

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## From Week to Week

"Great Britain, Finland, and Greece are great countries. The United States is a big country."

The enthusiasm of Stalin/Roosevelt when the Germans sank H.M.S. Hood was only paralleled by the gratification of Roosevelt/Stalin when the British Navy sank the Bismarck.

It is felt that the war is working out according to plan like a beautiful Wall Street dream. The new U.S. battle-cruisers are the most powerful ever.

The B.B.C. announcer who, on May 29, reported Mr. Anthony Eden as saying that President Roosevelt had pointed the way to Freemasons everywhere, and then made it clear that he should have said

**K.R.P. Publications, Ltd.**  
**Social Credit Secretariat**

**Temporary Address:—**  
**49 PRINCE ALFRED ROAD,**  
**LIVERPOOL, 15.**

**Telephone: Wavertree 435.**

As K.R.P. Publications have lost their records through enemy action it will be necessary to assume that all subscriptions to *The Social Crediter* have expired by June 28, 1941, except those of which expiry dates have been notified to us and those which have been renewed since May 3.

All subscribers are asked to confirm by post card the date of expiry of their subscriptions.

"Free Nations," ought to have a big future.

"Hopkins talked with Bevin, Morrison, the Astors, Harold Laski, Eden—the whole range of British thought and opinion. [Our italics.]

"He found a singular unanimity, not only on the prosecution of the war, but on what was likely to happen after the war."—from *The President's Best Friend* in *The Saturday Evening Post*, April 26, 1941.

"Singular unanimity" would appear to be *le mot juste*.

There is probably no truth in the rumour that Mr. Montagu Norman proposes to put the whole resources of the Bank of "England" at the disposal of Marshall Pétain so as to build up a strong France against Germany in readiness for the next war.

The awful things we're going to do in 1944-1945 when America really gets going, would make your flesh creep.

The Ministry of Food employs nearly 28,000 officials, the Ministry of Supply over 9,000, the Ministry of Aircraft Production nearly 6,000, and the Ministry of Information nearly 11,500 of whom 9,187 are in the Postal and Telegraph Censorship branch.

### COMMUNISTS AID NAZIS

*The Times* stated on June 10 that the United States Government have full and detailed knowledge that the strike in the Californian aircraft factory that led to the control of the factory by troops, as well as other industrial disturbances, was caused by agents of

the Russian Government. It is said in Washington that one of the cards played by the Communist representatives in the negotiations going on between Germany and Russia is the usefulness to Germany of Communist subversive and propagandist activities in the United States. It has been reported that Soviet Russia has no hesitation in boasting of its ability to foment a revolution so serious that it would hamstring America's productive effort.

### BROCCOLI

Threatened with the ruin of his broccoli crop because some greengrocers ask more for them than the public can afford, Mr. Joseph Towers, a Midland farmer who once defied the Potato Marketing Board, sold them by the thousand outside one of Birmingham's biggest armament factories at less than a quarter of the shop price.

In half an hour 2,000 broccoli had been snapped up at 2d. and 3d. each. "At this rate I shall be able to sell the whole field, whereas if I had let the greengrocers do what they liked three-quarters of the crop would have rotted."

Mr. Towers said that ten days ago he sold 2,000 broccoli to greengrocers in Birmingham at 4d. each. Another 2,000 were ordered for three days later, but when they were delivered so many of the original 2,000 were unsold that the shopkeepers could only take a third of the new lot.

"And I don't wonder they had got them on their hands," said Mr. Towers. "A lot of these people had been charging 1s., some 1s. 2d. If they had ticketed them at 6d. they would have had a fair profit."

When he spoke he had sold 10,000 of the 60,000 broccoli which he estimated his crop would yield.

## The North and the South

*The following passages condensed from "The Epic of America" by James Truslow Adams describe some of the issues involved in the American Civil War, when the Southern states wished to secede from the Federation.*

Now labour in the colonies was extremely scarce. So the colonists experimented with indented servants, whose service was bought for a term of years by paying their passage over. In all the colonies, New England as well as the South, Indian slavery was also tried, but proved unprofitable. Next all the colonies tried to solve their labour problem by Negro slaves and this proved effective in the South. After 1713 a flood of slaves began to be shipped to the colonies, the New Englanders eagerly seizing upon the profit in the traffic.

The type of life which then evolved in the South was in many ways the most delightful America has known. It was the period of the building of the "great houses." Living on their estates, fox hunting, dancing, visiting, playing cricket, the Southerners were closely allied in tastes to the gentry of the English county families. They were also in constant relation with the great mercantile firms of London. Their children were taught by tutors imported from England, and when older, the boys not seldom went to Oxford or Cambridge. Southern life took on a comeliness, a grace, and a charm that it can never have in a bustling town...

By contrast, the impression one gets of New York in this period is of a hustling, money-grubbing, rather corrupt community, the leaders of which were anxious to get rich quickly by any means, even to allying themselves with pirates. From these conditions an overbearing, unscrupulous type of businessman was beginning to emerge. One does not find there the culture of the best families in the South. In New England the poor soil and necessity for diversified crops had precluded the use of slave labour, to which the New Englanders had not the slightest objection as an institution. One of the most profitable branches of their overseas trade was importing slaves for use in the South. They solved their own labour problem for their textile mills by seizing on the wives and children of impoverished farmers. In one Rhode Island plant in 1801, Josiah Quincy found 100 girls from six to twelve years of age, at work

for from 12 to 25 cents a day, "a dull dejection in the countenance of all of them"... At a time when the North was being inflamed over cruelties to the Negro in the South, the Boston Marine Society, composed of the most respected shipping merchants, petitioned the government to restore the right to flog sailors to their work...

From the beginning of settlement in America, soil and climate had fostered sharply defined sectionalism. The North and the South were drifting apart rapidly. The richer classes in both were exploiting labour—the Southerner in the shape of legal slavery, the Northerner in the shape of wage slavery. Neither was conscious of any moral guilt.

