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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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## WHY COLLECT TAXES?

*A short comment on the article by Mr. Ralph Duclos.\**

It is, I think, possible to measure roughly the progress made by the technical aspects of Social Credit in obtaining popular recognition, by comparing this article, and the extracts from statements by Canadian Cabinet Ministers in the House of Commons at Ottawa, with the comments made in the same place when the ideas were first put forward there in 1923. I do not think that any reasonable person could fail to be impressed by the change.

But Mr. Duclos earns, at any rate, my gratitude, by the form in which he carries forward the argument. He is concerned to show primarily what the financial measures current in, at least, every Anglo-Saxon community, mean, and secondarily, that without comment on the propriety of the real objective of them, they can be shown to be wasteful and inefficient—a bad job. That is what we have always said, but not so insistently, because of our pre-occupation with objectives.

But I should like to carry Mr. Duclos's argument a stage further. (He is all the more effective by reason of his limited objective, which he has attained.)

He brushes aside, as a pricked bubble, the nonsense about the Government wanting your money to win the war, and emphasises the truth which is only more obvious, but not more true in war than in "peace"—that the main object of modern taxation is that you shall't have the money.

Now, this raises the whole question of economic democracy. Behind it, is the *a priori* assumption of the Divine Right of Governments. Under this conception, your business is to work at anything you are told to work at, and your sovereignty over the product is to be permanently and for ever at the mercy of the next Finance Bill. And if there is anyone who is in doubt as to the source of Finance Bills, I feel sure that Mr. Duclos can enlighten him.

Always and ever, this world question comes back to the same simple issue—the relation of the individual to the Group. So long as the individual cannot contract out—not necessarily without penalty, *but without any penalty for contracting out*—there is no democracy and no freedom.

Every effort is being made at the present time to place the Group in unchallengeable control and to establish "the Group by Divine Right." The immediate counter offensive requires the abolition of Cabinet rule, and the drastic reconstruction of the whole conception and construction of Government Finance, which is consciously complementary, at present, to the High Finance of the World Planners.

C. H. D.

\*In *The Social Crediter* of September 26, 1942.

## FROM WEEK TO WEEK

OUR KINDERGARTEN: "Woolton will not cut our winter food, but will change our diet." —*Sunday Express*.

The Brain of the Archbishop: "Profit-making must not be the chief motive of industry... If the rates were levied on the land, instead of on the buildings, there would always be the inducement to make the property as good as possible in order that the best return might be received from it."

—ARCHBISHOP TEMPLE.

It is clear that if the Church of England is to survive, something must be done about this archbishop business. Another pair of the same quality as the immediate past and present occupants of the seat of St. Augustine, and it is sunk.

Dr. Temple may have been a good schoolmaster—there are strong differences of opinion about that—but his ideas on political economy are not merely dangerously amateurish, but definitely non-Christian. We commend strongly to the attention of our readers *An Open Letter to the Archbishop* by Captain Arthur Rogers, published by the Liberty Restoration League, 38, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.2. Dr. Temple's address to the Industrial Christian Fellowship, an organisation having a strong Quaker-Banker flavour, was delivered after this Letter had been brought to his attention from many influential, including episcopal quarters, and is therefore the less excusable.

*The Times*, once known as 'The Thunderer,' should be known in future as 'The Stolen-thunderer.'

We have heard that some of the electors in the Spenn Valley Parliamentary Division are trying to find out who their M.P. is. The rest aren't.

"As a result of the refusal of the Hungarian Government to allow baptised Jews to hold a Congress to organise their life, and the Government's action in applying to large categories of baptised Jews the restrictions enforced against Jews generally, about 3,000 of the converts, headed by Dr. Aladar Soboltchi, have decided to return to the Jewish community. They announce that they have come to the conclusion that their action in abandoning the Jewish faith was a grave ideological error, and that they feel that they are spiritually bound up with the Jews."

—*Jewish Chronicle*, September 25, 1942.

