

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## MUSIC AT THE BENCH

By B. M. PALMER

A recent article in the *Manchester Guardian* deals with methods of keeping the worker as healthy and cheerful as possible, and mentions among other things, the playing of gramophone records during the times when production shows signs of slackening off.

"It might," the writer says, "make many of the men who have composed and recorded the music unhappy to think of their work being used as a stimulant to industrial production, but results show the stimulant to be surprisingly effective."

It is quite possible some of them might be made unhappy by the knowledge, just as some scientists are made unhappy by the knowledge that their inventions are used to make war.

They take it for granted that there is something "low" about industrial production, whereas in art there is a high moral purpose which removes it to another plane.

This point of view is, in its turn, based upon the supposition that the artist has a right to use his art for that purpose, and its acceptance by others.

In point of fact it is impossible to assess the value of these things, industrial production, art, science, war, or anything else, until the "moral" factor is completely discounted. It must be insisted upon once and for all that the true purpose of any human activity, no matter what form it may take, is far removed above "morality"—it is in truth amoral. "Morality" varies from one era to another, and is, in the end, nothing more than a consensus of opinion. Admittedly the body of established fact must, or should, increase from age to age. But such as it is, at any given moment, it can be accepted by the body of the nation if due observance be paid to the conditions of policy,

technique and sanctions.

Industrial production is no exception. It has long been the custom for "moralists" to point to the evils of industrialism—unemployment, low wages, a ruined countryside. But it is beyond dispute that industrial production, as distinct from "industrialism," has only resulted in undesirable results in so far as the *policy* of production has been decided by a few usurpers in order to satisfy their acquisitive ends. Had policy and sanctions been in control of the people so that they received what they desired, the results of industrial production would have been above criticism. For in a very real sense, it is blasphemy to question the results which follow when two or three are gathered together.

In contrast, the true artist and his work cannot be made the instrument of policy. Whatever they may be, the products of his inspiration exist only by reason of their own value. The artist expresses what he must express, and having done so, he has a right to insist that in performance or reproduction the directions he gives shall be faithfully adhered to. If this is done, it seems he cannot make just complaint should attempts be made to use his work as a "stimulant to industrial production." Provided he is free from outside pressure, he should be able to produce the effect he intended.

A great artist never fears misapprehension. When Beethoven was told that people could not understand his later quartets, he quietly replied that they would one day.

So much may be said concerning the fundamentals. They should be known by Social Crediters. But many, perhaps the majority of "works of art," cannot properly be so-called, in that their creators have been compelled to

supply a market, "to give the public what it wants," to submit to sanctions. It cannot be said that the artist has any right to such productions; they are in reality the property of the industrialism which gave them birth.

It seems that the programmes of "Music at the Bench" are compiled from such sources. We are told that the records must "stimulate" and not distract. Vocal records take up too much of the listener's attention, and are therefore not played at all during working hours. It would not do, for instance, to play records that might stimulate thought concerning the nature of reality.

Once more it must be emphasised that this is not a moral problem, no more than the bombing of civilians is a moral problem. The people's policy is to win the war. They are united and happy in their union. If the playing of fox-trots, marches and "light" music helps them to make more munitions, they must be played. If the bombing of civilians brings victory nearer, they must be bombed.

There may one day, let us hope, be another policy in which the people will be equally united. When that day comes let the artists be ready.

October 2, 1940.

### On Other Pages

THE DIRECT BEAM

By H. E.

POST-CARDS TO M.P.s

ALBERTA AND THE  
"WHEAT CRISIS"

## CANADA AND UNION WITH U. S. A.

*The following excerpts are taken from an article entitled "What would Canada Do?" by John MacCormac in "The Saturday Evening Post" of September 14, 1940.*

Three times in Canadian history the French Canadians have demonstrated their firm desire to remain Canadians...

French Canada fears "Americanization." The Catholic Church in Quebec, which is almost a self-contained unit, fears it because the United States represents in its eyes not only a great solvent of race and language but the spirit of materialism, of universalism, and this-worldliness. Chiefly for such reasons, it consistently opposed annexation, from 1849, when it seemed a likely fate for Canada, to 1900, when it had become a matter of academic interest. But now, in 1940, for both French and English Canadians, annexation has suddenly ceased to seem academic. ....

In the event of an overwhelming British defeat, followed by the acceptance of a Nazi-dominated totalitarian system, Canada, at the cost of much heartbreak, would probably have to sever the last tie that binds her to the Mother Country. She then would have to go on her own, technically independent, but actually in the orbit of the United States and possibly in loose association with Australia and New Zealand if they could retain their sovereignty in a world dominated by fascist empires. She would be threatened immediately with semi-bankruptcy, for she has consistently exported almost half her surplus to British markets.

In such a situation Canada could probably find succour only in a Western Hemisphere cartel of the kind already discussed in Washington. Aside from Argentina, she would present the most difficult economic problem that would face any attempt to make this hemisphere self-sufficient. Although the political course of her present government, until the war, was inspired by isolationism, her economy depends on the export, in huge quantity, of a few specialties. Almost as much as Great Britain herself, Canada lives on world trade. If a victorious Hitler showed the same determination to make Europe self-sufficient as he did to make Germany autarchic—and carved the Ukraine from the flank of the Russian bear the better to do it—Canada would have to go out of wheat growing for export, already none too profitable. It would be a painful operation, to be survived perhaps only with careful nursing by the

United States.

Any outcome of the war involving the domination of the British Isles by Hitler would make American assistance desperately necessary for Canada. It is also true that the United States, for her own security, must protect Canada. How far she can protect Latin America is a matter of opinion, but nobody in Washington appears to question the necessity of enlisting and assuring the support of Canada in the defence of North America. The 3,500-mile border is too long and too long undefended for the United States to tolerate invasion of Canada by an enemy, or even the fermenting of such discontents as would eventually engender a fifth column there.

These factors would produce a situation of which the easiest solution—economically—might seem to many Canadians to be a customs union with the United States. Certainly for the wheat farmers of the Canadian West it would seem a blessed way out of their difficulties. It would be otherwise with that substantial portion of Canadian eastern industry which exists only by reason of tariff protection. ....

Would Canada, once it became part of the economy of the United States, or even of a hemisphere economy dominated by the United States, not soon become so integrated that political union with her protector would seem as inevitable next step? Or would she stay independent, inheriting and perhaps perpetuating, as its new centre, the long and lustrous traditions of the British Empire?