There was also at work the dislike of the landed proprietor for the city trader. The Southern planter looked down on the Northern businessman as an uncouth upstart. To have these Yankees, who drove their wage slaves 12 and 14 hours a day in badly ventilated mills for a few cents' pay, and who never assumed the slightest responsibility for them when sick, old or out of work, tell the Southerner that *his* form of slavery was immoral, was galling. The Southerner was not interfering between the Northern employer and *his* exploited labour so what right had the latter to make all these threatening speeches against a legal economic system guaranteed in the Constitution?

But it was not merely a question of slavery. As the North grew in population and wealth, the South felt that it was trying more and more to exploit the rest of the nation for its own benefit. The tariff to which the South had become bitterly opposed was a case in point. It was a question whether, as in the tariff controversies, one section of the country could be made tributary to the other; whether property guaranteed by the Constitution was safe; whether the Southern planter should be forced to take his morality from the Northern businessman; whether a section of the country was to be allowed to maintain its own peculiar set of cultural values or be coerced to conform to those of a disliked section by force of numbers; the question of what would become of

liberty if Union were to mean an enforced uniformity.

... The South was a geographic, economic and social unity. If ever there was a case for self-determination, that section had a perfect one. When the election of 1860 left the South in the absolute political power of a party which was solely Northern, it is not difficult to see why the Southern people could see nothing left but peaceable secession.

The South hoped for peaceable secession because she did not realise the force of nationalism, and she thought that, if it came to war, England and the rest of Europe would have to acknowledge her independence and come to her aid.

... That the Southerners' hope of independence had not been fantastic is shown by the fact that, outnumbered more than three to one, they defended the Stars and Bars for four years of intense suffering and heroic effort. The war vastly increased the prosperity of the North and ruined the South. Fighting for its very existence, the South when it lost was prostrate.

### "STATE No. 49"

From the "Times" of May 22:—

The Berlin *Börsen Zeitung* writes: "Apart from his propaganda trip through America, little has recently been heard of Lord Halifax. In England, besides his original circle of critics, there are further groups which are now no longer convinced that Lord Halifax will succeed in obtaining America's utmost help within the brief interval still remaining. This, however, was a task for the accomplishment of which Lord Halifax was given very far-reaching plenary powers, including, if we are not mistaken, the fundamental assent to the absorption of England into the United States. England would then constitute State and star No. 49" (a reference to the stars on the American flag, each representing a State of the Union).

## Germany Plans a Confederated Europe.

Hitler's plans for the consolidation of Europe into a confederation with all industrial and agricultural production planned and regulated from Berlin were reported in *The Times* of June 10, which quoted an article by Professor Karl Haushofer in *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik*:—

"To compensate for the loss of inter-continental trade, Hitler envisages the creation of markets for Germany's superfluous industrial output through the raising of the buying-power of Eastern European countries, and the Balkans, by doubling their present agricultural output. Even then, however [says Haushofer], Europe could not become self-sufficient; hence Africa must be absorbed by Europe, and all non-European—in which he includes Anglo-Saxon—participation excluded. Europe would become a confederation. Certain existing States, after appropriate frontier rectifications had been made, would be allowed to retain a form of independence but would not control their fiscal frontiers; these, under German administration, would be lowered by degrees and finally abolished to secure the freer passage of goods to all communities throughout Europe.

"European industrial and agricultural production would be planned, regulated, and controlled from Berlin, and both the European inter-State and inter-continental trade would be managed by a multilateral clearing system. Each European State would be required to produce what Berlin stipulated, the execution of the programme being left to each individual Government; all the States would pool their surplus commodities and each would obtain in exchange part of the surplus of other States. No subjugated State would be able to exchange anything except what it was told to produce; the division of the pool would be at the discretion of Germany. The leadership and management of the whole Continent would be under the Reich. For internal trade each State would retain its national currency, levying taxation to meet internal expenditure and paying off its own national debt, but for inter-State and inter-continental transactions the federal Reichsmark currency would be the only one legally recognised; exchange rates for the European currencies would

be fixed at the outset once for all.

"Inter-State trade would be regulated multilaterally under the clearing system which is already operating among 11 European nations, but the rate of exchange and the right to fix production schedules would give Berlin a complete stranglehold over the entire European economy, however much that fact might be judiciously camouflaged. The Reich would, for example, exercise the first choice over available surpluses. The original plan for the de-industrialisation of all food-producing countries has been dropped because it would involve cataclysmic migrations of population which could not be absorbed until the present industrial plant has been vastly expanded, but no further industrialisation outside Germany is to be permitted.

"At the same time the German equalisation of the price level throughout Europe by the gradual removal of Customs barriers would free German agriculture from outside competition, and the retention of her high-grade agriculture would keep Germany independent of the other federal States, while they would be completely dependent on her for industrial products. Germany would monopolise the heavy industries. Trade with non-European countries would take place on a clearing basis through Berlin, in Reichmarks as a basis for the calculation of currency, but all transactions would go through the Reich Government, representing 325,000,000 consumers. Any country that wanted to trade with Europe would be obliged to grant Germany political concessions—for example, to admit, uncensored and unhampered, German films, literature, and newspapers.

"While the war lasts Germany is not able to give producers of foodstuffs the full equivalent in industrial products. Instead she has adopted the plan of charging the subjugated peoples the costs of occupation, which are enough to cover all requisitions. When tariffs ultimately disappeared industries could only flourish where natural conditions justified them; for example, Italy would be gradually de-industrialised because she is without coal and iron ore. Where such developments resulted in over-population labour would migrate to the Reich, as at present, or to Africa.

"It is admitted that the realisation of

the whole plan depends on a total Axis victory, if only because the whole of Africa would be indispensable for making good Europe's deficiency in raw materials."

### PEACE TERMS ?

The Order we won't take from Hitler, we won't take from Roosevelt either.

