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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"The same strange power was used to prevent British newspaper correspondents in Berlin from telling this country about Germany's re-armament and warlike intentions.

"Whose is it? Who is it that can override the Prime Minister himself, according to Sir Roger Keyes? . . .

"I have been told times without number, by Members of Parliament and public men, of this mysterious hidden mechanism. . . I cannot conceive why none of them explains openly where the source of this evil force lies. Who were the men who could send Sir Roger Keyes, before he made this speech in the House, a copy of the Official Secrets Act? . . .

"I would say that this same source, whatever and wherever it is, this stealthy obstructive something, was culpable of allowing this war to come about, and, if it acts like this, will be culpable of prolonging or even losing it."

" . . . Sir Roger Keyes was dismissed from the command of the raiders (Combined Operations) he had raised and trained."

— DOUGLAS REED: *All our Tomorrows.*

• • •
"Combined Operations" are now under the control of Lord Louis Mountbatten.

• • •
"Whatever the scheme may be," added Mr. Burrows, President of the National Union of Railwaymen, "the railways as we know them—separate undertakings under separate management—will cease to exist, and the workers will be called upon to face a united railway board, but with their own forces divided."

• • •
The rabbit, having agitated for the monopolistic net, is beginning to squeal as it is drawn tight.

• • •
Don't worry, Mr. Burrows. The only force the Trades Union Leaders will have to face if they don't do as they're told, will be the firing squad. Just as in the Workers' Paradise.

And the railways? Well, who cares about the railways, anyway?

• • •
"L'etat c'est M.O.I." — *Truth.*

• • •
There is great significance in the attack by the gutter press on what are known as "Public" Schools. Whatever

their merits or demerits, which are immaterial to the point we have in mind, the attack is of such a nature that it is difficult to gather whether their sin is that anyone goes to them, or that everybody doesn't.

But it is now fairly well understood that a general tactic of the World Planners is to divert attention from their own movements by attributing them to their opponents. The definition of a Public School, admittedly more technical than adequate, is that it is represented on the Headmasters' Conference. Taking this definition as comprehensive, it concerns the education, or miseducation, of less than ten per cent. of the population. The remainder are at least part-products of the elementary schools.

For fifty years or more, the elementary schools have been propaganda centres for the most poisonous social, political and economic doctrines, definitely inspired by international intrigue. In latter years this has been especially true of Scotland, which once had an elementary, or much more correctly, a village school system which was the admiration of all competent judges, and from which proceeded, quite irrespective of "class," some of the greatest successes of the Empire. The educational 'system' which followed contributed to that almost superstitious veneration of book-learning which has made the unfortunate generation now coming to maturity the easy prey of abstractions and perverse theories it is.

The native Commons of England are still the salt of the earth, but coated with an "educational" finish which seems effectively to neutralise their savour. For at least two generations, the common school system has failed to produce a single outstanding contribution to political, economic, or scientific thought. The growing substitution of the State for the Church in control (doubtless assisted by the steady deterioration in the standing of the Church itself) has added second-rate atheism to third-rate scholarship.

We are well aware of the existence of first-rate brains and characters amongst those who have suffered from compulsory education and equally aware that they are prevented from attaining the influence they deserve by the mass of those with whom they were "educated."

"Who is going to verify what is taught in the village schools? . . . We have fooled, bemused, and corrupted the youth of the *goyim* by rearing them in principles and theories which are known by us to be false although it is by us that they have been inculcated."

— *Protocols of Zion, No. 9*

• • •
The re-emergence of Dr. A. W. F. Blunt, Bishop of Bradford, (of Mrs. Simpson fame) to advocate the removal

of the ban on the *Daily Worker* is piquant. It's a good thing, anyhow, that he doesn't believe in 'Coordinating' Social Credit.

"We were threatened with decay—but the war saved us. Some of the old evils are uprooted; some of the new blessings are steadily growing. Here is our great chance to fashion a really healthy society."

— J. B. PRIESTLEY in *Picture Post*, June 27.

So thank God for war, chaps!

M. Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, a freemason, observed on his return recently from a tour of the United States that Americans realised that this was not going to be a short war. "They understand also that they will have to stay in Europe after the war—perhaps not physically—and play a very important role in reshaping the new world."