## APATHETIC NATIVES

All three 'American' parties have declared their 'determination to combat racial bias and discrimination.'

and, in the State of New York, all three have nominated a Jew as candidate for the Attorney-Generalship. "It seems that the leaders have taken particular pains to secure a Jewish nominee," says the *Jewish Chronicle*. The Natives are quiet and have shown less interest than might be expected.

## Dr. Sir John Boyd Orr

By B. M. PALMER

A letter in the *Times* from Sir John Boyd Orr, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., raises the whole question of the relative position of the expert and citizens demanding results. If the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, nowhere is it more necessary than in this relationship. We need, in addition to a constant preoccupation with the nature of grapes, shrewd and tenacious memories to check results so far delivered.

On September 23, 1937, Sir John Orr broadcast on the subject of "Scotland and the New Age of Plenty." This speech was published in *The Fig Tree* in December 1937 by permission of Sir John and the B.B.C., and is available in the Social Credit Library. These were some of the statements made:—

"If we think in terms, not of money, but of things we use and consume—food, clothing, housing and even luxuries—the modern world is almost inconceivably wealthy, because we have the power to produce these in abundance for the needs of everybody....

"Our material wealth is so great that our economic system, which was devised to suit the past age of scarcity, cannot distribute it quickly enough; and to safeguard the present economic system and the vested interests which it represents, we have actually devised schemes to limit production, as, for example, our quota schemes for rubber and other commodities. These schemes adjust output, not to the needs of the community, but to the *purchasing power* of the community. They are intended to prevent the glutting of the markets with goods which cannot be sold at a profit. We have even devised schemes to control and limit the production and sale of food.

"These must be only temporary measures....

"We can now try to imagine what the new age of plenty will be like. Every family even the poorest, will have an abundance of good food, plenty of clothes and a good house.... This is a Scottish broadcast....

"We cannot blame our politicians. In a democratic country the politicians give us what we ask for. If there is any blame, we must blame ourselves for our lack of national spirit. When we make up our minds to build a new and better Scotland, nothing will stop us."

On September 29, 1942, Sir John Orr had this letter in *The Times*:—

"Some of your correspondents do not get to the root of the matter. The standard of food requirements necessary for health is already sufficiently well known for all practical purposes. It is also well known that the diet of about one-third of the population of this country, and a much larger proportion in most other countries, does not come up to this standard. The only nutrition council competent to deal with this vast question, which profoundly affects the whole social and economic structure, is the Cabinet itself.

"The first question to be decided is whether the Government is prepared to adopt a food policy which will make a diet adequate for health available for every one of his

Majesty's subjects, not only in the United Kingdom but in all parts of the Empire. This would be a revolutionary policy and its application would raise very wide issues. Before the war the total food output of the Empire fell short of what was required to bring the diet of the whole population up to the standard. Where is the additional food to come from? In this country, to what extent shall we expand and modify British agriculture and to what extent import food in exchange for exports? Then social surveys have shown that a diet adequate for health is beyond the purchasing power of many families. How can we make an adequate diet available? Shall we subsidise the basal foods, or shall we increase the lowest income by raising wages and increasing the dole, old-age pensions, and poor relief? Shall we adopt family allowances to assist large families? If, as you suggested in your leading article of September 14, such a policy should be applied throughout the world, what international organisation should we set up to carry it through and how will it be financed? The suggestion that these political, economic, and financial problems should be dealt with by a committee of the M.R.C., or any other body of scientists, shows a lack of appreciation of the nature, the magnitude, and the complexity of the problem.

"If the Government did decide to adopt a food policy based on human needs, then there would be a need for a council to consider and advise on the measures to carry it through. The council should be composed of men who have wide experience and knowledge, and who have sufficient enthusiasm not to be daunted by the very great difficulties which would be encountered."

The correct approach of any citizen to this letter is, "What business is this of mine? Clearly the statement, 'Before the war the total food output of the Empire fell short of what was required' is very much my business, and if it is correct demands an explanation which either Sir John does not know or does not think fit to give. Is it to be found in his broadcast speech?"