### ADMIRAL LEAHY

"Newspapers in Unoccupied France remark that the attacks against Admiral Leahy, the American Ambassador, in the Paris Press are less violent. These attacks, though they are admitted to be excessive, are considered appropriate by the Press in the unoccupied zone, which allege that Admiral Leahy is associated with freemasonry and also acted imprudently in entertaining relations with such men as M. Herriot, former President of the Chamber, and M. Jeanneney, the former President of the Senate."

—*"The Times," June 9, 1941.*

### WEYGAND ON SYRIA

General Weygand, in taking on the entire direction of French colonial "foreign policy," is said by the *New York Times* to have made clear to the Vichy Government that:—

"Whatever happens in Syria, that mandated territory is to be considered militarily, politically, and economically in no way connected with the defence of the French African Empire. Thus, in spite of appearances to the contrary, if General Dentz's forces in Syria oppose any British move towards occupation they will do so without the support or consent of General Weygand, if not of Vichy. It still remains obscure what the position will be if the Germans make any serious move towards a 'protective' occupation.

### HESS MYSTERY DEEPENS

The *News Review* says:

"More may be heard of the Hess affair. Last week's departure of U.S. Ambassador Winant for Washington is reportedly connected with it.

"There is reason to believe also that Mr. Roosevelt has asked the British Government not to make any further disclosures about Hess until he has been able to talk with Winant on the subject."

## Open Letter to a Business Man

The following reply was sent by a Social Crediter to a prominent member of the business community who had exposed the dangers inherent in over-centralisation and government planning, "particularly when it is carried out by people who are to say the least of it, not very conversant with their subject":—

Dear Mr. —,

Thank you. I will call . . . .

In regard to your warning that I am not to expect to convert you to 'the Social Credit System,' perhaps I may make an observation, and then there will be no need to refer to the matter again:—

We are not out to convert people to Social Credit, but to give such assistance as we can to those of our fellows in the community who become aware of the effects of certain causes, dislike these effects and show some inclination to escape them. The last is important because it implies a belief that the objectionable results can be escaped; i.e., that they and the causes which produce them are not part of 'inexorable natural law.' What they *are* a part of is another matter; and there we should be inclined to say that those most interested in getting the thing adjusted are unlikely to succeed just by chance. They will need some assistance from first-rate experts—not from the second-rate experts of whose domination over the many available first-rate experts (particularly in regard to policy) you, for example are complaining. It is, in our view, much more important to consider what orders the experts are given (and made to obey) than the precise nature of the technical means by which they are obliged to carry these orders out. The customary penal clauses in contracts provide ample safeguards for the public, once its members have obtained control of policy (i.e. orders to its experts willing and able to deliver goods and services on terms). The present trouble in society is chiefly a matter of the almost insurmountable difficulty experienced by the citizens (individually and collectively) in registering their orders. The business community is at present getting a nauseating dose of what second-rate experts, upon whom there is no effective check, think good for it.

On the other hand, should anyone say to us:—"I do not agree that Major Douglas has shown any defect to exist in the financial system as at present operated," our answer would be:—"Very well, then; refute the simple mathematical proof given in the last edition of *The Monopoly of Credit*." This would interest us very much. It has never been done. I think it would be strictly true to say that no economist of repute (and I do not use the phrase with the faintest suggestion of subtlety) has ever claimed to have demolished the piece of reasoning referred to. What one or two have done is to present a paraphrase of their own in place of Douglas's words, and then proceed to lay this ghost. Critics of Douglas have uniformly resisted every persuasion to allow Douglas's own presentation of his case to become known—much less familiar to the public, and while it is not for me to suggest the motive which underlies this singularly consistent policy, the practice may account for the view that 'reputable' economists disagree with him. In point of fact, this too is mistaken; but, since the ultimate test of the correctness of a proposition having to do with objective reality is not individual opinion, I leave that.

I am myself convinced that the agencies which seek to misrepresent Douglas are closely related to the agencies now seeking to misrepresent the grounds for the vast centralised 'planning' which is going on under cover of the war. I by no means think it essential that you should wholly agree with this view in order that we might make common progress in averting the great danger we see to the country and ourselves.

### ADVOCATE

At a meeting at the Jewish Institute arranged by the Bradford *Keren Hayesod* Committee, Mr. William Leach, M.P. for Bradford, declared that the Balfour pledge should be implemented in the spirit and in the letter by the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine. He had himself seen the blessings brought to that land by Jewish effort. A Jewish Army should be formed, in which Jews of all countries should be free to enlist.

Mr. Israel Cohen also spoke.

### OH BOY!-COTT

The 'Red' Dean (of Canterbury) has, at the request of a correspondent confirmed the report that sales of his book *The Socialist Sixth of the World* exceed 300,000 and "it was anticipated that it would shortly reach 500,000."

Dr. Hewlett Johnson adds that this is apart from "the 50,000 or more in seven editions in this country," and that he has been asked to translate the book into Greek, Finnish, Hebrew and possibly Spanish.

"Naturally," says the Dean, "the press has boycotted the book."

While the Dean of Canterbury was a Social Crediter the press denied him this assistance and the sales of *Why Poverty in the Midst of Plenty* reached a high peak figure of well under 10,000.

T. J.

### AUSTRALIAN RESOLUTION

Eight motions on monetary reform on the agenda of the Australian United Country Party Conference at Ballarat, (Victoria), in April, were consolidated into the following resolution, which was carried with only one dissenter:

"We view with alarm a financial policy under which the growing burden of debt, taxation, and higher prices, coupled with inadequate provision for primary producers, is restricting our war-time strength and making it impossible to maintain expenditure and employment after the war. We therefore request the State Government to sponsor a motion in the Legislative Assembly calling upon the Commonwealth Government to use the national credit of Australia as a right, not as a debt created by trading banks, so that finance be made available through the Commonwealth Bank without inflation, and free of debt, to the full extent that men, materials and equipment are available for the prosecution of the war: for the security and development of the country and its industries: to ensure payable prices for our exportable surplus: to facilitate social reforms and for post-war reconstruction."