"The word 'propaganda,' which seems to trouble some people, is definable quite simply as the most effective presentation of all the truth that can, with due regard for security, be published."—MR. TOM DRIBERG, M.P. (MR. WILLIAM HICKEY of the *Daily Express*) in the Debate on Propaganda.—hence German, Russian and Japanese propaganda, no doubt!

As an expert he should know what he is talking about when he adds, "when propaganda is imperceptible as such, or good of its kind, I think the British people react very favourably to it."

Drab New Order

A new Order which is about to be issued reducing stocks of non-food plants in nurseries to 25 per cent. of the 1939 level was opposed by the Earl of Darnley in the House of Lords (July 7).

Where food crops raised on the cleared ground made a profit, he pointed out, the capital was merely converted into excess profits tax, which constituted an illegal capital levy. In any case the small grower would be left with no means of re-establishing himself after the war. The agreement of the growers had been obtained by what amounted to offering the trade a choice as to the manner of its own death.

Flowers gave more pay to people than the rest of the pleasure trades put together, yet the others were rightly maintained for the refreshment of the people. As to the urgent necessity for the use of the land, only a few thousand acres were concerned, and growers were now so short of labour that there were vast empty spaces of cleared ground with a few meagre rows of vegetables.

According to the *Horticultural Trades Journal* (June 25) editorial, "The amount of valuable stock which will be destroyed will put the floricultural calendar of Britain back two decades."

"Both the Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire kept going for centuries after the morale of their citizens had become grievous and their social structures were rent in pieces by contending interests." — MISS REBECCA WEST.

DamNation of Shopkeepers

Coincident with the appointed date for the change of ownership of the royalties on coal came the announcement of an increase of 3/- a ton on the price of coal itself to the consumer. Though these items of news may not be directly related, yet together they provide a satirical commentary on the absurd assumption that "nationalisation" of itself would reduce prices, and on the policy of our Big Noises who invariably resort to the old wives' remedy of sticking-plaster for social sores when what they need is the Douglas purgative.

The multiple-shopkeeping system has been busy for about fifty years gradually squeezing the "small man" out of business. Only since the end of the World War One has the latest development in our "nation of shopkeepers," the Chain Store, been in operation, spreading its tentacles like a huge octopus until scarcely a retail business is not already within its grasp. The closing-down of one-man shops goes steadily forward owing to the exigencies of the war and along the lines laid down by P.E.P. that "only in war or under the threat of war will a British Government embark on large-scale planning." (*Planning*, October 4, 1938). The casualty list resulting from this "embarkation" since the war began is almost greater than that from the fighting itself.

The sinister influence of P.E.P. under the chairmanship of Mr. Israel Sieff (head of Marks and Spencers, Limited) is at work behind the smoke-screen of Patriotism dealing with the "individualistic" shop-keeper, who is deemed "redundant." His being compelled to "shut shop for the duration" is excused on the grounds of much-needed manpower, the saving of needless transport, petrol, rubber, coal, lighting, and so forth—all of them most laudable excuses in themselves without the Planning Experts having to divulge a single reason for any of their numerous blue-prints for the New World Dis-Order they are busily planning between the end of the present war and the start of World War Three.

The Retail Trade Committee's proposals for compensating shop-keepers thus dispossessed have recently been published. The scheme does not provide compensation for owners whose premises have been blitzed by the enemy, nor yet for those "concentrated" by the Board of Trade. Non-foodshops are not included in the scheme, but such shops have to pay a tax of one per cent. on turnover to provide the fund out of which compensation would be paid to the dispossessed. This tax would of course be added to prices, the buck being passed to the consumer as usual. How many millions sterling *per annum* would thereby go to swell the cost of living had better be left to the "economists" who worked out the astronomical figures included in the Versailles cross-word puzzle in 1919.

This method of wartime "rationalisation" of the retail trades is familiar to those of us who remember the pre-wartime stage of it regarding the ships, shipyards, looms, spindles, scrap-steel, etc. The merry game is still being played to the music of the big guns by the Chain-gangsters, the shopkeeping financiers who pull the strings attached to their marionettes at Westminster and in Whitehall. — W. B.

