THE SOCIAL CREDITER
FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM


THE BIG IDEA (XI)
By C. H. DOUGLAS

It is becoming a commonplace to hear people say, "Of course, we're fighting two wars"; by which statement is meant, that our enemies are not merely Germany and Japan but a vaguely apprehended and ill-defined factor in regard to which there is some hesitation as to its name.

I am a little doubtful as to the utility of this idea. As I see it, we are fighting Germany and Japan for the benefit of a third party, the Promoter. There are faint indications quite recently that the Promoter may get further into the mêlée than had ever been his intention, but the process will have to go to greater lengths before it can be called a fight.

I do not want to waste the time of the Superior Persons who have long ago risen above what they describe as hidden hand theories, but the rest of us must be impressed by the accumulating evidence that much more is involved than a nice, clean-cut war against Hitler and the Mikado. Let us contemplate our Prime Ministers for a few moments, omitting, for obvious reasons, Mr. Winston Churchill.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, commonly known as the Washington Post, has had a remarkable career. I may perhaps repeat as germane to the matter the remark made to me by a prominent Canadian when I said that I had been informed in Washington in 1919 that Mr. King (almost as unknown to the general Canadian public as was Mr. Stanley Baldwin to the British public of the same period) would be the next Prime Minister. My friend observed, "Well, we Canadians didn't know it, anyway."

To say that Mr. King's spiritual home is in Washington may perhaps be to limit his domesticity unduly, but it certainly isn't in Westminster. I should be the last to claim that the efforts of the Imperial Government, in the main dominated by Mr. Baldwin, were, during the fatal armistice years, either distinguished or evenly moderately courageous, but anything Mr. King could do to make them completely abortive, was done. The World Economic Congress of 1933 might—probably would, because of its limited agenda—have been a failure in any case, but Mr. King left nothing to chance in indicating, in able collaboration with Mr. Cordell Hull of the United States, that any putting-to-rights of world affairs, wherever else it might come from, would not be allowed to proceed from London.

It would be unfair, however, to omit the effective collaboration with the Bank of "England" for which reliance upon him could always be placed. The disallowance of the Acts of the Alberta Legislature, the appointment of an official nominated by Mr. Montagu Norman to control the Bank of Canada, and many other minor policies, obviously did nothing to cool the welcome he could always expect to the South of the Canadian Border, whatever the Canadians themselves may have thought, or of the repercussion on the Imperial link. And we may cast a glance in passing, at Mr. Curtin, the "Labour" Prime Minister of Australia, of whom few of us had heard until, like Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Mackenzie King, he appeared from nowhere with no false sentiment in looking to Washington to console him for any very slight regret for the passing of Britain. And there is Mr. Nash of New Zealand, of whom it was said that the interests of international Finance were quite safe while he remained de facto, if not de jure, Prime Minister. At this time of writing, Mr. Nash is representing New Zealand in Washington. It should not be overlooked that, while the "Liberal" or "Labour" Parties in the Dominions, which tend to be the dominant parties, seem curiously liable to develop a nasal accent, England, which seems incurably "Conservative," whatever that may mean, provides a touching example of Imperial Unity by providing Leaders from the Conservative ranks, who are delighted to conduct the calf to the water, even if it may subsequently transpire that there are difficulties in making it drink. The negroid sex-moans retailed by the "B".B.C. under the title of entertainment are no doubt expected to develop the right culture for the appropriate policy. Taken by and large, the British Commonwealth for the past 25 years provides a remarkable object-lesson on the workings of "d'markrazy."

The subject of what is commonly called India (which is as descriptive as a reference to Europe) is, of course, much too large to be dealt with in detail here, but certain facts are essentially relevant to a grasp of the larger picture. The first is that the Indian Congress (significant title) is not, and never has been, representative of more than the most insignificant fraction of the indigenous population. The second is, that it is known to be, and to have been for many years, financed from the same source as was the Russian Revolution.

And the third, and most significant, is that the so-called "Indian Problem" has assumed intractable proportions only from a date which is common to two incidents. The first of these is the foundation of the Federal Reserve Banking System by the Warburgs, which set the stage for the War, and to which I have already made reference. And the second, which at first sight would appear to be both wildly irrelevant and absurdly disproportionate, is the Marconi Scandal.