"The South Australian, West Australian, Tasmanian and Queensland Parliaments have already carried these resolutions, and we desire that these principles shall be incorporated in the financial policy of this party and insisted upon by Victorian representatives at any future meetings of the Loan Council."

About 500 delegates were present.

## Reflections on Queen's Hall

By CUTHBERT REAVELY

Queen's Hall shares the fate of other famous buildings, and we are once more reminded that damaging the temple of art cannot destroy the principle of harmony. We have merely "... moved a little nearer

To the Master of all music."

But even a Pagan will maintain that an altar should be worthy of his gods. And so, before we rebuild the shrine, we shall do well to consider the worthiness of our offerings. In the true democracy we all seek, music must regain its rightful heritage irradiating our lives with its glowing colours as in the spacious days of Merrie England.

Musical values have been debased beyond recognition of recent years. The British public, tolerant and longing for beauty, has been duped to exasperation by the works of foreign modernists who conceal their mediocrity beneath a mask of eccentricity, and more than once these musical decompositions have profaned the precincts of Queen's Hall.

It is not amidst the swamps and jungles of jazz that the germ of musical degeneracy does its deadly work. The constitution which can feed on jazz is not likely to be much further impaired in the process. It is that sound which by reason of the outward conventionality of its presentation through the medium of a normal orchestra with semi-lucid passages of pseudo-classicality which is pernicious.

"Every note, every melodic and harmonic accord, must be an echo of the harmony coming from the world which surrounds it," said Mantegazza. The voice of Lamartine's nightingale, "*qui n'est qu'amour et pureté*," and which gathered the sounds of murmuring streams, rustling leaves, cascades of crystal water beneath woodland vaults, the voluptuous lament of palm-trees and the ripple of tranquil water upon the shore, was the fount of Beethoven's symphonies and will remain the true inspiration of all great music, symbol and contour of the pure melodic line.

Every-day life is ugly enough without bringing blast-furnaces into the concert hall. We have forsaken the woods, the streams and the fountains—even the thunder of the sea—for the factory, express trains, Rugby football matches and catalogues of garden tools,

and even the jarring dissonance of these has often been distorted and caricatured by the flamboyant fancy of German Jews. Music can only return to the hearts of the people in her true guise, that of simple beauty.

Anatole France once observed, "It is a strange thing that music, which is an art common to men and birds and which, among men as among birds, one would expect to exhibit the universal and constant charm of the beautiful things of nature, is, on the contrary, more exposed than any other form of art to the revolution of taste and the vicissitudes of sentiment. Music is solely subservient to the law of numbers and should therefore be as fixed and stable as arithmetic; yet, behold, it is the sport of every whim of fashion!"

By "arithmetic" France, of course, was indicating rhythm. We do not have to be reminded of what has happened to rhythm lately: that can be dismissed as a bad joke, like hanging a bowler-hat on a saxophone. It is the subversion and perversion of natural, melodic beauty which robs music of its power to exalt man to the highest pinnacle of achievement.

There is an axiom, as old as it is true, that hearing is the sense of the heart *par excellence*, whilst seeing is primarily that of the intellect. Music intensifies the current mood. Love itself is refined and sublimated by music; grief is ennobled and beautified. Even the baser emotions are enhanced. Luxury is transmuted into poesy, desire becomes adoration, mere pleasure intensifies to happiness and joy. Irritation is soothed; that which is lovely grows lovelier still; we become more tolerant of our enemies, our friends' endearing qualities are mellowed; the convivial cup is changed into a charmed potion, and all the world seems a gorgeous, glamorous land through which we make effortless flight, borne on the magic wings of harmony.

Music cannot be reconciled to commercialism. Nothing less than the reconstruction of a system which left much to be desired will suffice.

This is essentially a period of makeshift and experiment. Let us have more young British artists in the concert halls and on the air. There are too many weary old war-horses (and mares)

with foreign names constantly being flogged into sickening prominence. What our youngsters lack in experience and technique they will more than redeem in freshness and enthusiasm.

Then, when we rebuild Queen's Hall, no cacophonists' jamboree of "international" modernity and absurdity, perpetrated and performed by persons whose "continental" reputation is bounded by the Mile End Road, will usurp the rightful realm of melody, and those sweet singers of love and purity, the nightingales of Lincoln's Inn and Berkeley Square will migrate to Langham Place.

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### CANADIAN WHEAT TO JAPAN

The disclosure that the Canadian Government have recently sanctioned the export of 14,000 tons of wheat by a Vancouver firm to Japan, and that they have permitted considerable shipments of pulp and logs, has provoked a widespread outcry, and bodies like the Canadian Corps Association have sent strong protests to Ottawa.

The Government state that their approval was given after serious consideration, and after full consultation with the British Government, and that the exporting firm secured explicit assurances that the wheat was destined to feed the population of North China. The Government also considered that since Australia and the United States were sending wheat to Japan, a small Canadian shipment would not materially affect the situation.

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### CAPTAIN BUDD AGAIN DETAINED

Captain Charles Henry Bentinck Budd, who was released from detention by the High Court recently on a writ of *habeas corpus*, has been detained again. Captain Budd was released on the order of the High Court because of irregularities in connexion with his detention. Since Captain Budd's release his case has been reviewed by the Home Secretary, who has made a fresh order under Defence Regulation 18B for his detention.



## “Wherewithal Ye Shall Be Clothed”

By B. M. PALMER

The only possible justification for taxation or rationing is a large scale war or national disaster involving widespread destruction. In such circumstances it may be necessary to equate purchasing power with decreased production, and to see that everyone has a fair share of what is available.

It *may* have been necessary to do this with the clothing industry. We are told so and at first glance we feel that the scheme as presented might have been worse. We may still make a bid for quality as long as quality is to be found, and for a time at least, there will be no fashion exploitation.