Dr. Evatt and his 'Shadow'

Recently both the *Evening Standard* and *The Observer* have devoted attention to the personality and biographical details of Dr. H. V. Evatt, Australian Minister of External Affairs and Attorney-general. Towards the end of May, Dr. Evatt attended a Labour Party Conference in London at which ministers were 'scattered about the hall and on the platform.'

Presently Mr. Arthur Greenwood came in "accompanied by a sturdy, grey-haired, keen-eyed man in a blue suit." Delegates wondered who this could be who was receiving so much attention.

He was Dr. Evatt, who spoke, and his voice "soon took on a firmer and more emphatic tone." When he mentioned Mr. Curtin, Labour Premier of Australia, and Mr. Fraser, Labour Premier of New Zealand, he "gave a triumphant emphasis to the word 'Labour'"—and the conference fell for the stranger at once and cheered. In a few minutes he had disappeared.

The Observer sees at least one similarity between Dr. Evatt and Lord Moulton. Lord Haldane had been telling the Kaiser about Lord Moulton, when the Kaiser asked: "What is this man? You say he is a judge, but he seems to know everything." At the present moment the world is increasingly interested in men who know everything, particularly when they know how to keep it from the M.O.I., and the London newspapers writing about Dr. Evatt are not, perhaps, so dull as they sometimes read. Dr. Evatt is "the champion of causes which have yet to win the field." —(Red Field?)—Dr. Evatt is a man of the people, born in a coal mining town. In appearance "and in other ways he may be thought crude and untidy. Like Mr. Winant, he is unconventional and without ceremony." He was educated in a State School. "As a lawyer turned politician, he invites comparison with Sir Stafford Cripps." (It is understood that the suggestion has not escaped the notice of Sir Stafford.)

"He lacks both the charm, the personal attraction, and the capacity for getting on with people which Cripps has. On the other hand, he has more natural political sense than Cripps, and his feet are closer to the ground. Cripps has never mixed with the working classes as one of them. Evatt can, and has, because of his origins and his education and his intimate associations with the Unions. Like Cripps, Evatt is obviously a Socialist intellectual. He is, in fact a friend of such left-wing thinkers as Justice Felix Frankfurter in the United States and Professor Harold Laski here. Like Cripps, Evatt is the intellectual leader of the Left Wing Movement in his country, but unlike him, he has a party backing. Solidly entrenched both in the political and industrial sections of the Australian Labour Movement, he has an assured political future in a world which, he firmly believes, belongs to the people."

Let us turn to the adviser of the State School boy who knows everything (and well he might).

"Nearly everywhere Dr. Evatt goes you will find by his side a tall, thin man, with greying hair, carrying a microphone, suspended by a cord from his collar." (No, not short-wave: plain Mr. Robinson is deaf.)

"Mr. Robinson has been coming to this country for years, and knows most of the prominent people here. Though

he likes and knows England well, there is one thing he does not like about it. That is our winter. He has nearly always managed to make his return to Australia in autumn. Now he is acting as adviser on production to Dr. Evatt.

"His biggest financial interest is the Broken Hill mines. He is also associated with the big metal and smelting men of America. In this country he is connected with the Imperial Smelting Corporation.

"Mr. Robinson started life as the commercial editor of the *Melbourne Age*, but he gave it up to go into finance. To-day he is a man of immense interests and powerful influence.

"Now he is staying at a London hotel. On most of his visits here he is to be seen at the country house of Mr. William Clark at Windlesham Moor, near Egham. Mr. Clark is an old colleague of his."

The Racket

A New Zealand Correspondent writes:—

"By the way, the Banks are up to their old games. In the matter of the much publicised Liberty Loan which has just been floated by the Government, business men are being approached to take up bonds and additional finance can be 'easily arranged.' In view of the fact that Banks usually charge about 5 per cent. for overdrafts it will probably surprise the business men to find that the Banks can accommodate them easily for the Loan which is for 2½ per cent. and 3 per cent. The interest which is to be charged has not yet been made public. Apparently information may only be had on personal application to the Branch Manager. There appears to be considerable secrecy attached to the whole business."

By C. H. Douglas

THE BIG IDEA

2/6

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Saturday, July 18, 1942.