Long-term factors making for union with the United States are propinquity and similarity of speech and custom. There are no other two countries in the world whose inhabitants so closely resemble one another as do Americans and Canadians .....

An Eastern Canadian banker, inveighing against the improvidence of the Western farmer, would find himself immediately on common ground with his like in the Eastern States. Similarly Premier Aberhart, of Alberta, could he raise the ghost of William Jennings Bryan, would be able to agree with him that mankind was being crucified upon a cross of gold.

.....Prime Minister Mackenzie King got part of his education at Harvard.

The United States owns a quarter of Canada's industry. Banking and finance have been almost international.

I asked a Canadian about it who is, in some ways, the counterpart of John Defoe's young man. He had been born in the United States and lived there, first as an American and later as a naturalised Canadian, almost half his life.

"I don't know," he said. "It sounds odd coming from me, but I'm not at all sure that I would like to see Canada become a part of the United States, if she could get along on her own. I guess it's because I have grown used to the peace and quiet of Canada. I like law and order. If that's the way I feel about it your native-born Canadian is going to feel more so. As an individual he may seem almost exactly like an American. But if he wants to know he's not, all he needs to do is, just once, to watch an American political convention."

I asked a French Canadian about it. He was quite sure his views were typical of French Canada.

"Do you remember," he asked, "that Sir Etienne Pascal Taché once declared: 'The last shot fired on American soil in defence of the British flag would be fired by a French Canadian?' Well you can adapt that to the conditions that may face us to-morrow. The last province of Canada that will ever join the United States is Quebec. We have been reproached for not being British, but nobody has ever been able to say we are not Canadian. Our trouble is that we have never wanted to be anything but Canadian. We are the only inhabitants of Canada who have no divided allegiance...."

In other words, an influential section of English Canada resents the isolationist position of the United States in this war, while its like in French Canada agrees with American isolationists that if North America is to be defended it should be in North America. French Canadians are undoubtedly the Sinn Feiners of this continent. They would be willing to join the United States only if they could be assured of remaining unassimilable. As Quebec guards the principal gateway to the interior of this continent it may be doubted whether the United States could afford to give them such a guaranty.

## NEWS & VIEWS

Lord Beaverbrook's paper, the *Daily Express*, thinks that if the individual's assets are made valueless by a capital levy, the individual should be taxed ten per cent. on the *value* of the assets for being allowed to retain them.

We have ourselves always been in favour of the abolition of taxation, but we feel there must be a catch in it if it is advocated by the *Daily Express*.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw, in a long letter to *The Times* on farming (you didn't know that G.B.S. knows all about farming? How odd!) said that Stalin's "enormously successful" collective farming has mopped up the Kulak and the Moujik as completely as the factory mopped up the hand-loom weaver."

Mr. Shaw wears hand-woven tweeds.

Mr. Shaw is an enthusiastic admirer of Russia. You can try almost anything out there, and if you live somewhere else, it's enormously interesting and so much nicer than having it tried out on you. There are so many Russians, that you don't miss a million or so of them.

No, Clarence, the fact that Mr. Keynes says the nation will not be poorer after the war doesn't mean that you won't be poorer. It means that Mr. Keynes and Lord Stamp won't be poorer. You thought you were part of the nation? Of course you are, my dear fellow. Sacrifice, you know, sacrifice. Have you forgotten Lord Stamp?

The Post-Office and the railways started to profiteer on the first day of the war. Their services have been cut down, their charges have gone up. Had the privately owned and administered business of the country allowed itself to be dislocated as the Post-Office has been during the last month, the war would have been lost by now. Because, although hampered and harassed by a bureaucracy which has no responsibility and little ability, we still have room for a little individual initiative, which Socialist Germany has not, we shall win the war. And then we have to see that we didn't win it to make a hell

of it, like Russia and Germany.

Have you noticed that either a Jew (Montagu) or a half Jew (Amery) is Secretary of State for India when Britain is fighting for existence, and that the Congress Party in India, which is known to receive Bolshevik money, becomes specially active?

Cheer, cheer, the Gang's all here. Sir John Reith, whose organisation of the B.B.C. as a tasteful combination of the Salvation Army and Tin Pan Alley has made so many people trade their wireless sets for two budgerigars or what have you, is now to build a nationalised London. Rams' horns will replace door bells, and all measurements will be in cubits.

### "WE AMERICANS . . ."

Clarence Streit, chairman of the inter-democracy federal unionists, and author of the book *Union Now*, said in New York on September 19 that by inviting the democracies of the British commonwealth of nations to form a federal union with the United States, "we Americans can electrify the world before Hitler's blitzkrieg electrocutes the last hope for democracy in the British Isles."

Commenting upon Mr. Attlee's assurance expressed in the House of Commons, that parliament would have an opportunity to discuss any "far-reaching scheme" for a union between Britain and the United States, Streit said "I feel sure this union is not only going to be made, but made so fast it will make Hitler's head—well, do more than swim."

Streit, a former newspaperman, first proposed a union of the world's democracies in 1939 in his book, *Union Now*. The Inter-Democracy-Federal Unionists were established to work towards this end.

Mr. Attlee's assurance was seen by officers of the Inter-Democracy Federal Unionists as transforming "*Union Now*," which they advocate, from a "cause," to an "issue."

"We rejoice that the question has been brought up. *Union Now* has been transferred from a cause that has to be advocated, into an issue which has to be

met." said William Jay Schieffelin, chairman of the organisation's New York chapter.

The Inter-Democracy Federal Unionists advocate the immediate union of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Dominions and the eventual union of all the world's democracies.

### MR. GREENWOOD TELLS THE JEWS

A message has been sent to American Jewry by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister without Portfolio.

He states that when victory is achieved, an effort will be made to found a new world order based on ideals of justice and peace, in which "the conscience of civilised humanity would demand that the wrong suffered by the Jewish people in so many countries should be righted."

Rabbi M. P. Perlzweig, who took the message from London to Rabbi Wise in the United States and compared it with the Balfour Declaration, said he was certain that Mr. Greenwood "speaks for England," and that he was certain it was subject to earnest consideration by the British Government. The message went on:—

"In rebuilding a civilised society after the war there should be a real opportunity for Jews everywhere to make a distinctive contribution. All men of good will must assuredly hope that in the New Europe Jewish people, in whatever country they live, will have freedom and full equality before the law with every other citizen."