But the piling up by the Quota system of large stocks in vulnerable areas, and the high rates of insurance which prevent the wide distribution of such stocks as are released, gives rise to doubts whether it is the safeguarding or restriction of supplies which is really intended. Shopkeepers have been quick to grasp this.

I fear the spectre of standardisation on the plea of “economy.”

According to the *News Chronicle* “standardisation” will be a word to conjure with after the war. It will do for the building industry what Ford and Nuffield did for cars (and incidentally, make a few multi-millionaires distributing the money they collect from the public in charity?)

Thomas S. Tait, who designed the Empire Exhibition of 1938, is now in charge of the standardisation of building materials. All designs are discarded which do not pass tests in economy, tests in material labour, and cost.

“Instead of a room presenting a hotchpotch of materials and unrelated designs, all the structural items in it are harmonised. If ranges of colours are standardised too, on lines already laid down by the British Colour Council, matching becomes exact.

“What the effect on architectural design in general will be Tait is not prepared to guess publicly, beyond forecasting a general return to simple lines and good proportions, which the improved design of the building units will itself largely dictate.”—*News Chronicle*.

You see, if you give the children

a box of bricks which you have carefully designed for them they can only build houses of a certain type—the better the bricks the better the houses!

Will they try to do something like that to our clothes and shoes? Strate them if they do!

Another article in the *News Chronicle* arouses my suspicions. It seems that James Laver, one of the best known authorities on the history of fashion, gave an interview to their fashion editor.

“Fashion is determined by the spirit of the age. I take a purely mystical view of it,” says Mr. Laver. “It’s something much more profound than just a designer’s fantasy. The great designers are really mediums who interpret the spirit of the age in clothes.”

And what is the spirit of the age? Are these designers in touch with it—do they know the spirit of the British people which, fundamentally, has never been more nationalistic than it is today, or are they dreaming of some international order of their own? The article continues,

“The economic situation and standard of living and general mode of life also have their effect on fashion. A reduced standard of living often follows war.”

Mr. Laver foresees just a bedsitter for the lucky ones after this war and all the rest of life lived in public. He foresees the habit of communal feeding growing steadily because it saves labour and fuel and means less waste of food.

“And, as soon as a woman is not clothed as a woman, but rather as a worker—a secretary, a bus conductor, a doctor, and so on—clothes are inclined to become stereotyped.

“Why are men’s clothes so uniform? Because they are not clothed as men, but as bankers, shopmen, solicitors. . . .”

Let us be thankful that Mr. James Laver is not the only medium.

Some of us can foresee something a little different. Nevertheless he and his kind are capable of bringing a good deal of stereotyped ugliness into life. Later on in the interview he seems to have gone into a trance and described

the picture of ourselves to be:

“We have had, and are still having, a period of gay and wildly individualistic hats,” said Mr. Laver, “but it won’t last. So far as hats are concerned, I prophesy a uniform hat. After the last war the cloche was taken from the German steel. After this war I think we’ll have something like a flying helmet, with quite short hair again, probably a shingle, and of course no heaped up curls in front as at present.

“Waists won’t be normal. I’m inclined to think they will be up this time instead of low, because we may keep one of the erotic fashions of the 30’s, which emphasised breasts. The 20’s ignored them.”

I’m afraid there is no room for a sketch of this vision, so you must imagine it for yourselves. My uneasiness is increased by the unpleasant discovery that we shall have to give up more coupons to buy material by the yard than for the ready made article. Nevertheless I feel that this will not deter enthusiastic home dressmakers, who, like all of us, turn more and more to the few hobbies that remain in which personality may find expression.

On the surface it seems to many people that standardisation is good because of economy of material and labour. That is perfectly true *if our object is the economy of material and labour*. But we must ask ourselves “What is our problem? Is it economy, or the expression of human personality?” During a war we must save our material—but after a war when materials begin to pile up again, as they certainly will do unless artificially restricted, the only proper use to which they can be put is to the experimental expression of the human spirit. To this end we do not want any supreme arbiter of taste, no matter how faultless, controlling materials or designs. For men and women can only learn through their own experience in a properly functioning corporate life to express their spirit in dress and in architecture. They will make mistakes, of course, but they will be their own, not the mistakes of the Minister of Reconstruction, or of Mr. James Laver, fashion medium.

## Social Credit Board Report for 1940

*Part 1 of the Social Credit Board Report for 1940 reviewed briefly the critical events of the war and described the activities of the Board. These included the provision of a better information service about the Interim Programme and the popularisation of Alberta-made goods. The substance of Part II of the Report is printed below.*

### 1. *Introductory Phase.*

In our previous report your Board dealt with the events which led up to the introduction of the Interim Programme and with the limited objectives of its initial stage.

During the past year it has been brought to our attention repeatedly that, in spite of the information which has been available, there still exists some misunderstanding regarding the nature of this programme.

As its name indicates the Interim Programme is essentially AN INTERIM measure designed to provide, by a series of progressive steps, the foundation for the fundamental economic reforms desired by the people.

Before any far-reaching reform of the economic structure can be achieved it is necessary to remove the restrictions to economic progress which are being imposed upon the Province, in common with the rest of the country, by the financial system, and which are inherent in that system.

The control over the economic life of a community which is exercised by the monetary system is possible only because under our modern complex economy the people have no alternative facilities for exchanging their goods and services. Therefore in order to remove the restrictions inherent in the established monetary system either that system must be reformed or alternative facilities must be made available to the people to enable them to exchange their goods and services on an equitable basis without being entirely dependent upon the monetary system.

Every attempt made by the Province to gain a democratic reform of the monetary system having been opposed and hindered it became necessary to proceed with the organisation of alternative facilities.

This required the establishment of an adequate system for keeping a record of transactions between persons desiring to use these alternative facilities, so that the exchange of goods and services could be organised along lines which would be

both convenient and efficient.