MOCK TURTLE

June 23. Mr. Austin Hopkinson's attachment of responsibility for "deficiencies in number and quality in aircraft, tanks and guns" to Lord Beaverbrook, "a man whose slimy trail has been across the whole public life of our country for the past 30 years." (*Hansard*.)

July 1. Wing-Commander James referred to "the pernicious damaging and crooked dealings of Lord Beaverbrook." (*Hansard*: words not reported by *The Times*.)

July 2. Lord Hankey "confessed that he felt rather worried when the noble lord, Lord Beaverbrook, made his reference to the six-pounder gun on February 12 last. He felt that that was giving the enemy useful information." (*Official Report: House of Lords Debates*.)

July 5. *Sunday Times* suggests vote in House of Commons influenced by belief that a motive behind the attack on the government was a desire to bring about an early general election.

July 7. Personal statement by Lord Beaverbrook in the House of Lords in reply to Lord Hankey. "The suggestion which he made has no foundation in fact—none at all." (*Official Report*.)

July 10. *Daily Express* demands immediate appeal to the country on the ground that the House of Commons is obsolete.

Shinwell, Clement Davies and other Members of Parliament talk of 'boycotting' the debate on shipping losses (secret session) by retiring to a gallery evacuated by the public.

July 11. "As no opportunity for answering that statement on the floor of the House is likely to present itself in the near future," Lord Hankey writes to *The Times* (74 lines). "I cannot accept Lord Beaverbrook's dictum that my suggestion that the German action may have been due to the warning 'has no foundation in fact.'"

July 13. Lord Beaverbrook writes to *The Times*. Lord Hankey, he says, "instead of making apology makes a new accusation... He writes and speaks continually criticising the conduct of the war."

While little can be done at this late hour to cleanse the House of Lords, we have at least two rival suggestions for emasculating the House of Commons. Mr. Hopkinson and Wing-Commander James would certainly survive an 'appeal' to their constituents, provided it were not conducted on familiar lines. A suspicion that it might not be conducted

on familiar lines may be the ground for the general view that such an appeal is mischievous and 'unthinkable.' It is far from being unthinkable. On the contrary, quite a lot of thought seems already to have been expended on it, enough, indeed, to suggest that a close scrutiny of the 'independents' who have been elected during the recent epidemic of party-smashing (as distinct from the independents who have not, and are not likely to be, however long they go on trying) might be productive of ideas bearing upon the earlier moves which have been made to meet just the contingency which has arisen. As a smoke-screen for deeper plots, talk of an election may nevertheless have points to recommend it which are not unregarded in the *Daily Express* office.

On the surface, there seem to be five distinct pieces of evidence that nothing approaching consternation has yet seized upon anyone at all closely attached to the 'evil things' of which Mr. Chamberlain—for example—seemed to be aware. First Mr. Hopkinson's cautious approach to the Speaker's sympathy. Secondly, the Speaker's intervention to increase Mr. Hopkinson's caution. Thirdly there is Lord Beaverbrook's apparent indifference to public report which must certainly shock Mr. Stanley Baldwin, unless that gentleman's sensibilities have undergone a profound change now that the circumstances which led the Americans to make an Earl of him are forgotten. The personal statement in the House of Lords was a reply to Lord Hankey only. *The Times*, we believe, attributes at least some of its omissions to its very deep concern for the amenities—not all the amenities of course; just those which are dearest to its own heart. In this case, it has the additional justification that it couldn't possibly print the great debate *verbatim*, and had, therefore, to cut Wing-Commander James severely. Lastly, there is the general air of conviction that since all those who are rocking the boat are professionals in charge of their own boat, they won't sink it—whatever they do to the British Empire.

The boycott suggestion is plain boat-rocking—and look who they are!—When a Member of Parliament expresses contempt for Parliament, he expresses contempt for himself. His duty to his constituents is to resign. To leave the House to go and sit in the gallery and look on while others are taking part in its deliberations is merely to say: "I am incapable of doing anything with the situation," not "nothing can be done with the situation." Quite obviously—the careful preparation of the stage at every turn is evidence—anything can be done with the situation. It can even be put straight. And Members of Parliament are not returned to think of the correct moves last or not at all. They have no mandate to secure by negligence any more than by advocacy the supersession of Representative Government.

They are, they pretend to the public and to themselves, in a quandary. It is an evasion which direct and constant pressure from a few enlightened constituents can expose.