Rabbi Wise compared Mr. Greenwood's declaration with that of Mr. Balfour in 1917. In a sense, he said, Mr. Greenwood's declaration had "wider and far-reaching implications," since it dealt with the status of Jews all over the world.

The message, says a New York report, is described in the American Press as the first public declaration on the Jewish question since the war began.

### A MATTER OF PRONUNCIATION

I do not think that on the whole I can commend this Gen: de Gaulle For down at Dakar Gen: de Gaulle Was hardly any use at all. The prospect will be pretty dull If we have backed a Gen: de Gaulle. — *Excalibur*.

# ALBERTA AND THE "WHEAT CRISIS"

On September 18, Premier Aberhart's entire cabinet met Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, and discussed at length the wheat crisis. The provincial government took advantage of Mr. MacKinnon's presence in Edmonton to present once more to the Dominion Government the necessity of urgent action to provide the farmers of Western Canada with funds on the basis of the crop harvested.

It was pointed out to Mr. MacKinnon that making advances to farmers on grain stored in granaries there could not possibly be any inflation. If the storage space were available the Wheat Board would buy all the wheat and store it in grain terminals. The Provincial government was simply requesting the Dominion government to make available to the farmer in the form of advances the funds available to the Wheat Board for the outright purchase of all the wheat if the storage space were available.

The representations of the government were presented to Mr. MacKinnon in the following letter:

September 18, 1940.

Hon. James A. MacKinnon,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce,  
Ottawa.

Hon. Sir,

As a Government, we are deeply concerned with the wheat problem that is causing so much distress to our citizens at the present time. We feel that this problem, which has assumed the proportions of a national emergency, is so urgent that immediate action is extremely important if the problem is to be solved and our people saved from the dire results of the financial stagnation that threatens us, and which will affect the whole economy of the Dominion. No doubt you are aware of the disastrous consequences which might result if Canada's war effort were to be impaired by an undermined economic structure.

We have given considerable study to this grave problem and are convinced that, whatever attitude may be assumed in regard to the purchase of or payment for wheat, the farmer should receive remuneration at least for the service he has rendered in producing these crops which, though not needed at the present moment, will be of extreme importance

in the future pursuit of the war and during its aftermath. An adequate payment is essential not only to provide for the needs of the farmer's family but also to take care of his past obligations which, in turn, affects the livelihood of every business and professional man and every wage earner in Western Canada and their families.

1. We insist that this is primarily a Federal responsibility (a) because it is wholly a monetary problem and the issuance and control of money is held to come under federal jurisdiction; and (b) because the storage, delivery and marketing of our grain under the Canada Grain Act is wholly under the control of the Federal government. No farmer can market his grain except through channels designated by the Federal authority. (c) Furthermore, the Federal Government has agreed to purchase the entire 1940 wheat crop.

In this regard, it is evident that, if the Federal Government would provide the necessary money or credit to take care of the 1940 grain crop, there would be no wheat crisis.

The declared policy of the Federal Government in connection with the nationalization of the Bank of Canada was to make currency and credit available in terms of public need. Since the wheat crisis is a national emergency, there can be no doubt concerning the public need.

2. If it is argued that this would create inflation because the 1940 wheat crop is immobilized production and that the issue of currency against it would constitute surplus purchasing power, we would point out that this is not tenable for the following reasons:—

(a) The money, which would be issued to farmers would be spent for the most part, in the payment of existing liabilities and, therefore, would not constitute an additional demand for goods.

(b) That portion of the money which would be spent on goods (living expenses for the coming year) would not constitute a surplus claim because it would be only a small proportion of that for which normal provision is made in our national economy. Already many of these goods are on the market and if they are not purchased by farmers, they

will remain unsold and the costs of production will remain unliquidated with disastrous consequences to industry, trade and commerce. Another aspect of this question is, that, if farmers are not provided with money in payment for their wheat to buy these goods necessary for their livelihood during the coming year, they will have to be provided with money in the form of relief to buy the goods. No one, surely, would argue that the issue of such relief would constitute inflation. Furthermore, the Federal Government having agreed to purchase the entire 1940 crop, if elevator storage had been available and if the government purchase had been carried out as in previous years, the bogey of inflation would never have been raised.

(c) Finally it must be borne in mind that the increase in taxation and the continuous pressure for savings under the methods of war finance which are being adopted are deflationary in effect and provide a further check to inflationary possibilities.

3. We are convinced that farmers would be quite able to look after the storage of wheat on their farms if they received sufficient payment or were given definite assurance that such payment would be made. It should be noted that the present situation is not a temporary matter but may continue for some years until normal world market conditions have been restored. Therefore it seems essential that farmers should be provided with the means for erecting storage space on their farms to meet any future emergency as well as this year's storage problem and that the federal authorities should deal with the present situation under a system which will be effective for future occasions.

They are not without some organization that could be adapted to that purpose. There are, in the western provinces, some 6,000 elevator agents each serving approximately 70 to 80 farmers. Under existing arrangements, there would be no difficulty involved in having these agents grade the farmers' wheat on the basis of his present quota delivery. This and the threshing bill showing the quantity of grain harvested would provide the basis for advancing a minimum of 75 per cent. of the

assessed value of his marketable crop. Under these conditions, there would be no possibility of loss to the Federal Government.

4. If, because of the war or for any other reason, the Federal Government is not prepared to use the Bank of Canada in the way indicated above, then we would suggest as an alternative that the Wheat Board be authorized to issue negotiable grain tickets to the

value of 75 per cent. of the marketable wheat stored on farms. The tickets would be issued in convenient denominations for circulation at face value until the wheat is delivered when they would be redeemed in cash.

In persistently pressing for early action, the Alberta Government wishes to express once again its complete readiness to co-operate with the Federal Government in every possible way in

dealing with the situation. Also, once more, the Alberta Government reiterates its willingness to deal with the situation in this province along effective lines if the Federal Government, for its part, will undertake not to interfere with such action and where it is necessary to invoke Federal powers to extend full facilities and co-operation to the Alberta Government.

WILLIAM ABERHART,  
Premier.