There can, I think, be no appreciation of the problem with which humanity is faced, and therefore no hope of a
decisive and satisfactory outcome from it, without a recogni-
tion that States—Great Britain, France, Germany, the
United States—are simply “Counters,” in the sense that
the word is used on the Stock Exchange. Exactly as shares
are manipulated by the big Operators, the destinies of whole
people are played with by the same type of Group, with
as little compunction or respect for the results to the popula-
tions concerned as the big share promoter has for the public,
where no question of legal danger is involved. M. Coty, the
French millionaire, entitled his exposé, which dealt with some of
the aspects of the situation, Financiers who Sport with the
World.

To say that, for instance, the United States—still less
the American people—is deeply involved in this policy is
fundamentally as meaningless as to accuse the Pennsylvania
Railroad of complicity. We have got to know, and the
whole future of the world depends upon our knowing, who
are the Directors who use one country after another as a
base of Operations. As usual, the surest clue is to be found
by a consideratoin of the enquiry “Quis beneficiti?”—Who
benefits?

We can clear the ground at once of one candidate—
nothing which has happened in the political field in the
last twenty-five years, to go back no further, could conceivably be expected to advance the interest of the com-
mmunities linked together by the British Crown. On the
contrary, it is obvious that, for instance, the present war is
being fought, for the destruction of that association. The
only question at stake appears to be which of the controlled
Groups nominally takes over the assets, the hidden Promoters
being in control of a majority shareholding whoever “wins.”
At the same time, it is essential that the assets shall be
handed over in a condition which will not cause trouble.
That is to say, they must be converted into Servile States
forever unable to revolt against irresistible World Police
under the orders of the Promoters.

Bearing this in mind, we can consider the events to which
the Marconi Scandal made an important contribution.
(To be continued) (All rights reserved)

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

The idea that “justice” and “equality” are the same
thing, belongs to the same order of intelligence as that which
believes that the Dictatorship of the Proletariat means that
every Russian can buy a Dictaphone.

There is no confirmation of the story that Mr. Curtin,
the Australian “Labour” Prime Minister who now regards
Washington as “Home,” is generally referred to by his name
with the syllables transposed.

Another story which is current, but doubtless apocryphal,
is that an international Chemical Monopoly, which
is controlled by Jews, has a synthetic rubber substitute which
it has kept off the market pending an arrangement with the
Japanese to attack Malaya and ruin the British rubber
planters and their trees, and that the wild nonsense about
the responsibility of the planters for the Singapore disaster
is a smoke screen put up from the same source.

What has happened to the “B”.B.C’s dear “Russian”
friend, M. Lozhovsky, without whose name no Red Army
communiqué was complete until a month or so ago? Has
he joined the American Fleet?

Another tale that is surely apocryphal is that United
States food-cameras are to use the Fort Knox gold for
plating cans, now that the major source of the world’s tin
supply is in enemy hands.

* * *

Times advertisement: —“Well-known finance house has
FUNDS available for the purchase of large, well-established
businesses.” Well, nobody else has! And, on purchase to
whom will they belong? And (supplementary question), THEN what?

* * *

**GARDEN OF EDEN CRIPPA**

Magic Flute?

“Plato declared that the revolutionary spirit always
makes its first appearance in innovations on established

And wasn’t the Minister careful not to disclose the
names of the chief proprietors of the Daily Mirror, which
the Evening Standard so badly wanted to know a year or
two ago? Not now, of course!

The Line to Take

The policy in force:
To introduce and entrench Bureaucratic Socialism;
To use the National Credit for this purpose;
To use monetary reformers to put this over.

The policy for social crediters:
To attack and discard Bureaucratic Socialism;
To expose the Big Idea behind (and its control of
policy in relation to National Credit);
To endeavour to effect the reconstitution of democracy
by means of Policy Associations,

Regionalism and control by Whitehall were attacked by
the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Norman. Tip-
taft, in a speech to the Birmingham Rotary Club on
March 16:—

“The menace to the city,” he said, “does not in war-
time come solely from Germany. It comes from gentlemen
in London and their local organisation who, with the ex-
cuse that there is a war on, would impose on Birmingham
and other cities a form of government which is irresponsible,
anonymous, and not as efficient as the municipality itself
can produce.