T. J.

"The major part of [Japan's] plunder has come from Britain, Holland and Vichy France. It follows that hopes of a favourable settlement rest on the success with which she can work on America's traditional love of peace."

—*The Times*.

A SIMPLE STORY

There was in the dim past a village so far removed from other habitation that it had to rely for its continued existence on the exclusive efforts of its own citizens. It was a primitive plan. The people collected root crops, fruit and herbs. They dug some fields, unfortunately a good distance away, with primitive spades and owing to the rocky nature of the land had to carry soil there in skips on their backs and to carry the crops back, when these had matured, in the same way.

It will be readily understood that these people had little leisure. The margin of their production of necessities was small. In bad years it disappeared, in good years it did not amount to much.

In due course there grew up in this village a man with an exceptionally inventive brain. He gradually evolved in his mind a rough picture of what to-day we call a wheelbarrow. When he had a fair idea of what it should look like and how to make it, his mind during the hours of his daily toil naturally pictured how such a machine could be used and what it would do. In this way the immense possibilities dawned on him and he thought deeply about it all before he mentioned his ideas to anyone else.

Like all other creators, he had to go further than a mere mind picture; man is made that way: The village people had a habit of assembling once a month to discuss matters of general interest. It was at one of these that he decided to tell his fellows, there assembled, what he had in his mind.

Having thought the matter over he decided to say nothing about how he proposed to make and assemble the wheelbarrow and if he was asked not to be driven into any such description or any argument about it. He concentrated on explaining first what, roughly, it would look like and second what it would do: how one man could carry a greater load, faster and with less fatigue, than was possible with the skips. After a time he succeeded by his sincerity and the way he had obviously thought the subject out, in overcoming most of the scepticism and raising some hope and even enthusiasm for the instrument he was describing.

At that stage the nature of general questions and comments naturally changed. He was asked how would he make it, why didn't he make one, let them see one and they would then know definitely whether his claims were justified or not, yes let him show them! Our inventor was waiting for this stage of the discussion and quietly pointed out that as he was already fully engaged from dawn to dusk, this extra work presented rather a problem. This was a very reasonable argument and many faces fell with disappointment.

Our friend continued that if all in the village co-operated there was a way out. He explained that as there was every indication of that year's harvest being one of the best, his absence from work in the fields would not have any serious results, especially if everyone else worked just a little harder during that time. He might succeed in making a barrow in a fortnight or in three weeks, but during that time he would have to live and would therefore have to be paid his normal wages with which to buy his food and clothing. There existed a sufficient reserve of these necessities for him to draw on. The meeting, after more

argument, agreed and asked him to get on with the job.

But this man said no! There was still more to discuss. Assuming his revolutionary invention proved to be a success, there were several results possible. If it worked, each wheelbarrow would enable one man to do the work of two men. Therefore, as soon as one wheelbarrow was complete, the villagers could revert to their normal standards of both hours and intensity of work and level of production. He could then continue building barrows without further encroaching on accumulated reserves. The barrow would be doing his work and each succeeding one would add the equivalent of one man's effort to that of the village as a whole. He could go on making them till everyone had a barrow of his own.

Before he started on his new labours he wanted it settled what was to be done with the accretion of wealth, for man power was the greatest wealth there was in that village. There were seven possibilities he could think of:

- 1) that they remained satisfied with their present standard of living and worked only half as hard as hitherto; or
- 2) that after building up a reasonable reserve of food *etc.*, they worked as hard as ever and doubled their standard; or
- 3) that they adopted a combination in some proportion of 1 and 2; or
- 4) that half only of the villagers worked and the rest enjoyed leisure, perhaps by rotation; or
- 5) that they adopted a combination of 1, 2 and 4; or
- 6) that the surplus production over the old standard or the production during men's leisure—they were sure to do something, as the only idle brain is an addled brain—was handed over to the headman because he was headman; or
- 7) that some villager was picked out by a draw from a hat, by the colour of his hair or his ineptitude for real work, or by some other way, to be their banker and to have all the surplus handed over to him as his property.

The meeting thought 7 a great joke and gave it no consideration at all.

