions Affairs whether any record exists in his Department showing whether the Government of Northern Ireland was consulted with regard to the abrogation by the Agreement of 1938 of the clause in the Agreement of 1921 reserving to His Majesty's Imperial forces the use of Lough Swilly, situated within a few miles of the City of Londonderry.

The Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs (Mr. Shakespeare): No, Sir. As has been made clear in public statements by the present Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and his predecessor, the Northern Ireland Government was not a party to the Agreement of 1938 relating to the transfer of the ports.

Professor Savory: Does the hon. Gentleman realise how very seriously Northern Ireland is concerned, and that Lough Swilly is within nine miles of the City of Londonderry, which is the second city of Northern Ireland?

Mr. Shakespeare: I realise that.

Sir Hugh O'Neill: In view of the well-known fact that the Government of Northern Ireland were opposed to the handing-over of the ports to Southern Ireland, might it not have been better...
to have had consultations with them officially and to have paid some attention to their views?

Mr. Shakespeare: I was asked on a question of fact. Now the right hon. Gentleman asks for an opinion, and I am not called upon to give that.

WAR AIMS.

Mr. Wedgwood asked the Prime Minister whether he will give time for the discussion of the Notice of Motion standing in the name of the right hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme concerning war aims?

["That, in the opinion of this House, no statement on war aims should be made by His Majesty's Ministers without previous consultation and agreement with the Government of the United States of North America."]

The Lord Privy Seal (Mr. Attlee): No, Sir. I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope of special opportunity being given for discussion of the Motion standing in the name of my right hon. Friend.

Mr. Wedgwood: Will the right hon. Gentleman urge that no statement of war aims should be laid down by His Majesty's Government without consultation with the United States Government?

Written Answers (15 columns).

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

Major Lloyd asked the Minister without Portfolio whether it is his intention to take into consultation all sections of opinion in this House in connection with any schemes of post-war reconstruction which may be in the course of consideration; and what steps he proposes to take to that end?

Mr. Greenwood: The Prime Minister has stated that in dealing with problems of reconstruction it is the desire of the Government to frame schemes which will command the support of the nation as a whole. These schemes will be submitted in due course to the judgment of Parliament. The group of Ministers of which I am Chairman represents different points of view. It is my intention to take into full account all expressions of responsible opinion.

February 19.

Oral Answers (35 columns).

FOOD SUPPLIES

REINFORCED BREAD

Mr. Stokes asked the Lord Privy Seal whether the report of the Scientific Food Committee supporting the synthetically reinforced loaf was unanimous; and, if not, which members of that committee differed from the majority?

Mr. Attlee: It is contrary to accepted practice to give information in answer to Questions of this kind, and I am not prepared to make an exception in this case.

Mr. Stokes: Will the Lord Privy Seal consider publishing the report, in view of the muddle which has been created, and the fact that the policy of the Government is now only a half-measure?

Mr. Attlee: I cannot accept the hon. Member's statement. I think the muddle is in his own mind.

Mr. Logan: Would the right hon. Gentleman arrange for bread to be taken out of sausages?

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES.

Mr. Stokes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will give an assurance that no undertaking with regard to the restoration of the international exchanges on a pre-war basis will be given to the Government of the United States of America without first consulting this House?

Captain Crookshank: No question of such an undertaking has arisen, and I am not prepared to give an assurance relating to a hypothetical, but vague, contingency.

Mr. Stokes: Has the attention of the Financial Secretary been called to statements in prominent financial newspapers, that an undertaking of this kind has been given? Will he give an assurance that it is not correct?

Captain Crookshank: I am not responsible for what is in the newspapers. I have stated categorically, on behalf of my right hon. Friend, that no such undertaking has been given.

SUPPLY: COMMITTEE—COAL INDUSTRY

(85 columns).

Mr. T. Smith (Normanton): The first thing we have to do is to win the war. I am far from being a prophet, but unless the problem of transport is tackled, I am sure we shall have a worse position next winter than we have now. As a proof of that statement, let me say that we are at the present time consuming in this country 10 per cent. more coal than we are producing. We have been drawing on stocks. Unless the transport problem is remedied, there will be the possibility of a coal famine next winter. There is also an industrial side to the matter. In certain counties where industries have grown, as my hon. Friend the Member for Ince (Mr. G. MacDonald) knows, it has been a question not merely of a shortage of household coal but a shortage of industrial coal. The South Yorkshire coal owners are in the position that they cannot produce the requisite amount of coal for munitions work. The position is serious, and it must be tackled.

Let me say quite sincerely, that I know the position is not quite as bad now as it was last winter. This is due, first, to the fact that we have had a less severe winter, and secondly, to the fact that my hon. Friend the Secretary for Mines succeeded in getting large quantities of coal stored in various parts of the country... In addition, many house-holders responded to the appeal to stock their cellars. These stocks, both in dumps and in cellars, were not big enough... Let it not be forgotten that there are thousands of people who would be only too glad and willing to put coal into their cellars if they had room and if they had enough money to buy the coal. ...