“We have heard much of regionalism and of the control
of the backward provinces by Whitehall. We have had an
insidious attack on the entire system of local democratic
government by people anxious to substitute for free institu-
tions vested interests and bureaucratic control. That way
lies danger. We are not fighting this war to instal Gauleiters
and their entourage nor to put a Gestapo in charge of Britain.

"In a national emergency we are prepared to accept
restrictions of individual freedom, but we will not, as free
men and women, lightly accept some new control from any
department of any Government less competent than that
we already possess. No regional organisation can treat
Birmingham as if it were the Nether Backwash. Nor will
we allow powers conferred for civil defence to be used for
encroaching on other matters pertaining to local government.

"All is not well with civil defence. Regional control,
while admirable in theory, is not always administered with
the competence necessary to ensure success. Fire fighting
by paper has increased. Forms and memoranda have
multiplied, but that is no guarantee of greater efficiency.
There are other matters regional administration is seeking
to control.

"Birmingham is not unaccustomed to receiving dis-
tinguished visitors. To-day the city authorities are over-
ridden in the arrangement of visits within their own
boundaries. That is not a position that this city of a million
people will tolerate.

"We shall not surrender our democratic rights to any
authority placed on us without our consent which attempts
to usurp them."

His speech concluded with a call for changes after the
war.

Mayors of other Midland towns who were present at
the meeting are understood to be going to back the Lord
Mayor of Birmingham in action on the basis of his address.

MEN OF MUNICH! (II)

The term 'Men of Munich' is a loose generality cov-
ering a number of persons associated with the so-called
National government, particularly since the substitution
of the Chamberlain for the Baldwin regime, which was
accompanied by an increase in the influence of the Con-
servative caucus. I think it would be fairly safe to read for
Men of Munich, Conservative Party, though to do so is
merely to substitute one abstract term for another, with
certainly no decrease in the controversial note.

For my particular purpose, which is to get at the
reality behind the abstract terms and party labels, and
specifically the mysterious rancour that surrounds Mr. Cham-
berlain's apparently forthright action at Munich, it is possibly
not material, but it is interesting to speculate as to whether
Mr. Chamberlain suffered as an individual or as a member
of a party; and whether it was because his action threatened
to give some game away. "Munich" had every appearance
of a one-man show; the perpetuation of the phrase, however,
confirms it as a group or party label.

Now, all genuine students of Douglas—by which I
mean those who have attained to that rarest and most valu-
able possession, a philosophic outlook on social matters,
recognise one or two fairly fundamental facts, though it
doesn't serve any useful purpose to raise them worshipfully
aloft as Immutable Truths.

One of these is that the Party System, which, though
it is to be seen in some form in all so-called democratic
countries, and in its fullest bloom in the United States of
America, is not essentially democratic, and appears to be the
principal means by which the individuals comprising the
state are deprived of the chief part of the reward of their
associated efforts. One of the reasons for this, as we know,
is that implicit in the Party System is the pernicious half-
truth that it is not the system that is wrong but the indi-
viduals who are running it. No assumption could play up
better to the devil's policy of "divide and rule." It is the
temptation to think that all that is needed is a change of
personnel—the old firm under new management.

Brought up as we are on Party tradition, it requires a
firm sense of realism to recognise this fallacy, and to see
that for our purpose, which is progression towards a con-
crete objective, the system is about as useful as a means
of locomotion as a see-saw or a rocking-horse, while affording,
unfortunately for civilisation, the same childish satisfaction
and illusion of worth-while movement to a great, though
diminishing number of so-called adults.

As realists we see the futility of it. And we may take
considerable encouragement from the fact that this truth
is dimly felt by almost everyone in a time of crisis such as
the present one. From our point of vantage we can see
the situation simply, as it is—a number of individuals, the
nation, faced by a common danger, and endeavouring in-
dividually and collectively, and in spite of all differences,
to put up a common resistance.

One recognises, however, that that condition goes down
no more than a certain depth, and that beneath it lies the
region of "party politics"—the bleak, confusing land of
labels and classifications and vague abstract ideas, headed
by the "Troublesome Trio"—Liberty, Equality and Frater-
nity, about which those who are without the advantage of such
a book as Economic Democracy are in danger of disputing
till doomsday.