Yes! This is a simple story! Things didn't happen like that. But ask yourself, had you been at that meeting, would *you* have voted for 7?. If not, why don't you vote against it now?

H.R.P.

INDIA

The Viceroy's Council has been enlarged from 12 to 15 members. In a short leading article dealing with personnel and other matters, *The Times* mentions some of the qualifications of new Indian members, but not those of Sir Edward Benthall, the only European addition, who is appointed Minister of War Transport. Sir Edward Benthall is a leading member of the mercantile community in Calcutta, whose activities in 'representing' the views of unofficial Europeans in official quarters on the subject of proposed constitutional 'reforms' have been observed for some time in the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. He is Senior Partner in Bird and Company, Calcutta, and F. W. Heilgers and Company, Calcutta, since 1929. He was knighted in 1933.

THE LIBRARY

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"John Jones & Co., Nat."

Price threepence, *National Companies* by Philip Robinson, an ex-mayor of Chesterfield, ex-president of Rotary and Chamber of Commerce, and a Justice of the Peace, is an engaging little pamphlet. It paves the way to the millennium as the young are led to sanctity, *i.e.*, by catechism.

Question 3: How can an act of Parliament provide security of employment?

—Just in the same way as Acts of Parliament give security against burglary—by removing the principle causes of unemployment, it can reduce the problems to small-scale dimensions. Legal enactments can prevent the wrongful dismissal of workers by providing deterrents in the way of heavy penalties.

Question 7 (iii): What is the real function of the N.I.C. (National Industrial Council)?

—It will determine the output of consumer and capital goods, and will have the final word in the control of the output of industry.

Question 8: What part will Trade Unions play in the N.I.C.?—their job will be to see that the workers' point of view [N.B. there will be a workers' point of view] is effectively *stated*. (our italics)

Question 12: Where does public control come in?—The answer is in six sections; but, unless we are mistaken, the section containing the answer 'proper' (as the *Heralds* might say) has inadvertently been omitted. The words 'Appointing Trustees,' 'Public Auditors,' 'inefficiency and mismanagement,' 'Councils,' 'Councils,' 'Councils,' 'seat,' 'Directors in Concerns,' 'interests of the Community,' *etc.*, appear; but it is not possible to see where 'Public Control' does come in.

What is a 'National Company'? The answer to this is on page 3. "A National Company is a new type of business organisation, which Parliament will be asked to set up. A National Company incorporates all the features of a 'Limited' Company, and denotes by its title that its ownership and control has been voluntarily vested in the State. A National Company drops the title 'Limited' and replaces it with 'National'—

"John Jones & Co., Ltd.,
becomes

"John Jones & Co., National,
or for short

"John Jones & Co., Nat."

Company directors who are interested in the New Order may care to turn to Question 27: "What will be the future Scale of Directors' Salaries applicable to New Entrants?"

"The salaries offered will be sufficiently high to attract

PARLIAMENT

DEBATE ON PROPAGANDA

JULY 7.

Motion made, and Question proposed.

"That a further sum, not exceeding £40, be granted to His Majesty, towards defraying the charges for the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and certain services connected with Propaganda. . . ."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Information (Mr. Thurtle): . . . Taking first the Ministry of Information, the estimated expenditure for the present financial year is, in round figures, £8,600,000 which represents an increase of £2,435,000 on the figure for last year. . . .

Mr. Pickthorn (Cambridge University) . . . most people of my sort of political prejudice do not really think very much of propaganda. It seems to us enormously exaggerated. From that point of view what we wish to talk about we rather begin by degenerating. Another difficulty is that the tendency of our propaganda to enemy countries has been, and still is, largely Leftish in character. I could give quotations from our wireless talks to Germany in the last few days, in which, I think I am entitled to say, this war is assumed to be a war of the working class against Fascism; and sometimes it seems to be a war for and against Socialism. . . .

I make bold to suggest that in the stuff which is addressed to Germany there is still far too large an ingredient of what you might call Leftish propaganda. It is difficult to prove that without listening a good deal, and it is even difficult to prove it by giving lists of speakers. I do not wish to read out a list of speakers, and I agree that, of course, any list could be more or less countered, but I do not think anybody can make so long a list of speakers who have obviously tried to give a Right tendency to their propaganda as can be made of those who have obviously tried to be a Left tendency. That has been so under all Ministers and is so still. It was certainly so in the month of June. I went through the list for June a couple of days ago. I do not think there is anything to deny about that.