For this purpose branches of the Treasury Department had to be established at key points throughout the Province to operate the requisite book-keeping system.

Not only had a new system of book-keeping to be devised, but the public had to be familiarised with it, staff had to be engaged and trained, and the operation of this service had to be dove-tailed into the economic life of the Province to ensure that it caused no dislocation during the difficult introductory stage. In short the initial stage of the Interim Programme was, of necessity, mainly organisational. . . .

In addition to the Treasury Branches mechanism, the Provincial Marketing Board had to be organised, as an essential branch of the Interim Programme, to assist in the development of Alberta's resources and in the orderly marketing of products. Likewise in its initial stages this work involved securing and training of staff, and initiating activities which had to be co-ordinated with the operation of the Treasury Branches and the economic life of the Province generally.

### 2. *Interim Programme Voluntary*

As your Board has emphasised repeatedly, the very basis of democratic social organisation is freedom in association. Therefore any reform, whether political or economic, which is directed towards the establishment of a functioning democratic order must of necessity be based upon this concept of freedom of association, which leaves the individual free to either co-operate or withhold his co-operation. Naturally whether he does so or not will depend upon the inducements. If he considers that by co-operating with others he will gain certain results he wants, then obviously he will do so. On the other hand if he believes that he has nothing to gain, he will withhold his co-operation.

The Interim Programme, being directed towards the establishment of a functioning economic democracy, con-

forms to this basic consideration of voluntary co-operation. The individual citizen is left entirely free to enter into association with others to use the facilities of the Treasury Branches if he so desires. This voluntary basis on which the Interim Programme has been established and developed from the outset is in no small measure responsible for its success.

A public service organised on a basis which leaves the individual free to co-operate or not, according to his wishes, can function successfully only under a system of rules agreeable to those using its facilities, and therefore the Treasury Branches operate under separate agreements of a uniform character between the individual and the Provincial Treasurer as the responsible administrative authority. Thus either party to the agreement is free to terminate the arrangement at any time.

Though this has its disadvantages from a purely administrative aspect, these are heavily outweighed by the advantages in terms of freedom of action which it confers upon the individual. Until actual experience has shown beyond any reasonable doubt that the rules under which the Treasury Branches operate—and the system as a whole—are substantially in conformity with the will of the people as a whole, the present basis of operation, under individual agreements which can be terminated, appears to be the most democratic and efficient manner in which to proceed with the initial steps towards the generally desired reforms. It ensures progress in accordance with the will of the people.

In this connection it is important to note that the Treasury Department does no more than provide the facilities for enabling those who wish to do so to co-operate in realising their 'credit in association.' The greater the number who use the facilities provided to attain objectives desired in common by them, the greater will be the benefits which will accrue to each. In other words when individuals enter freely into association for certain results, and they

work together towards their attainment under efficient organisation, there will accrue to them an increment arising out of their association as a group over and above any personal contribution they may make. . . . .

The more people who use the Treasury Branch services, the greater will be the benefits which will accrue to each of them.

### 3. Mechanism of Treasury Branches

One of the most vicious results of the present monetary system is that the acquisition of money in return for goods and services instead of being a means to an end has tended to become an end in itself. This is but the psychological result of a system which restricts money supply to a point, which in the midst of abundant resources, forces people to scramble for a totally inadequate volume of purchasing power under the impulse of a constant fear that unless they can outwit the next person and obtain sufficient money they will face destitution. Thus the focus of effort has become the acquisition of money instead of things money represents—namely goods and services.

The purpose for which the Treasury Branches were established is to provide facilities to enable those entering into association to exchange goods

and services without being dependent entirely on the monetary system. To achieve this a system of accounts was set up and in this was recorded the price values of the goods and services to which individuals using the Treasury Branches had claims. As a person exercised his claim this would pass to the individual or firm that supplied him with goods or services.

To enable this to be done efficiently Treasury Branch depositors were supplied with books of order forms known as transfer vouchers which provided depositors with a convenient means of acknowledging receipt of goods or services of a certain price value, and, in return, relinquishing his claim up to this amount to his creditor. This authorised the Treasury Branch to transfer the corresponding figures from his account to his creditor's account on their books. Because of the nature of the transaction transfer vouchers could not be passed to a third party—they were non-negotiable. Moreover they were essentially a record of a transaction involving the transfer of claims on goods and services; they were not a claim on money.

This extremely simple and convenient arrangement was, however, entirely novel to the public at the outset. Apart from the inherent difficulty of gaining acceptance for anything which involves the change of an established

habit by people, the deeply rooted attitude towards the acquisition of money as an end in itself had to be recognised.

Thus in the initial stage the public had to be familiarised with the book-keeping system organised for their benefit and, in the process, the facts had to be presented to them in a form which would make the "goods conscious" instead of "money conscious."

The first step to this end was to establish transfer voucher deposits in return for deposits of money. Thereafter the money remained immobilised while the actual transactions involving the transfer of goods and services were carried out by the means of transfer vouchers.

The money remained immobilised until it was required by those co-operating under the Interim Programme to replace goods which had to be brought into the Province or for which the producer or the distributor was not prepared to accept transfer vouchers.

Throughout this introductory and experimental period the immobilised money provided a monetary reserve of 100% against transfer voucher deposits, thus ensuring the immediate liquidation of the Treasury Branches system in terms of money should the people have found the facilities unsatisfactory.

(To be continued)

## Parliament

### Second Reading of the Finance Bill

#### EVACUATION:

May 22.

#### Oral Answers to Questions.

(44 columns).

#### EVACUATION (CHILDREN).

*Commander King-Hall* asked the Minister of Health whether he will consider issuing an order designating certain areas, of which he has been informed, and which are areas likely to be subjected in a special degree to enemy air-attacks, as areas in which it shall be a legal offence to retain a child under 14 years of age?