"The remaining queries in the letter are the business of the experts *after they have received their orders*, with the proviso that I have already experienced the *results* that accrue from increasing poor-law relief, under which heading doles, old-age pensions and family allowances may be included; and with inter-nationalism I will have nothing to do until 'those interests which individuals have in common can be made effective in action.'" (*Economic Democracy*, Chapter XI.) No explanation is here suggested for what appears to be a re-orientation of the philosophical outlook of one of our most eminent doctors, but if any means exist whereby he may be required to give an explanation to those members of the public before whom his views are placed, they should be used.

## SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS AND THE WAR

Sir Stafford Cripps, October 14, 1935:—

"If war comes, as come it may, that war has to be used for the destruction of capitalism. It will have to be used for the workers in this country to undermine the whole system."

Sir Stafford Cripps, July 16, 1942:—

"The war is a stage in the efforts of the peoples of the world to readjust themselves to new economic and social conditions, and, in that sense, it must be revolutionary in its effects on our civilisation." (—Quoted by *Reynolds News*, its effects on our civilisation.)"

## One-Man Gas-Works Beats the Grid

It is usual to think of the supply of gas for cooking, heating and lighting as the prerogative of large concerns or municipal undertakings, but Seascale—a seaside village on the Cumberland coast (population about 550) can show what a more genuine form of private enterprise can accomplish. The present Gas Company dates from 1929 when the previous suppliers went out of business, but although this failure made the proposition unattractive the inhabitants of the village did not allow the property to become derelict and, acting on the advice of the incumbent of the parish, certain of them formed a private company and took over the plant and property as a going concern.

The company consists exclusively of village residents, whose business supplies gas to about 150 premises; houses, boarding houses and shops. The nominal capital is £2,000, of which £1,200 has been called up. No individual may hold shares of more than £100 but many of the householders own small amounts from £5 upwards, all shares being held within the village. The Board of Directors, of whom the parish clergyman is chairman and managing director, draw no fees. The policy of the company is to sell gas of good quality to all who require it: to provide replacements and improvements to the plant: and to pay dividends. Since 1929 nearly the whole of the plant has been renewed, the buildings renovated, and a dividend of 5 per cent. has been maintained.

The staff consist of one man. This Working Manager runs the whole plant. He unloads the coal from the railway trucks; wheels it to the retort house; draws and charges the retorts once or twice a day; sees after the gas engine which operates the pumps; cleans the purifiers; clears the syphons and controls and operates the flow of gas at the correct pressure. He carries out extensions to service pipes and repairs to mains and internal services throughout the village, and fits new stoves as may be required. He also collects accounts and clears slot meters. In his spare time he cultivates his garden on land outside the retort house and at any time of the day may be seen swimming, fishing, or paddling his canoe on the fringes of the Irish Sea. Within limits only defined by the requirements of his job he is free to come and go as he will.

The Electric Grid supplies Seascale with current for all purposes. The Gas Company is not a serious competitor as regards lighting. For heating and cooking the charge for electric current for this purpose is 1½d per unit which equals 3411 British Thermal Units; whereas the price of gas is 8/4d. per 1,000 cubic feet (calorific value 500) *i.e.*, 1/8d. per 100,000 B.Th.U. (therm). Reducing these figures to a common denominator it will be seen that the Grid supplies 2274 and the Gas Company 5000 B.Th.U. per penny. That is to say, for the same money the Gas Company supplies in terms of heat units, more than twice as much as the GRID.

Comparison with other Gas Companies is complicated by the absence of plant whereby by-products are extracted to the maximum permissible within Board of Trade standards, and Seascale thus lacks revenue accessible to larger gas producers; but comparison of *results* is possible.

In the case, for example, of 25 small houses occupied by an average of three to four people the weekly payment for gas used for cooking and gas copper (no other means

of cooking is available) is 2/6d a week. Householders may compare this with their own experience which it is thought will confirm that this is little if any more than is paid for similar service supplied by large undertakings.