Take another point of view. The Labour Party Conference was plugged—[*Interruption.*] I do not mind the Labour Party Conference being plugged, or the A.E.U. Conference, the other day. These things are plugged all the time, but nothing is plugged in the matter of speaking for England—I will not even say from the Rightish side, but I find it difficult to put this matter shortly—not speak-

the best type of men. . . the BASIC salary, together with the EQUITY salary might, in the case of Directors of large Companies, take the total up to £10,000 or even more."

And the 'small man'?

Oh well! "The National Industrial Council may have something to say about the inefficiency of small Units in certain types of business. They will remember that something like 30 per cent. of all new business Units go out of action in the first three years of their existence, and they may decide that it will be in the interests of the Community to ask for adequate qualifications from the new 'would-be-small-man' before being allowed to start." Now get away you little boys, you!

ing for some section of England, whether employers or employees or whether from Right or Left. It hardly ever happens. . . .

Mr. Garro Jones (Aberdeen, North): . . . It is no use blinking the fact that Americans in general permit themselves much greater freedom of criticism towards Britain than the British people and newspapers permit themselves towards America. In searching for an explanation of that strange psychological phenomenon, if that is a suitable term, all sorts of reasons are found. We speak about the Irish-American population, or the German-American population, or at times we hear suggestions of another kind such as were made by the hon. Member for Llandaff and Barry. He attributed it apparently in no small measure to the fact that American newspaper correspondents were not given sufficient facilities to obtain news in this country. While all those factors may play some part, this attitude goes very much deeper than that. I do not think it will defeat the collaboration between America and Britain, but it is very important that the best advisers the right hon. Gentleman can find should ascertain what can be done to remedy this state of affairs.

It goes back a very long time. I was in the United States on a British flying mission for a year in 1918. I used to be horrified—I must say that, in retrospect, I do not look upon it as so serious a matter—at the outspoken manner in which the American Press weighed out praise or blame to the British war effort. At the time, we had been in the war for years, and Britain and France together had lost 2,000,000 dead, yet in 1918, before a single division of United States troops was at the front and when some hundreds of British and French divisions were fighting deadly battles daily, it was possible for the American President to refer to the Allies as America's assistants in this war. We know that a certain amount of that kind of talk is for home consumption and therefore we are not too greatly disturbed by it, but that it persists may easily be ascertained by anyone who takes the trouble to compare the comments of the British Press about what happened at Pearl Harbour with the comments about what happened at Tobruk.

I have had the opportunity of seeing a collection of comments—compiled not strangely enough by the Minister of Information, although most of what appears in the news sphere is under his Department, but independently—and it was interesting to note that object lesson in the dissimilarity of outlook between British critics and American critics in relation to each other's countries. I do not attach fundamental importance to this matter in relation to the war effort, but if this is to be a perpetual source of irritation between the two countries, particularly in the highly delicate post-war years, the most acute differences and friction are bound to arise between us and the United States. . . .

JULY 8.

Mr. Stephen (Glasgow, Camlachie): . . . When the Under-Secretary replies I would like him kindly to tell us something about the demarcation of power between the Ministry of Works and Planning and the Scottish Office with regard to building schemes. This Ministry has been set up, but most of its power is negligible. It has spread across the Border and has separate offices in Edinburgh. What is the relationship between the two Departments? The Minister, in making his review, asked that we should

set this rabbit going. I do not think it is a rabbit. I think it is a matter of very great importance, because we have found by means of Questions in the House that while there still seems to be some technical power left to the Scottish Office, its practical power has been taken away and is under the control of the Ministry of Works and Planning. Much of our bad condition in Scotland to-day is due to the fact that so much of the power to deal with Scottish affairs has been filched from us and has come from over the Border. In fact, as one of my hon. Friends has said:

"It's o'er the Border and awa'."

Therefore, I hope the Under-Secretary will be able to give us some clear indication of the demarcation between his Department and this Ministry and will say whether the Scottish Office will be able to demand labour and material to enable local authorities to carry out the schemes for housing that ought to be carried out. . . .