*The Minister of Health (Mr. Ernest Brown):* All the towns mentioned in the communication which I have received from my hon. and gallant Friend are evacuation areas, and schemes for the evacuation of children are being op-

erated in all such areas. The Government are satisfied, however, that it would not be right in present circumstances to enforce upon unwilling parents the compulsory evacuation of their children.

*Commander King-Hall:* As it is already illegal for children to witness certain types of horrific films, is it not possible to make it illegal for children to be kept in places where, even if they are not injured, they are bound to witness some unpleasant scenes?

*Mr. Brown:* That is a matter of opinion. The fundamental issue goes far wider than that particular opinion and involves fundamental issues of the direst character.

*Miss Cazalet:* Does not the right

hon. Gentleman think it would be in the best interests of the children's future that they should not remain in these areas?

*Mr. Brown:* We have done and are doing, and shall continue to do, all we can to pave the way for the evacuation of children from these areas and to bring our influence to bear on all concerned—local authorities and the children themselves.

*Commander King-Hall:* I beg to give notice that I will raise the matter on the adjournment.

#### Written Answers (8 columns). NEWSPAPERS.

*Mr. Tinker* asked the Minister of

Information how many newspapers are in circulation, giving separate figures for daily and weekly publications?

*Mr. Cooper:* The latest information is that there are 133 daily newspapers and 1,680 weekly newspapers in the United Kingdom.

#### FINANCE BILL (71 columns).

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Kingsley Wood):* . . . . A good deal of interest was taken in the proposals which were made, and which, I think, received general acceptance, as to post-war credits. The House will find in the Bill provisions for the recording and eventual crediting of post-war credits. The opportunity is taken in Clause 5 of the Bill to meet certain points which were raised in our earlier discussions. In particular, we have made provision for the post-war credit to be divided between husband and wife, either by agreement or in accordance with the methods of apportionment laid down in the Clause. . . . .

*Mr. Pethick-Lawrence (Edinburgh, East):* . . . . What were the results of this bad finance during the last war? The first was an inadequate drive to convert peace economy into war economy, and thereby the actual success of the war was jeopardised. In the second place, as I have already pointed out, there was a steady rise in the rates of interest. In the third place, there was a cumulative fall in the value of money, and there was an unnecessarily great swelling of the National Debt.

Those were the mistakes which were committed in this country during the last war, but after the war still further mistakes were made. In the first place, immediately following the war, we allowed an unchecked demand greatly to outrun the supply of commodities, with the result that there was a most unfortunate boom, which was the precursor to many of our subsequent troubles. Then we allowed a few currency cranks, wearing the uniform of orthodoxy, to play havoc with our economy by dragging us back to the pre-war Gold Standard, thereby creating a colossal slump. I pause there to remind the House that a currency crank can be one who wants deflation and, equally, one who wants inflation. I would hesitate to say at the present moment which is the more dangerous. There is no doubt whatever that in the early days of the last war we were completely given over to currency cranks who believed in deflation, which

brought the direst consequences on this country. The next mistake was that we construed the phrase, "getting back to normal," as meaning a return to an economy that functions only under conditions of scarcity, such as no longer exist in the 20th century. Finally, by failing to deal with the National Debt and by deflation, to which I have already referred, we gave to vested interests a stranglehold on the national life. . . .

. . . . There is no reason why, with good will and determination, we cannot reach the whole figure of £200,000,000 or £300,000,000 additional genuine savings to which the Chancellor has referred. We can win the financial war only if we continue, by means of taxation and genuine savings, to cover the whole gap which the Chancellor exposed to us in the earlier stages of our financial proceedings. . . .

They [the Government], must take steps to prevent the kind of slump which followed the last war. They will, I feel certain, not be given over to the currency cranks who want us to go back to the Gold Standard, and they must see that in other ways we do not get deflation. It cannot be said too often that deflation is no cure whatever for previous inflation, in the same way that it is no cure for a person suffering from a burn to put him in a pack of ice. Inflation and deflation are two separate evils, and the imposition of the one does not help to get over any ill-effects which have arisen from the other. . . .

We cannot merely go back to the pre-war economy. That was based on the 19th century conception of scarcity. The essential element in the 20th century is potential plenty. Every head of a business knows that it is not production, but sale, that is the problem, and it was that which, in the early years of the 20th century, and more particularly in the years between the last war and the present war, put the check upon production. We can produce in abundance. The financial system which follows this war has to be relevant to the new economy. . . .

*Sir John Wardlaw-Milne (Kidderminster):* . . . . The hon. and learned Member for Montgomery (Mr. C. Davies) has made some interesting suggestions, and I must agree with him when he says that inflation is already taking place. I am afraid that those who watch these matters carefully can have very little doubt that that is the case. I do not say that it is inflation

that is out of control. A good many people would agree that it is impossible to win this war or, indeed, any war without some form of inflation. Inflation is inevitable, and the whole problem is whether we can control the inflation which is bound to follow from an outbreak of war. If it is the work of the Government, as I see it, to try and control that inflation, to do that they have to consider not only the question of curtailing consumption, which is a very important thing in itself, but curtailing consumption in such a way as will release productive resources for the war effort, because if they do that second thing they will, in fact, have achieved the first, and to a large extent secured the control of inflation. . . .

The real object of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-day is not simply to raise money. I remember discussions in this House during which a former Prime Minister spoke of the necessity of having cottages for everybody at 10s. a week. What utter nonsense. It is no use talking about 10s. a week. It does not matter what a man pays for his cottage provided he earns enough to pay the rent as a reasonable portion of his earnings. Therefore, the real business of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-day should be not only to find money—which is comparatively simple—but to maintain its value. If he does not maintain the value of money, the increased wages are merely a snowball movement from which the people who earn the wages are no better off. In fact, they are worse off. It is essential that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should devote his attention not to the prevention—because it cannot be prevented—of inflation but to the control of inflation and to maintaining the value of our money. This can be done only if he has some definite form of wage policy in the same way as he controls other forms of expenditure. . . .