### Mr. ABERHART IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. William Aberhart, Premier of Alberta, has been giving a series of lectures in British Columbia. He recently told a gathering of 300 that he believed his province and British Columbia are peculiarly correlative one to the other both in products and climate and he hoped that "a closer relationship and a greater exchange of commodities will be established between the two provinces, especially in these days of restricted foreign markets.

"Why should Alberta buy fruit from across the (International) line when the British Columbia orchards are so near and need her markets?" he asked. "Why should British Columbia buy feed grain from other lands when Alberta can supply all her needs so economically and so well?"

Mr. Aberhart said the people of Alberta fully realize the importance of putting their all behind the war effort but felt that unless some of the problems of marketing grain and livestock were solved, the people would be physically unable to do all that they desired to do.

"Ontario should understand the problems of the west. That province buys much coal from the United States that could be purchased from Alberta. There should be more trade between east and west.

"The people should have greater purchasing power. How can we expect best results when returns to farmers for their products are 25 per cent. below those of 1913 while prices of goods they require are 33 per cent. higher than before the first Great War?

"It is a matter of practical certainty that unless something is done in the immediate future our system will not be able to carry the load and will collapse under its own deadweight.

## CANADIAN DICTATORSHIP

(Reprinted from "Today and Tomorrow," September 12, 1940.)

For years we have had a financial dictatorship in Canada. Every time the Province of Alberta passed legislation affecting the privileges of this financial dictatorship, the legislation was obligingly disallowed by the Liberal government in Ottawa to protect this power behind the scenes. The inference is too obvious to require comment.

Since the war has started, and under the pretext of assisting in the war effort, the financial interests have used the Dominion Government to extend their dictatorship still further. These same interests are now endeavouring to smash competition and increase their already enormous profits by raising prices of essential commodities.

Immediately after the declaration of war, the government of Alberta took steps to prevent any undue rise in prices of food and clothing. Such commodities as flour, butter, sugar, etc., were placed under control. The necessary regulations were passed in order to safeguard the public against a very serious situation and a Price Spreads Board was set up to regulate prices of essential commodities after proper investigation.

After these regulations were passed by the Province the Dominion passed similar regulations under the War Measures Act but no attempt was made to enforce these regulations. Then the Alberta Price Spreads Board endeavoured to enforce its regulations by compelling important interests to open their books and reveal their profits; these objected on the legal ground that only the Dominion could take such action. Alberta's appeal

to the Dominion to act or at least authorize the Province to carry on as the agent of the Dominion in these matters went unheeded.

The same can be said about the oil situation in Canada and particularly in Alberta. Geo. R. Cotterelle, a banker with no knowledge of the oil industry, was appointed by the Liberal administration at Ottawa controller over the entire oil industry in Canada.

Immediately on his appointment, without consulting the Oil Conservation Board of Alberta or the government of the Province of Alberta, Mr. Cotterelle issued orders which had far reaching effects upon the oil industry in Canada and Alberta. Not knowing anything about oil, and having issued these orders before he ever had an opportunity of investigating the oil industry in Canada, Mr. Cotterelle must have acted on the advice of people familiar with the oil industry. Who were these advisors and what is their connection with the Oil Trust in Canada? We all know of course who stands to benefit by these orders.

Many other instances of the rapid expansion of financial and big power business dictatorship in Canada could be given. Enough has been said to warn our readers.

Whither are we heading? Let us at all times keep clearly in mind that we are fighting to preserve all that we mean by democracy and free institutions.

In war or peace the preservation of these is in the people's hand. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

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## POST-CARDS TO M.P.s

An expert in Medical Jurisprudence who desired to impress upon his students the unreliability of witnesses made it his custom to stage the following little object lesson annually:—

The class was asked to enter the lawyer's private room one by one. As the first entered he was handed a slip of paper on which was written some such yarn as this: "Betty, whose husband was a plumber, scalded her foot and, rushing out to get help from a neighbour, knocked over a small boy, who died later from a fracture of the skull." Having read the message, the student was told to read it again and memorise it, and thereafter to hand it back, being prepared to repeat it to the next comer. Invariably, year after year, the last man in then faced the class as a whole and told its members that the story he had received was (let us say) that "George, who was a tin-plate worker, had been killed at work."

It is with this recollection in mind that we face a pile of allegations just beginning to gain height that on August 24 (seven weeks ago) we counselled readers to stop writing to their M.P.s!

Reference to the article yields the following:—"The Social Credit movement cannot ..... say to those who wield power: 'If you don't do this, we shall do that.' Nevertheless it has its part to play. It is its business to urge upon those people who can do things or get them done lines of action consonant with their own desire for results—*lines of action considered with the greatest care in the light of matters which we have made ourselves wholly familiar* ..... We can constitute ourselves a General Staff; but all we can say to the Divisional Commanders is: 'We are giving you the best and most disinterested advice; but whether you

carry it out, or whether anyone carries it out is a matter, though not of indifference, yet quite beyond our control.' ..... Readers of the all too brief extracts, published here, from *Hansard* will be aware of a broadening of the situation. This should be handled *with painstaking care, individually, expertly, persistently*. ... The post-card to your M.P. has had its day ..... What holds the field of our interest at the moment is the opportunities which are opening out for thorough and realistic service, advice that is intelligent, considered, *comprehensive*."

There are, of course, people who can write the Sermon on the Mount on a visiting-card, much more easily on a post-card; but generally speaking, the post-card is a device for ensuring communications which, however comprehensive emotionally, are not so otherwise; and, in any case, it is doubtful whether a post-card from a complete stranger is the best instrument for preparing the mind or cultivating the confidence of so difficult a proposition as a politician. Even lovers (with, of course, the whole weight of mother nature in their favour, did they but know it) rarely resort to the post-card. Report has it that their epistles are often of great length and '*interesting to no other eyes but the recipient's*.' Ah! If only we could all write letters '*interesting to no other eyes*' but Mr. Eden's—letters he would blush to be seen reading, letters he would hasten to protect from the inquisitive gaze of (say) Mr. Amery, letters he would grasp firmly, so's not to lose 'em, or let anything slim and shiny like a snap-shot slip out, when the soft footfall of the Prime Minister is heard along the corridor, letters whose phrases he would feel warming his mind (or whatever it is he's got that's warm-able), letters that direct his steps and

hasten his appointments!