Mr. Buchanan (Glasgow, Gorbals): . . . The Secretary of State showed how the health of the people was not going back. Indeed, he spoke so much about improvement of health that one was almost inclined to wish for a war now and again to improve our health. I do not deny that in certain respects our health has gone up, but it happened in the last war. Those of us who knew the great centres of population in the last war knew that two things happened. Instead of great masses of people being either constantly unemployed or only very partially employed, they became steadily employed; and in place of low incomes they got much better incomes than they formerly had. People in the main do not waste money, despite the lectures we receive. They devote their incomes to the laudable purpose of caring for their families and themselves. In great cities like my own, unemployment has fallen to nothing compared with pre-war days. The result is that people have a form of security, at least in the war period, and incomes which unfortunately they have not enjoyed before. It is properly spent in buying the necessities of life, and that must reflect itself on the health of the people. I claim that that is no great credit to the Scottish Health Department. It is a creditable thing to the parents in their spending. It also shows that mankind in war can provide steady employment with a good income, but is unable to do it in times of peace. . . .

The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Westwood): . . . I can say most emphatically and definitely that the Secretary of State for Scotland is responsible for housing in Scotland and that that is not a problem which comes within the purview of the Ministry of Works and Buildings. We have at least tried to keep our end up there.

Mr. McKinlay (Dumbartonshire): The Ministry deals with planning, but planning does not consist only of the building of houses, if you take the Minister's own connotation. We want to know more about it.

Mr. Westwood: All I can say is that the planning Bill will not apply to Scotland. Over the portals of the Ministry of Works and Buildings there are two different titles. In England the title is "Ministry of Works and Planning" and in Scotland it is "Ministry of Works and Buildings." The Ministry have nothing whatever to do with the planning of Scotland. That is a matter which we have reserved for the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Scottish Office and the officials who guide us in such problems.

Mr. Maxton (Glasgow, Bridgeton): Are the Scottish

staff of the Ministry of Works and Buildings housed in the Scottish Office, or separately?

Mr. Westwood: I have no knowledge of it, unless they surreptitiously arrived there last night. I assure the hon. Member that to the best of my knowledge they are not housed in St. Andrew's House. . . .

Secretariat Revenue

Since July 1940, the need of the Secretariat for contributions to support its activities has been mentioned only three times, and on the second occasion the appeal which was made was addressed particularly to overseas supporters. While not highly productive, such appeals as have been made have resulted in a sufficiency of income. Some supporters have subscribed generously. It remains true that more could be done if more money were forthcoming. It also remains true that subscriptions from supporters are only invited on the basis of personal assessment of responsibility for providing the means necessary to gain results desired. Particularly now, individual circumstances change. Few are doing more for Social Credit than they did before the war. But there is as much to do, and the reason why it is not done is the overriding demand of the Great Emergency itself, in most cases. This is often reflected in smaller instead of in larger bank balances and pay envelopes. But not always. Where detachment from Social Credit action results in money to spare, for what is it best spared?

Points of View

Sir Percy Hurd recently asked the Minister of Supply whether in view of the shortage of newsprint for the British Press, steps have been taken to lessen the number of 63 publications for emigrés of the 14 foreign nationalities now in this country.

Sir A. Duncan: In our view it is reasonable.

Miss Rathbone: Is the Minister aware that many of the so-called foreign nationalities should be regarded as Allies rather than as foreigners; and, in view of the special anxieties which they are undergoing about the fate of their native countries, would it not be inhospitable on our part to deny them the right of expressing their separate points of view, which differ among them just as opinions differ in this House?

Sir P. Hurd: Can there be 63 different points of view?

Sir A. Duncan: There are 14 nationalities involved, and the 63 papers cover all 14. Some of the papers are weekly, others are fortnightly, and others are quarterly publications. There is a great variety. Some are published for each of the separate Services. I have great sympathy with the view expressed by the hon. Lady.

Mr. Maxton: Can the Minister stop all these people sending copies of their publications to Members of Parliament?

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ALSO

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 LONDON D.S.C. Group: Mrs. Palmer, 35 Birchwood Avenue, Sidcup, Kent. Footscray 3059.
 Lunch hour re-unions on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 12-30 p.m., at The Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street, W. C. 1. Next Meeting August 6.
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