Mr. Grenfell: Hon. Members from all the coalfields, and particularly from Durham and South Wales—from Lancashire, too; but the problem is far more serious numerically in Durham and South Wales—have asked whether I am satisfied that I have the powers required to prevent pits from closing. The general answer that I would give is this. We have been unable to get sufficient clearance for all pits; and many have closed down for want of trade and for financial reasons. If orders and transport are available, we shall call for powers to keep sufficient pits in production for all the coal we require.

Mr. Sloan (Ayrshire, South): After the pits have closed?

Mr. Grenfell: We are doing all we can to prevent pits from closing.

Mr. Tinker (Leigh): Let us get this clear. My hon. Friend said, “After the pits have closed.” I take it that the Secretary for Mines means that he will, definitely, take such powers before the pits have closed?

Mr. Grenfell: A large number of pits have already closed.

Mr. Tinker: I know that pits have...
had to close; but if the Minister is satisfied that pits ought to keep in production, will he take steps to see that they do so?

Mr. Grenfell: Let me put it like this. If we require pits to fulfil the part allocated to the mining industry in the national effort, I shall take power to see that they fulfil that part.

Sir Geoffrey Ellis (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Presumably my hon. Friend will take financial responsibility where a pit is unable to go on working economically?

Mr. Grenfell: Yes; if we want coal we must take that responsibility.

We have still millions of tons of coal in stock, and there will be many more million tons of Government stock before the coming summer is out, if we can manage it. That is the reserve upon which we will hope to draw, but we shall not discourage the private user who can stock.

Mr. Evans: ... After all, there is coal in abundance which we can produce, and, despite what the hon. Gentleman said about shortage of labour, there are thousands of men available and anxious to produce coal. For that reason I do not think the hon. Gentleman is exercising such authority as he has over other Departments. ... It is not a new question at all. The Government have had plenty of notice of this. It is exactly 12 months to the day—Wednesday, 21st February—that there took place a very interesting discussion on the shortage of coal at that time, and the same questions were asked as have been asked to-day. ... Twelve months ago the defence put up by the Government was "The weather is so bad that it has increased the demand for coal and made it difficult to produce it or to move it." The Government have not that defence this year. They may have it very early, because the winter is not over yet, and the trouble is that, despite the comparatively mild weather we have had, there are still these complaints of the shortage of coal.

What defence has been put up? None so far. We have heard the same thing. The hon. Gentleman says there is a shortage of wagons. I travel to South Wales every week-end and back on Monday. There are miles of sidings occupied by empty wagons. What is the good of talking of shortage of wagons if you see that confronting you every week? ...

We are told that the civilian population is in the front line of the war. The War Office, the Admiralty, the Air Ministry and the Home Office say it. When you are relying upon the courage and endurance of the civilian population, why should you deprive them of a comfort which you have in plenty but which you will not take the trouble to distribute? It is a very serious matter, not only from the point of view of domestic consumers, but of industry and of the public utility services. ...

DIARY OF EVENTS

FEB. 19—Ministry of Home Security stated that 1,502 civilians were killed by air raids in January. Proposed orders for the registration of men and women, and of undertakings engaged on essential work, approved by Joint Consultative Committee of Ministry of Labour.

FEB. 20— Australian Troops arrived Singapore.

FEB. 21—Mr Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, arrived in England; Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, and Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived in Egypt.

Swansea bombed last night.

FEB. 22—Germans have been preparing openly to invade Bulgaria. R.A.F. raided Sicily. Swansea again bombed.

Mr. Eden conferred with General Catroux, Free French Leader in the Middle East.

Mr. Harry Hopkins appointed member of new Production Planning Board in U.S.A., which will advise Defence Commission on industrial planning.

FEB. 23—Swansea again bombed.

Day-time air-fight over the Channel.

In a speech to Rome branch of Fascist Party Mussolini admitted loss of one-tenth of army, one-fifth of airmen.

FEB. 24—R.A.F. attacked invasion ports.

Conscription of women held up, T.U.C. and employers promised to find war workers to replace men called up.

Sir Walter Citrine, back from U.S.A., said: "The people in authority in the U.S.A. know that, with the best will in the world, it will take to the middle or end of 1942 before American plane production can reach its peak."

Hitler, in a speech at Munich, said: "Basically National Socialism and Marxism are the same."

FEB. 25—Allied forces have continued advance in Eritrea, Abyssinia and Somaliland.

Admiral Darlan has formed a cabinet: Admiral Darlan as Vice-Premier, Foreign Minister, Minister of the Interior, Minister of the Navy; General Huntziger, M. Barthelemy, M. Bothillier and M. Caziot as Ministers of Defence, Justice, Finance and Agriculture respectively.
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Group Meeting on March 6, 1941.
Subject: Social Credit Abroad.

In the Lombard Cafe, Lombard Street, at 8 p.m. Correspondence to the Hon Sec., 17 Cregagh Road, Belfast.

Published by the proprietors, K.R.P. Publications, Ltd., at 12, Lord Street, Liverpool, 2.
Printed by J. Hayes & Co., Woolton, Liverpool.