Above that subterranean turmoil one sees the war-effort,
suffering tragically in efficiency from the effects of the
struggle going on beneath, yet temporarily dominating it by
the sheer weight and urgency of the crisis. And above that
again, if there is hope for the future, as there assuredly is,
one must see—for to see a thing clearly is the first step to
bringing it about—a body of emancipated individuals,
Social Crediters consciously or unconsciously, able to recog-
nise independently of war pressure the common interest of
all men; not of all men after they have been forcibly reduced
to one standard statistical aspect, but of all men in all their
diversity; in one of their aspects, irrespective of class or
creed or party.

As the only self-conscious element in that emancipated
body of thought, Social Crediters will have an immense
responsibility in that after-the-war period, and particularly
at the moment when the sheer weight of physical dread is
lifted and the nation begins to doff its uniform and resume
its full regalia of party and social differences and its group
labels.

Then will come the test of that tolerance which is the
most valuable aspect of British culture, and for Social Credit
philosophy, assuredly a flower on that cultural stem, with its
healing, cementing formula. It is a demonstration of that
philosophic tolerance that the post-war world will need
above everything, and for which it must look to the British
in every part of the world. And it is against that time we
must consciously prepare.

N. F. W.
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Alberta

In the issue of this journal for March 14, Major Douglas reminded us that "If the Social Credit Government of Alberta had done nothing—and it has done many things—to justify its existence, the demonstration afforded by its enemies of one fundamental factor in the world situation would still have made it a landmark in human history."

What is the factor? "That the Secret Government is determined to keep the world in turmoil until its own rule is supreme, so that one uninformed mob may be mobilised against another, should either become dangerous."

A paragraph in the Edmonton Bulletin just to hand states that the Alberta government is going ahead with arrangements to appeal to the Privy Council against the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada adjudging the Provincial Debt Adjustment Act invalid. Air mail and steamship are being used to rush the necessary application forms to London. Why there should be a more dramatic touch about being used to rush the necessary application forms to the Supreme Court of Canada adjudging the Provincial Debt Adjustment Act invalid. Air mail and steamship are being used to rush the necessary application forms to the point of the banker's pen.

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Alberta does not provide an example.

Canada has indeed given us Alberta—both of us. Lord Sempill will possibly have an opportunity to direct the gift to the right quarter, which, by the bye, is not the bottomless pit of financial sabotage of the 'national effort.'

Side by side with confirmation, emanating from the Department of Commerce at Washington, of Major Douglas's view at the beginning of the present phase of the World War that one of the key objectives was the restoration of the Gold Standard, comes the text of the striking protest by the Alberta Legislature against the ambiguities of the plebiscite proposed by Mackenzie King which deprives the people of Canada of opportunity of expressing themselves in favour of the mobilisation of credit power while releasing the Federal Government from "any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the method of raising men." The Legislature's resolution, which was passed, stigmatises the plebiscite "an inexcusable expenditure of public funds urgently needed for increasing still further our war effort, and a cause of disunity at a time when complete harmony was never more essential to enable Canada to render the greatest service possible to the British Empire."

The totalitarian dilemma, 'Guns or Butter' is matched by the dilemma of the so-called democracies, 'Butter or Guns.' In war what matters is (generically) guns. The alternative is artificial and were it not imposed upon the world as a whole, there would be no occasion for guns, for guns are the ultimate force to impose and to reimpose the dilemma. Preparations which stick out a mile are being made to adjust the financial system not to the requirements of a sane economy but to the requirements of a shattered theory. Here, too, we may 'thank God for Alberta;' for it has provided object lessons from which citizens may learn to distinguish means from ends. There is no trick of deception in the bankers' armory of which the fight in Alberta does not provide an example.

T. J.

At the end of January the Alberta Legislature passed by 28 votes to 17 a resolution condemning the open advocacy of the 'Union Now' movement in Canada. The resolution pointed out that the 'Union Now' proposals entailed the surrender of "all essential sovereign authority" of the people of Canada to an international totalitarian authority, destroying effective democratic government and submerging the British Empire.

"It seems incredible that any people in their senses could look upon healthy twins growing up together and say: 'What a pity they are not Siamese twins joined together in indissoluble union!'" — A. V. McNeil.