. . . . Any inflationary movement is caused by the increased expenditure of the State, aided by a diminishing supply of goods. When the individual consumer cannot spend his money in the usual channels but concentrates on a reduced supply of goods, one of the great dangers of inflation is on the move. . . .

*Mr. Benson:* . . . . There is a very strong counteracting influence [against saving] which works far more steadily and radically than appeals and propaganda, and that is the instinctive desire upon the part of everybody to maintain the standard of living to which they

have been accustomed. Hon. Members opposite in past Debates have often referred to the importance of gain as an incentive. The desire to improve the standard of living is nothing like so powerful an economic motive as the desire to maintain the existing standard of living. Many years ago Webb pointed out that strikes were far more readily undertaken to protect the standard of living than to gain an increase in that standard. This instinctive desire to maintain that to which they have been accustomed is the main difficulty in attracting savings. War means a reduced standard of living for everybody, and you cannot get away from it. It is a reduction in the standard of living just at the time when the majority of the people in this country are handling more cash than they have ever had before. . . .

The point is that the people trying to keep up their standard of living and have far more cash available than that to which they were previously accustomed, naturally force up the prices of these things. . . .

I admit that there is no simple remedy for this state of things. All the alternatives are in short supply, and if we are to keep down prices, it can only be done by a very much wider system of rationing and a more drastic system of price control. . . .

*Sir F. Sanderson:* . . . I think I can best illustrate my point by giving three examples, taken at random, which demonstrate the harshness of the 100 per cent. Excess Profits Tax. I see no reason why I should not mention the names of the companies. The Coventry Gauge and Tool Company made a profit of £232,000 last year. Out of that it paid £210,000 in taxation—91 per cent. of the whole. Another company, Barrow, Hepburn and Gale, which is, I believe, the largest tanning and leather manufacturing company in the country, made a profit of £627,000 last year, and paid in tax £548,000, no less than 87 per cent. of the whole of its profits, leaving it with a net profit of £79,000, that is, £10,000 less than their profit of the preceding year, when they earned £400,000 less profit. In recent years, that company has had to write down its capital by no less than £2,300,000. . . .

*The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Captain Crookshank):* . . . While I am not prepared to discuss the question of the Gold Standard to-day, any more than the right hon. Gentleman was, I did wonder, when he said that

the return to the Gold Standard, which was approved by this House, was the result of currency cranks disguised in orthodox uniform, whether the right hon. Gentleman who was Chancellor at the time\* could be identified as a currency crank or could be recognised as being dressed in any kind of orthodox uniform. The right hon. Gentleman has since then passed into a sphere which has made him the admiration of the whole world, and I should be sorry if he were called a crank. . . .

The other day I gave some figures elsewhere, which I will repeat for the benefit of hon. Members, as they are very interesting. In the first 18 months of the war, of every pound of expenditure, we got 8s. 6d. from revenue, 4s. 6d. from overseas resources, and 7s. from personal and corporate savings. The personal savings amounted to 2s. 9d., and the corporate savings were represented by the balance. But I must make this reservation. Corporate savings, of course, are in many cases the aggregation of personal savings. So far as they are, for example, the investments taken out by insurance companies, the amount may well come from the small weekly sums paid in; so far as they come from the non-payment of dividends by industrial companies, they represent what would have been private savings had those dividends been distributed. Out of over £2,000,000,000 secured by public loans in those 18 months, the proportion is this. Forty per cent. came through the floating debt, Treasury Bills, and Treasury Deposit receipts of banks, 30 per cent. from medium and long-term borrowings, War Loan, and National War Bonds, and the remainder from small savings. . . .

This week we have been having, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the London War weapons Week, and as he quoted the figures for yesterday, so now I am in a position to inform the House that the total at the close of banking hours to-day was the really vast sum—particularly in view of the fact that there is still to-morrow and Saturday still to come—of £87,750,000. . . .

*Dr. Russell Thomas:* Can my hon. and gallant Friend say how much of this £87,750,000 has been subscribed by the banks, and how much is genuine savings.

*Captain Crookshank:* On this occasion I could not give any such figure at all, nor would I seek to make that distinction. The banks are perfectly

entitled to make their investments in the various forms of securities which are on tap. They may put in more at one time in one place, in one week, for reasons of their own, but it is all part of their investment policy. Even if there was a difference, which I do not accept, it is unlikely that I could have got it so soon after the close of banking hours ready to give to the House now. . . .

### “ALTAR OF ‘BIG BUSINESS’”

Mr. F. R. Alderwick (chairman of the Southampton Distributive Trades' Committee of the Chamber of Commerce) observed at a meeting, that they had arrived at a point as traders unparalleled in its seriousness, and unless they were prepared to stand courageously together, their fate would indeed be precarious.

The policy of the Government was to concentrate production for war purposes. This meant that smaller quantities of consumer goods would be manufactured and be available for sale in shops.

The Government proposed to extend this policy more drastically, and their contention was that there should accordingly be a reduction in the number of shops.

As far as could be ascertained, the Government's new proposals meant that many traders would be called upon to go out of business altogether without any sort of provision for their future.

The Distributive Trades Committee of the Chamber had come to the conclusion that they could not see any sign of equality of sacrifice in proposals which threatened callously to throw traders on the scrap-heap.

One of the chief dangers of these proposals was that the official concentration scheme was indicative of the familiar monopoly trend—that smaller and medium-sized businesses which were wiped out of existence would eventually find their trade had been absorbed by the large undertakings and that when peace came there was very little chance of re-establishing themselves in business.

“This means that traders thus eliminated would find themselves in the position not of having made a pure war sacrifice, but of having immolated themselves upon the altar of ‘big business’ in order to preserve a system whose chief characteristics are unemployment and poverty,” stated Mr. Alderwick.

\*Mr. Churchill.

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