The post-card, we fear, is interesting to every other eye but the recipient's—the secretary's, let us say, the clerk's, the lift-boy's; but oh, not the recipient's. If he's an M.P. he lounges longer on the smoke-room seat, yawns, and asks his tedious parliamentary friend: "D'you get a lot of things like this?" Of course, everybody gets them. But (and this is the trouble) everybody doesn't get a thousand every day from a thousand different people, all voters, all saying the same dread thing in terribly different language. The M.P. is still looking at the side at which the writer of post-cards isn't looking. Only quite lately the M.P. has become aware that there is a side which is *really* the *other* side: all sides conspired to be his.

Doubtless we have done much to ensure this desirable turn of the head (or the hand). *Hansard* (and other things) show that it has been done. Events have helped. But the appearance of this *other side* is still far from familiar. Something more complete than a post-card is needed to make it familiar, and, not only familiar but welcome. 'And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.' The easiest thing to write on a post-card is '*Blast you!*' The circumstances in which this 'service' is not wholly to the writer are, however, relatively rare.

The changes announced in the Government make the Government weaker not stronger; and the elimination of Mr. Chamberlain from the leadership of the Conservative Party goes far to destroy one of the historic parties. We are all for destroying political parties; but this particular destruction leaves a new unlabelled party in almost undisputed possession. It is no use calling that party the Party of the Left unless we see that it does, in fact get 'left,' which is the disservice it is expected to preform for real democracy. The sides are sorting themselves out. It is this sorting-out process which is the signature of reality upon the times in which we live. If divine inspiration places a post-card in your hand as the perfect instrument of the moment to assist the process, in God's name use it! At all events let's keep our muscles firm. But it is suggested that the longer way round may be the shorter road home. The uninspired are not wont to see the universe in a primrose, and there is little evidence that M.P.s. belong to the elect.

# THE DIRECT BEAM

By H. E.

An individual is part of the universe; yet that which makes him an individual is his separation from it. It is a part of his constitution to view the outside world from this point of view or that; and however sound the basis of ideas may be they will represent some aspect of the unity of which he is a part; not more. The validity of ideas varies as does the correspondence with real things; but thought, in contrast to the words which may define it, is at least of the original stuff of man's existence. For reality, deflected if not distorted by the screen of ideas, comes to definition in words. The attempt to write down the vivid experience of a dream illustrates the difficulty encountered; words cannot be found to fit. To say that language is inadequate for the precise description and identification of ideas is an understatement; it buckles and bends like a plough made of tin. Nevertheless definition is imperative: thought, knowledge and understanding, cannot be used without it; but words are and remain arbitrary symbols and unless delivered and received as such will fail of their purpose. Emphasis lies upon these reservations, "for the mind of man is far from clear and equal glass, wherein the beams of things should reflect according to their true incidence; nay, it is rather like an enchanted glass, full of superstition and imposture, if it be not delivered and reduced." Definition—to make clear—is part of this reduction.

"The truth of being and the truth of knowing are one, differing no more than the direct beam and the beam reflected." This was written by Francis Bacon in 1605 and appears as an appendix to certain observations regarding deceit; but in these words is an epitome of realism, giving expression to the flow of life in which action and its objective are implicit. Such words will bear examination.

ACTION is "to exert force or influence to produce an effect." The range is comprehensive, for nothing done but has its effect. Digging gives turned soil if nothing else; talking produces sound though it be not heard, and writing, lines which may move others or may never be read. Whether with arms, lips or hands, these are physical acts which do produce effects; which may or may not be those intended. The connection between thought and action requires distinction. One may watch the procession of clouds across the mountains, fancy playing with majestic outlines; meditation, but no action; meditation, which in some sort is the seedground of projects that may come to life in action; but if not, it is without avail, "for contemplation which should be finished in itself, without casting beams upon society, assuredly divinity knoweth it not." Again, for centuries men pondered the mechanism whereby the celestial bodies move in perfect circles; they must, it was agreed, because the circle is the symbol of perfection. Much action in evolving theories, but ineffective, no answer; for nature will not reply to questions which are not to her point. Which is primary, thought or action? No answer, for the truth of being and the truth of knowing are one.

The focus of thought and action is its objective; and the useful enquiries are "To what end?" Is it effective towards that end?

The truth of KNOWING. To the uninstructed,

unknowledgeable eye the universe is a succession of unrelated images. The ruminative cow experiences the sunlight, the rain and the sweet grass, but for her, one may assume, there is no connecting link between them. To our more distant ancestors all stones were merely stones, and then they were different, some still just stones and others flint. The change was a product of action towards an objective, in this case towards a flint axe. And so the axe head which had lain unbound and non-existent in the flint, became a fact. Is man making or discovering reality, his universe? Perhaps both. But this is probably another unprofitable question; the suitable enquiry being how man, in an apparently incoherent universe may best order his exploration "for the glory of the Creator and the relief of man's estate." And as the exploration advances a certain grain or disposition of reality is uncovered, which, for success, must be observed. The end of those who work on flint as though it were malleable as lead, and of those who endeavour to order man's affairs in opposition to the will of man must be the same; weeping and gnashing of teeth.

KNOWLEDGE consists of observed facts, and it is always an objective which is the precipitant of *understanding*; this being defined as the ability to focus knowledge towards an end—to recognise the axe within the nodule of flint. Bacon included both these aspects in the phrase "the truth of knowing."

BEING, is a continuous adjustment of the individual to his environment; it is the flow of action which is life, and is undertaken with such understanding as each may possess. The well-being of the individual is proportionate to the accuracy of this adjustment, and the major consideration which now confronts humanity is that society also must conform "enough" to reality; otherwise dissolution follows, and individuals, of whom society is composed, or such of them as survive, must try again. Inasmuch as civilisation is failing the cause is the widening gap between being and knowing; the separation of action from understanding.

Between understanding and action lies the aim of action, *the objective*. Individual life is a constant flow towards and past aims which are petty and profound, instinctive or considered; which yield to the edge of personal endeavour, or are semi-automatic responses to undesired events. A society which will survive is that in which the sum (or result) of these objectives corresponds "enough" to reality; in which undesired events are reduced to those which are in the nature of things and not imposed by man; and in which desired events are increased to the limit of what is possible. A girder which cannot sustain its load breaks, it is not strong enough. The sum of action in any society must be such as will satisfy the desires of individuals "enough" or it will break—disintegrate.