War for Intellectual Freedom

"Dear mummy and daddy,

... I don't know yet who has been chosen to make a speech for Warships Week. But one boy and girl in every school in —shire is going to be allowed to make a speech, and so someone from our school is 'sure to be chosen.'"

"Oh, what can little voices say,
To please the Great Panjandrum?"
ABSTRACTIONISM
By P. R. MASSON

The title of a paper read to a gathering of engineers recently seems to merit close examination. It was The Failure of the Technician in his Role as Citizen.

The title indicates, correctly, how most of us play a double rôle in life; the one functional, as chemists, engineers, sailors, farmers or workers of one kind or another, and the other as citizens.

In a somewhat broader sense than the author probably intended, most of us are technicians in part of our lives, even if it is only to the extent of using and maintaining the familiar push bike or the now homely wireless set. Why is it that almost invariably we are successful as technicians, in that we soon learn to ride bicycles, swim, sail boats, skate or play games if we wish? Even those activities covered by the term “technician,” as it is usually accepted, can be accomplished efficiently by any average person having the required application.

Yet as citizens we have failed so miserably that the whole world is now extremely busy exterminating all social problems by eliminating the individuals.

The short answer appears to be that as technicians we are invariably realists: as citizens we are too often abstractionists.

The dictionary suggests that an abstraction is a concept or idea which never ties up with reality; but a closer inspection seems to suggest that all abstractions must have some bearing on reality, but that they can be classified as good or evil according to how they are used. The old-fashioned idea of a continual war between “Good” and “Evil,” between God and the Devil, had no room for apparently harmless neutrals, and a war between Realism and Abstractionism is but a variation of that fundamentally sound abstraction.

It is clear that an abstraction may be used just like any other tool. The technician uses an abstraction when he assumes the whole weight of a body to be concentrated at a point which he calls the Centre of Gravity, but he knows when it is a useful and convenient assumption and when it is not, and the fact that he uses it properly is proved by the final and successful results—ships which really do float and remain stable.

As citizens we are such abstractionists that but few recognise that the social mechanism has broken down because of bad design, poor materials and shoddy workmanship, coupled with inexcusable ignorance—one or more of these ingredients being present in every break-down once the initial development stages have been passed. A hot bearing to a realist engineer is a signal to get busy, and several hot bearings and unusual noises a signal to get busier still. He does not attempt to cover his inactivity by such abstractions as that “you can never have things perfect in this world,” that “God must be angry” or that “Love is the greatest thing in the Universe.” If he did he would soon be looking for another berth.

In the world of economics and finance there are many abstractions which, if they ever had any use, have long since lost contact with any reality that concerns the majority of individuals in society. The so-called “favourable” trade balance which implies that the more real wealth we export the wealthier we become, is a case in point; and no Social Crediter will need to be told that this abstraction serves the ends of Kuhn, Loeb and Company well, in a realistic sense, but those of very few besides.

The concept that the purpose of the economic system is to make work for everyone might have a certain convenience in a world where it was necessary for everyone who could work to do so, but such a concept could never be anything more than a convenient assumption, and in a country where the productive system is characterised by a phenomenal increase in efficiency of production it could be, and is, as destructive as dynamite—it is the sin of abstractionism.

A recent letter in The Social Crediter referred to the concept that “money is a store of wealth” and, as the writer indicated, it is difficult to conceive any conditions in which such an abstraction could be anything but a tool of evil forces.

Yet as citizens we have failed so miserably that the whole world is now extremely busy exterminating all social problems by eliminating the individuals.

A few years ago the concept that “gold gave money its value” was severely damaged if not completely destroyed by an able article in The Times Trade and Engineering Supplement which showed that it would be more true to say that “money gave gold its value.” The inability of people in general to distinguish between real wealth—food, clothes, houses, motor-cars and holidays—and the token or money is, in all probability, the most potently evil of all abstractionist ideas.

The mental confusion caused by abstractionism in money matters can be demonstrated by putting the question to a roomful of people: If we take twenty men away from their work on Spitfire construction for a day and put them on the street to collect for the Spitfire fund—and let us suppose they are highly successful collecting £1,000 or £10,000—what is the net effect on Spitfire production?

But abstractionism is not limited to finance and economics. In politics we have “lefts” and “rights,” “reds” and “blacks” and modern “socialism” and modern “conservatism” supported by the idea that truth lies somewhere between the two extremes.

Deliberation and discussion can be useful as a preliminary to a decision and the necessary action. If they do not lead up to these results they are abortive. When healthy deliberation is elaborated into the idea of an endless debate with truth fluttering everlastingly between the two sides, it is abstractionism or Devil’s realism; it is an example of the old maxim of “Divide and Rule” and, put simply, it means that we are having our attention distracted while our pockets are being picked.

Perhaps the sphere in which abstractionism is most powerful in its influence for evil is when it succeeds in masquerading under the cloak of religion. Major C. H. Douglas has shown that the word “religion” by derivation means “binding back to reality” but he has also shown very clearly that there are abstract ideas in Puritanism, Freemasonry and Jewry which are evil. All these activities would be claimed as “religious” by their adherents so that it is obvious that the word has lost a precise meaning. An out and out abstractionist will tell you that the word “religion” is incapable of definition, which leaves an open door for any half-baked idea with a coating of neurotic emotionalism.

The kind of religious abstractionisms which should not be difficult to classify can be illustrated by such emotionalised
ideas as that "Love is the greatest thing in the Universe." While there is everything to be said in favour of an attempt to be a good neighbour and take a share of the responsibilities inseparable from our existence, there is little to be said for being merely exalted over the idea while insulated on a pedestal of self-righteousness. There can be little doubt that it is possible for some individuals to carry religious abstractionism to the extent where a complete and satisfying insensibility to external discomforts is reached, but this kind of "religion" cannot come within miles of a conception of "binding back to reality."

The concept of a Great Architect appears to presume a Plan, the details of which are known to a few selected individuals invested with Divine authority to work out that plan on their fellows; Social Crediters, at least, do not believe that that will work, which is only another way of saying that it cannot have divine approval because it does not "bind back to reality."

The technician has one final test and one only—does it work? Does it "bind back to reality"? Has it divine approval? The fact that he is unfamiliar with the question in the last two forms suggests that we have invested "religion" and divinity with an abstractionism which must be eliminated. The final responsibility in the matter rests with the individual; it cannot be vested elsewhere.

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"Plural Societies" and War
By B. M. Palmer

Correct principles, when properly stated, come home to the mind in relevant circumstances with the force of prophecy. The failure of the Malayan Empire to bear for more than a few weeks the onslaught sustained for five years by the Chinese has been a mental shock now resolving into a state of words; but above the tumult of recriminations stands in calm dignity the axiomatic statement apprehension of which would have saved us:

"The idea which is rising into prominence, and which is probably incompatible with the older conception, is that nations and races to some extent resemble individuals. A period of tutelage is necessary and desirable, but the extension of this period beyond pragmatic limits can only result in harm and discontent. On the other hand, to say that all peoples, or even all individuals, should be suddenly freed from the restraints imposed upon them by past generations is as absurd as to say that such restraints should be uniform and permanent.

"Whether we consider the resistance to a more fluid state of society to arise from inertia and fear, or from a positive craving for power, the recognition of its existence suggests that those who embody it will be found engaged in a struggle for the control of social forces. This, I think, is the case, and in one form or another this struggle is similar to that which has taken place throughout recorded history. The prize may be termed the unearned increment of association."

The struggle for the control of social forces: only a few realise that the protagonists are operating in obscurity, and but faint noise of their battle is heard; but the scorched earth of their combat surrounds every one of us, to whom it is represented by an obsequious press as the result of our own wicked desire for profit, or more often lately as "inevitable economic law."

But it seems that at last one aspect of reality is appearing. It is unlikely that two sentences written by Miss Margery Perham in her articles on The Colonial Empire in The Times of March 13 and 14. would have been granted publicity before the fall of Malaya:

"To-day, behind the impressive set-up of chiefs, courts, and councils, the welfare of the people often swings helplessly in the tide of world markets, or is controlled by strong and remote commercial companies responsible only to themselves."

"Already the West Africans have shown their resentment of this position, and if they perhaps exaggerate the degree of control thus exerted over their livelihood, the fault lies in the secrecy within which commercial policy is made and operated."