Deeply inherent in conscious existence there lies this triple strand which in one phase may be labelled Understanding, Objective, Action. None can be placed first and none is operative without the others; they are lived as one and are not separated in reality. This threefold strand appears and re-appears in altered form according to the

point of view which emphasises some especial aspect of the entity which is at once the Universe, Life, and Living. Philosophy which neglects to focus knowledge and action on man's objective; history which fails to recount this alignment, and politics which do not provide it; these have not the validity which springs from an adequate relationship with reality. In the individual as in society, it is the working out in life of this triple strand—the fusion of these factors each in its due proportion—which is the truth of being and the truth of knowing; which are one.

Bacon is said to be the father of modern science, but that enlargement of man's sphere has been diverted to uses other than he had in mind; for "as both heaven and earth do conspire and contribute to the use and benefit of man; so the end ought to be that knowledge may be as a spouse, for generation, fruit, and comfort." Events in 1940 do not give that impression. On balance, the aim which has directed this exploration of the physical universe has been to make knowledge "as a bondswoman, to acquire and gain her master's use." Who is her master? Not humanity. A tree fallen in the storm is sufficient evidence of the wind, though no one can see it; and society crashing to destruction is equal proof of forces moving towards an objective

which is not humanity's.

Knowledge and power to act exist, the deficiency lies in its direction. As and when mankind determines, these powers will be used towards the common objective which has been defined as "life more abundant." And as Bacon says; "the corrective spice, which makes knowledge so sovereign, is charity."

And in further clarification and reduction towards practice:

The primary requisite is to obtain the re-adjustment of the economic and political structure such control of initiative that by its exercise every individual can avail himself of the benefits of science and mechanism; that by their aid he is placed in such a position of advantage, that in common with his fellows he can choose, with increasing freedom and complete independence, whether he will or will not assist in any project which may be placed before him.

—C. H. DOUGLAS.

These words reduce an objective which is abstract, to that firm scaffolding wherefrom men may reconstruct society, that it may fulfil their common purpose.

## DEEP SHELTERS

The following letter on this subject was published in *The Times* of October 2:—

TO THE EDITOR OF *THE TIMES*  
Sir,

It would appear likely that public opinion will force the Government to embark on a scheme, long overdue, for the construction of deep bombproof shelters. In so far as London itself is concerned it is important that the scheme should bear some relationship to after war utility.

As long ago as March 1, 1939, I urged Sir John Anderson in the House of Commons to build deep tunnels 60ft. down in the London clay which would serve two purposes: provide immediate shelter for the whole of London's population and form the basis of a future network of underground roads for relief of traffic congestion after the war. Having regard to the asset value of these tunnels when the war is over the cost is almost negligible. It is calculated by competent engineers that a mile of tunnel 12ft. in diameter, lined with cast-iron or reinforced concrete, and with a concrete base, can be built for £180,000, including latrines, drainage and ventilation. Such a tunnel would accommodate 10,000 people. Four hundred miles would take the whole of London's remaining population and cost £72 million, equal to the cost of nine days of war—but with this difference, that there would be an asset value when the war is over.

I would remind you that the cost

of carrying out the Bressey report for the relief of traffic congestion was estimated to be £120,000, but the Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee of the L.C.C. stated it could not be proceeded with on account of expense, especially having regard to the fact that £80,000,000 had to be paid in compensation to landlords! I would add that even if the deep tunnel scheme is not completed by the time the war ends, there is no reason why it should not be proceeded with—it won't be waste; in fact it may prove to be London's chief asset—and thousands of miners are ready and waiting to undertake the work. What the Government should do is to collect a panel of consulting engineers and contractors used to working in London's underground and give them authority to get on with the job. By the end of March next year one-third of the job would be completed and one million and a half provided with bombproof shelters.

Yours faithfully,

R. R. STOKES.

32, Victoria Street, S.W.1, Sept. 30.

## MORALS AGAIN

"If the moral support of virtually the whole of the American people means anything, we are already in world war, too," says the *Jacksonville (Florida) Journal*, quoted in the *Daily Mirror* of October, 7.

Then obviously it cannot mean anything at all.

## SIR EDWARD PEASE ON AMERICAN OPINION

Sir Edward Pease seems to be among those influential Englishmen who are jibbing at the fences raised for us by *The Yorkshire Post*, which, as is well-known, is usually well-informed concerning the plans of Mr. Anthony Eden. Sir E. Pease has been writing to the paper from Guisborough complaining of the undue attention it has paid to the susceptibilities of so-called 'American' opinion. "Whatever may be the plans of our High Command," he writes, "it is impossible that they can be improved by bending them this way or that in deference to conjectures about American opinion. If the Americans dislike the German occupation of Dakar, let them do something about it on their own account.".....A very sound sentiment!

## THE PURITAN

"Will the U.S.A. have the last say in this war as in the last?" asked a *Daily Express* reporter of Bernard Shaw in an interview recently. The reply was:

"Yes. At least I hope so, a single handed victory would not be so good for us as an Anglo-American one."

Unlike the answers to ten other questions this reply was deemed worthy to be reproduced in facsimile of G.B.S.'s handwriting.



## Letter to an M.P.

## THE REGULATION OF PRICES

Dear Sir,

The National Debt has now reached the stupendous figure of £10,000 million, i.e. ten times what the National Debt was at the end of the first year of the last war—£1,000 million. No one should need further evidence that it will never be possible to repay this Debt.

My main purpose, however, in writing to you is to call your attention to an article in *The Economist* of September 28, entitled "Is it Inflation?" in which it is pointed out that during the first year of war the Government raised and spent £1,480 million in addition to the money which it collected in taxation. It is alleged that this sum is made up as follows:—

	£ millions
Utilisation of capital assets	400
Personal Savings	400
Institutional Savings	380
Creation of Credit	300

Undoubtedly a large part of the "Personal Savings" and "Institutional Savings" consists of credit which the investors have borrowed from their banks. A large number of admissions that this is what happened in the last war as well as in this have appeared in the financial columns of the press and elsewhere at different times. Surely if the Government has good reason to use the powers it possesses for the purpose of conscription at all it has the best possible reason in the case of this newly created credit of which *The Economist* says: "there is a risk that, if nothing more is done, the contribution left to be made by the creation of credit may be four times as large in the second year as in the first." This practically costlessly created credit will otherwise be carried into the National Debt as a debt of the nation to the banks in perpetuity. There exist ten thousand million witnesses that this would be the case.