These are useful articles. The writer evidently has experience which is more valuable than she herself realises, and of which she has not yet envisaged the inevitable conclusion. For she fails to draw any conclusion except one wholly acceptable to The Times—a plea for new energy in Colonial administration and new and more intimate relationship with its peoples. These are phrases vague enough to be pleasing even to those commercial companies responsible only to themselves.

It may be true, as Miss Perham says, that the colonial peoples ask for no service with the same passion as they do for education; if so, it is our duty to provide it, and to lift the vast deadweight of ignorance and backwardness from the women; but education is useless if divorced from policy, and we have given these people no opportunity of learning that they have an aim in common; for the main purpose for which they might associate was taken away from them when we suffered the establishment of an external and secret control over their livelihood.

The results of this secret control are deplorable: the destruction of primitive organic communities and the formation of new units, with all the evils of industrialisation, tropical slums, where it is inevitable that proper growth is grafted the system of debt and taxation so familiar to our knowledge; the enforced migration of young men in search of "work."

Much of the Colonial Empire, Miss Perham points out, exhibits the characteristics of what the Dutch call "plural societies"—a steel framework of an imported state system, under which diverse groups pursue their material ends with the minimum of contact with the others. She says they are developing on parallels that will never meet.

When war comes to plural communities there will be no resistance from those who have nothing to fight for. So we may judge, as we imagine the smoking ruins over which the war has already passed, the measure of our help to the Colonials in learning the rudiments of democracy.

The attitude of The Times towards colonial matters has already been commented upon in this paper on November 29 last.

The intention to make self-government everywhere compatible with some form of common economic policy,
formed, of course, by the secret junta, has already been forecast by the powers behind that newspaper; and in *The Colonial Future* published on March 14, the destiny of the colonies has been thus arrogantly arranged:—

"Except in a few special areas, the colonies are probably now more important as markets than as sources of supply. It is as markets that they will make their major contribution to the rebuilding of world trade."

Such is *The Times*'s main comment on Miss Perham's articles. It is to be hoped that its readers will be less myopic.

### Points from Parliament

**MARCH 12.**

**Oral Answers to Questions**

**WAGES AND PRICES**

Sir Patrick Hannon asked the Minister of Labour what is the aggregate increase in weekly wage rates as at the end of the last convenient week in the present year, and the available figures for the corresponding week in the two preceding years; and whether the advance in weekly wage rates now equals the rise in the official index of the cost of living since the outbreak of war?

**Mr. Bevin:** On the basis of such information as is available to my Department, relating mainly to rates of wages fixed by statutory orders or by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workers, it is estimated that the average increase in weekly full-time rates of wages since the beginning of the war was about 27 per cent. at the end of January, 1942, as compared with about 18 per cent. at the end of January, 1941, and about 5 or 6 per cent. at the end of January, 1940. The official cost of living index figure at February 1, 1942, was approximately 29 per cent. higher than at September 1, 1939.

**Sir Herbert Williams:** Do these figures relate to wage rates or weekly earnings?

**Mr. Bevin:** To wage rates.

**Mr. Higgs:** Do the figures include increased earnings due to piece work?

**Mr. Bevin:** No, they are the increase in rates.

**GOLD SALVAGING (LABOUR)**

Mr. A. Edwards asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that £30,000 worth of British labour has recently been used in salvaging gold alleged to be worth £2,000,000, but which is useless for the war effort; and whether he will take steps to prohibit the use of labour and materials on any kind of gold production operations, seeing that the Allies already have larger stocks than can be usefully utilised?

**Sir K. Wood:** I am aware of the salvage of gold to which the hon. Member refers. It is certainly not useless for the war effort, and I regard this salvage operation as having rendered a valuable service. We have to pay for those essential imports which are not covered by Lease-Lend or the generous financial arrangements made by the Government of Canada. For this purpose exports have to be maintained, and gold is from many points of view a very advantageous export.

**Mr. Edwards:** Is the Minister seriously telling this House that shipping space is being used to-day to transport gold across the seas to pay our debts to our Dominions, and if that is not the case would not this gold have been as secure in its safe deposit at the bottom of the sea as it is upon land in New Zealand? May I have an answer to the first part of my Question, with reference to gold being transported across the sea?

**Sir K. Wood:** The hon. Member ought to put that Question down.

**Mr. Edwards:** The Question is here on the Paper.

**Mr. Stokes:** Is the Chancellor of the Exchequer aware that more than 500,000 British subjects are engaged in the perfectly useless pursuit of digging gold, and that even America is now awakening to the uselessness of this business?