I am bringing this information to your attention as it should be useful to you for the formulation of questions in Parliament. Our inveterate enemies, the financiers and their many hirelings, will undoubtedly twist the facts, implicit in the statement in *The Economist* that there may

be £1,200 million of this newly created credit lent by the banks during the second year of war, to demand that further and much greater sacrifices of purchasing power as well as capital should be made by private citizens; and the bogey of inflation will certainly be paraded as a threat for this purpose. I wonder if it would be possible for you to add to your valuable services in Parliament in connection with this subject by directing attention to the fact that there are far sounder, more equitable and easier means of regulating prices than by depriving consumers of purchasing power and that if these means are resorted to there is absolutely no reason why consumers should not be left in possession of purchasing power in excess of the goods which may be available on the market. That in fact the existence of a surplus of purchasing power among the community, if prices were scientifically regulated and effective steps were taken so that the Government had priority of materials required for war purposes, would have a most beneficial effect upon the production of the country, stimulating it to the point where every item of waste was eliminated and every man was employed.

May I say that I, in company with a large number of my acquaintances, have been considerably encouraged in recent months by signs that a number of M.P.'s recognise themselves as representatives of citizens, whose responsibility it is to accept direction of policy from their constituents. I mention this because another idea is being assiduously cultivated by the same people who maintain this credit fraud. This idea is contained in the same issue of *The Economist* which is quoted above, where after stating correctly "that Members of Parliament, in their capacity of Members are not experts," it continues by saying "They are representative citizens, and their function is not to make policy but, with one ear in their constituencies, to watch critically over its making without participating," obviously suggesting that the Government should make policy.

Yours very truly,

JOHN MITCHELL.

October 2, 1940.

## CRYPTIC AFFAIRS

In a note on the meeting between the recent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and M. Maisky, Soviet Ambassador to this country, the *Liverpool Daily Post* of October, 7 says, (our italics):

"At that meeting some ideas were exchanged which may lead to a renewal of contacts which Sir Stafford Cripps, our Ambassador, has so long been denied in Moscow.

"He went there—and it was strongly indicated by the Russians that they wanted none other as our representative there—with the primary idea of negotiating a trade agreement....

"Now that Mr. Chamberlain has gone from the Government, the Russians may find negotiations with us a little easier, though they are not overfond of Lord Halifax."

If Russia asked for Sir Stafford Cripps and then 'denied him contacts'—how has he been occupying his time? Perhaps with other 'contacts'?

## SIR W. CITRINE FOR U.S.

Sir Walter Citrine, general secretary of the T.U.C., is leaving for the United States after the annual congress at Southport to attend the American Federation of Labour Convention at New Orleans.

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## MASONIC ISOLATION

It is often protested (and perhaps even more emphatically since the collapse of France has involved the prohibition of Freemasonry in that country where the Grand Orient variety predominated) that there is no connection between the Continental Grand Orient and the British Grand Lodge. It is alleged, by bishops and others, that the latter is just as *unpolitical* as the former is known to be political. This official attitude is exemplified in the following passage from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*:

The disastrous results of interfering in politics has been shown by the fact that the Italian and Hungarian Governments have declared Freemasonry a danger to the state, and have suppressed it. In France opposition to the political activities of the Grand Orient culminated in 1914 in the formation of a new leading *Grand Loge Nationale et Reguliere pour la France* which avoids politics, insists on a belief in God and has been recognised by the Grand Lodge of England. At the same time, most of the American Grand Lodges, which were still in fraternal relations with the Grand Orient, have felt compelled to sever relations.

American Freemasons were slower to break the connection than their British colleagues. There is a closer resemblance between American and French than between British and French masonic administration, and as little as the French have the American masons escaped the accusation of meddling in politics. The *Encyclopaedia* says:

In the U.S.A. and Holland, the most noticeable change has been a tendency to take a more active part in the social betterment of the nation. This tendency is less marked in the British Grand Lodges, owing to their anxiety to avoid any appearance of interfering as *Masons* in politics.

This view of the situation is shared by Sir A. Robbins in his book *English-Speaking Freemasonry*, of which the three chapters on America contain some interesting matter. Sir A. Robbins, who for a number of years occupied an elevated administrative position in British Freemasonry, was sent to the Americas in the spring of 1924 as the head of a mission undertaken by the direction of the then Grand Master of England, the Duke of Connaught. He noted especially two differences in the administrative methods of the two organisations. Firstly, the Americans rely for the ever larger amounts needed for their extensive temple-building on a compulsory Grand Lodge levy rather than as in England on the voluntary system. Secondly, that in the sphere of what is termed Masonic aid-work, the various Masonic Bureaux, Masonic Relief Boards and Masonic Service Associations exercise the functions which in England are covered by Employment Exchanges and Friendly Societies. The first named are

an extension of Masonic effort into the relationship of employer and employed for which it is claimed that they have earned the confidence of both sides to the Labour Problem.

In spite of his admiration of such extensions of Masonic state, and have suppressed them. In France opposition

endeavour, Sir A. Robbins does not conceal that there are certain features in U.S. Masonry to which the English Mason 'from instinct and tradition' is unsympathetic, namely: 'the remarkably varied and strong bodies in the U.S. which, though not directly, are in some way associated with Freemasonry.' He does not mention the nature and identity of these strong bodies, but he does relate, towards the end of the American section that Federal and State judges frequently hold prominent Masonic positions, and that American Masons are

proud to recall those of their Order who were among the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, and to remember the many Presidents from the Father of His Country to Mr. Hoover who have been Brethren of the Craft, including James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Buchanan, William McKinley, William Taft and Theodore Roosevelt.

All these Presidents have been appointees of what people have been content to term 'Big Business,' although Theodore Roosevelt, a relation of the present President, ran his presidential campaign on an anti-trust programme.

Sir A. Robbins, being an administrator, cannot be expected to be explicit on the identity of the framers of policy; and, contenting himself with stating the differences of Masonic procedure in Britain and North America, he hastens on to describe 'the Masonic situation' in the Southern continent. On the important question of the supposed lack of connection between the Grand Orient and the Grand Lodge of England he is most enlightening:

From the Gulf of Mexico to the Straits of Magellan the various national governing Masonic bodies are of the Latin [Grand Orient] type. Such of the Central and South American Grand Lodges, or Grand Orient—the terms are equivalent—as agree with the English formulae of fundamentals the United Grand Lodge of England recognises as being in friendly association. In four of these, Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, English-speaking and English-working lodges exist, but though all in friendly, all in differing relations with the Grand Jurisdiction in whose country they reside, and to whose sovereignty, *under Masonic International law*,\* they are bound to have regard.

In Uruguay, both the English Lodges are directly under the governance of the United Grand Lodge of England, and work immediately under the rule, while in friendly association with the National Grand Orient.

In Brazil there is no Lodge warranted by England, but some 15 English-speaking and English-working Lodges exist by warrant from the Grand Orient of Brazil. In Chile an arrangement was entered into in 1926 between its Grand Lodge [Orient] and the United Grand Lodge of England, by which Lodges of English-speaking and working are founded acknowledging the former as the Sovereign Jurisdiction of its country, but freely allowed to practice Freemasonry according to their own tenets. ...

Thus in harmony with the national Grand [Orient]

\* *our italics*

bodies in four of the greatest South American countries, English speaking and working Freemasonry has a corporate existence, fully recognised not only by those bodies but by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Having thus admitted that North American masonry—with which the parent body in Britain is only too happy to associate itself—is semi-political and associated with strong outside bodies, and having shown that there is intimate

administrative co-operation between the 'political' Grand Orient of South America and the British institution, Sir A. Robbins, in order to vindicate the official (exoteric) view of isolation, will have to prove to us that there is no connection between the South American Grand Orient and their parent body, the Continental Grand Orient.

Nothing, they say, is impossible for a Mason.

B. J.

## FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE

The following list of the Jewish and Masonic associations of the Members of M. Daladier's Cabinet was published in *Le Pilon* in July, 1938:

EDOUARD DALADIER, President of the Council and Minister for National Defence: *Conferencier en Loges*, Member of the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme*.

CAMILLE CHAUTEUPS, vice-president: 32nd degree, *Sublime Prince du Royal Secret*; a very influential member of international Masonry.

GEORGES BONNET, Minister for Foreign Affairs: official of the lodge *La Republique*, probably affiliated to English Masonry.

PAUL REYNAUD, Minister for Justice; executive agent for the Jews; President of the Committee for the Defence of Jews in Central Europe.

ALBERT SARRAUT, Minister for the Interior: Dignitary of the *Grand Orient de France*; brother of Maurice Sarraut, one of the Masonic leaders in France.

CESAR CAMPINCHI: *Conferencier en Loges*, Member of the central committee of the *Ligue Internationale contre le Racisme et l'Antisemitisme* (L.I.C.A.).

PAUL MARCHANDEAU, Minister of Finance; Member of the lodge *La Sincerité* at Reims, and of the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme*.

L. O. FROSSARD, Minister of public works; half-Jewish through his mother, née Levy; member of the lodge *L'Internationale* and of the L.I.C.A.

HENRI QUIELLE, Minister for Agriculture; *Conferencier en Loges*.

JEAN ZAY, Minister for National Education; a Jew and member of the lodge *Etienne Dolet*.

PAUL RAMADIER, Minister for Employment; member of the lodge *L'Internationale*, of the L.I.C.A. and the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme*.

FERNAND GENTIN, Minister for Commerce; affiliated to several masonic

organisations, and a member of the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme*.

GEORGE MANDEL, Minister for the Colonies; Jew, high official of the Jewish lodge of *B'nai B'rith*.

MARC RUCARD, Minister for Public Health; 33rd Degree, Member of *Conseil de l'Obedience*, *Le Droits Humain*; and of the central committee of the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme*, and the L.I.C.A.

DE CHAPPEDELAINE; associated with the masonic group of *l'Action Laïque*.

RAYMOND PARENOTRE; *Conferencier en Loges*.

## AMERICANS ON THE ENGLISH

"Cassandra," in the *Daily Mirror* of October 7, writes:

"The American magazine *Life* is by many standards a very good magazine.

"When however the war started, the editors (there are fifteen of them, apart from twenty 'editorial associates' and twenty-one 'editorial assistants') decided that Britain was likely to lose. . . .

"When France fell, the fifteen editors, the twenty editorial associates and the twenty-one editorial assistants shook each other by the hands and congratulated one another on their remarkable co-operative prescience.

"Well, this sort of stuff we can swallow,

"An immense battle fought out by the glossy American Magazine Press, to prove we hadn't a ghost of a chance, doesn't count much over here. It does us no good with the American public—but still it doesn't lose the war.

"Since then the fifty-six editors of *Life* have changed their tune and a ray of watery courage is gleaming fitfully in the editorial offices at the Rockefeller Centre, New York City.

"But the old condescension remains.

"This time the many-headed editorial hydra whirls round and pats you and me patronisingly on the shoulder.

"Stand by to take this load of supercilious nonsense:—

"To U.S. readers, all English newspapers are a mystery. At first glance they look impossibly bad. It is clear, though, that if they were as bad as they looked no one would read them. Obviously, many people do. The answer to this puzzle lies in the fact that the vast English middle class, while better behaved, is not so alert as the vast U.S. middle class.

"A modest claim.

"The concession about our behaviour was big of them, and the announcement of the intelligence of the U.S. masses will come as a jolt to anyone who has been in the moronic hinterlands of Louisiana or the intellectual high spots of the hill-billy country.

"The land of red-hot mommas, pole-squatters, sawn-off shot-guns, the delirium tremens of prohibition and the practice of good, honest, old-fashioned lynching, may be alert in the way of these arts, but that is not a qualification that allows fifty-six smug scribes to raise a mighty cheer for the deep scholarship and profound mental achievements of a race of homely folk who are quite as stupid as we are."

## FOR HOME CONSUMPTION

Opposition by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce to the action taken by the Government to restrict production of goods for home consumption was endorsed at Walsall Chamber of Commerce on September 30.

We don't think an employed home front is likely to strengthen the country at this time," commented the president, Mr. A. W. Cottrell. "So far as possible people should be kept employed."

He added that the borough M.P., Sir George Schuster, would meet members of the Chamber to discuss the matter.

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