**Sir K. Wood:** I am aware of my hon. Friend's views on this matter.

**Mr. Edwards:** In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the reply, I beg to give notice that I shall raise this matter on another occasion.

### MARCH 18.

**LORD BEAVERBROOK (DUTIES IN UNITED STATES)**

Mr. Attlee: As was stated on 20th February when the list of the new War Cabinet was published, Lord Beaverbrook will proceed to the United States, where he will carry on the work which he has already begun regarding the pooling of the resources with such other duties as may be entrusted to him from time to time by the War Cabinet.

It is probable that later on this work will be devolved upon a Minister of the rank of Under-Secretary, thus releasing Lord Beaverbrook for other duties in connection with the war effort of the United Nations.

**Mr. Shinwell:** If it was known on 20th February that Lord Beaverbrook was to proceed to the United States at the request of the Government, why was a statement to that effect not made last Thursday instead of the Prime Minister's statement that he was not sure whether Lord Beaverbrook was so proceeding? May I ask whether Lord Beaverbrook, in the United States or elsewhere, will be under the direct supervision of the Minister of State?

**Mr. Attlee:** Yes, he will be acting under the general direction of the Minister of State as Minister of Production. I presume that the reply which was made was the reply which could have been made at the time.

**Mr. Shinwell:** Last week the Prime Minister, in reply to Questions, said that he was not sure whether Lord Beaverbrook was to proceed to the United States. As I understand it, this was apparently known on 20th February. Was there any need to have any trouble about it?

**Mr. Attlee:** My hon. Friend is wrong. A statement was made on 20th February; but it was uncertain last week whether Lord Beaverbrook would proceed. It is now certain.

**Sir Irving Albery:** Can the right hon. Gentleman say exactly what Lord Beaverbrook's status will be when he is in the United States?

**Mr. Attlee:** He will be acting as a representative on behalf of the War Cabinet, particularly the Ministry of
Mr. Stephen: Is Lord Beaverbrook to be regarded as a member of the Government and a Minister of the Crown?  
Mr. Attlee: No, he is not.  
Colonel Arthur Evans: What part of Lord Beaverbrook's duties will eventually be undertaken by an Under-Secretary?  
Mr. Attlee: I think my hon. and gallant Friend might wait and discuss that in the Debate on the Ministry of Production.  
Sir I. Albery: Are we to understand from the right hon. Gentleman's answer that Lord Beaverbrook proceeds to the United States on a special mission?  
Mr. Attlee: That was explained on 20th February.  
Mr. Hore-Belisha: What is the nature of the other duties? Are they diplomatic, and, if so, will the authority of His Majesty's Ambassador be fully preserved?  
Mr. Attlee: There is no question of diplomatic duties. The Ambassador's privileges will be fully preserved.  

GINGIVITIS  

Sir E. Graham-Little asked the Minister of Health whether he can now give the figures for the incidence of gingivitis in the civilian population and in the Services during the past year?  

Mr. E. Brown: I regret that there are no figures available as to the incidence of gingivitis in the civilian population as the disease is not notifiable. Any question as to incidence in the fighting Services should be addressed to the responsible Departments.  

BOOKS TO READ  

By C. H. Douglas:—  

Economic Democracy ........................................3/6  
The Monopoly of Credit .......................................3/6  
Social Credit ................................................... (edition exhausted)  
Credit Power and Democracy ................................3/6  
Warning Democracy ............................................ (edition exhausted)  
The Use of Money ..............................................6d.  
"This 'American' Business" ..................................5d.  
Social Credit Principles ..................................1jd.  

Also  
The Bankers of London by Percy Arnold ...........4/6  
Hitler's Policy is a Jewish Policy by Borge Jensen and P. R. Masson ...........6d.  
Southampton Chamber of Commerce Report ...........6d.  
Democratic Victory-or the Slave State? by L. D. Byrne ..........4d.  
How Alberta is Fighting Finance .........................2d.  

Leaflets  
The 'Attack on Local Government' by John Mitchell .....9d. doz.; 50 for 2/6  
Taxation is Robbery ..........................................50 for 1/9; 100 for 3/-  
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