The considerations advanced to induce the concentration of industry are based on efficiency—overheads will be massed and staffs cut down: large scale buying will reduce the cost of materials: the operation of large scale plant is less costly per unit of product: so it is said—but efficiency means nothing unless it appears in the net results experienced by the consumer and the shareholder. Seascale sells about 3½ million cubic feet of gas a year contrasted to the 50¼ *thousand* million supplied by the London Gas Light and Coke Company.\* In so far as efficiency is related to size there should be some sort of relationship between the amount and the price of the product sold. Advantages gained by increase in size should be reflected in decrease of price; it might be assumed, for example, that for every additional 10 million cubic feet of gas sold prices should decrease by 1 per cent., which in the household quoted would mean a reduction of one halfpenny in the weekly account. On this modest assumption the price to the London householder should be 50 times less than at Seascale and his weekly bill less than a penny. Whereas in point of fact prices are much the same.

The advantages claimed for the concentration of industry have not materially reduced the price of this product to consumers. Nor has this imagined benefit accrued to the shareholders, for in both cases cited the dividends are around 5 per cent. With all its £45,000,000 capital and revenue derived from by-products the most that can be said is that the London Gas Light and Coke Company have maintained approximately the same standards (in net results to consumer and shareholder) as Seascale. In so far as electric power competes with gas for cooking and heating so much cannot be said for the GRID.

Who benefits from such centralisation of industry? Neither the public as consumer, or shareholder nor yet the employee, for all such concentration is destructive of initiative and the possibilities of individual development. H.E.

## INITIATIVE—and All That

“Initiative—and all that”—this article by Mr. W. Wilson appeared in *The Social Crediter* in two instalments, on September 26 and October 3. An unprecedented number of copies of the issue of September 26 went ‘astray,’ and the postal authorities, while admitting error, have so far provided no adequate explanation. Into the middle of Mr. Wilson’s article (at the foot of page 5, column two, issue of October 3) three lines were ‘dropped’ from a tray of discarded lines at the printer’s. While at first sight it might appear easy, in this case, to trace responsibility to its seat, this mishap, like the first mentioned, is not fully explained. Reference to the matter would not have been made here were it not desirable that readers should have an opportunity of repairing, as far as possible, the damage to Mr. Wilson’s meaning, by removing the irrelevant lines from the issue of October 3, and reading the article again. —Editor.

\*The London Gas Light and Coke Company is quoted as a convenient comparison, but the argument will apply to any large concern. The figures are those for 1937.

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### Fabianisation of the Quakers?

It is a well-known feature of the Fabian centralisation which has been proceeding for many years past that organisations which might be expected to be highly antipathetic and opposed to one another in policy 'get together,' 'sink their differences' and congratulate themselves and each other upon an increase in their rate of progress. If a shrewd but disinterested bystander remarks upon the fact that the advancement which is apparent seems to have changed its direction, the common answer is "Oh, no! That has always been *one* of the directions in which we were going."! The meaning may not always be put so clearly; but that *is* the meaning. Chesterton's objection (on purely sympathetic grounds, no doubt) to people who 'progressed in all directions at once' is that if they get anywhere at all, they get everywhere at once, which is nowhere in particular. On the face of it, advance in a direction which happens to be one of the chosen directions of someone else is liable to lose any element of choice as the process goes on. The question of priority is not attended to, and, assuming that everyone gets somewhere they all wanted to get (which is a very large assumption indeed) it certainly is not where each *most* wanted to get.

William Penn was a great apostle of peace, despite the fact that the only authentic portrait of him in existence represents him as a young man accoutred as a soldier. As Social Crediters, we are quite interested in his cancellation of a government debt due to his father (£16,000) by receiving instead a tract of land little less than the area of the whole of England, and still more interested in his demonstration that he was right, not wrong, judged by results, to treat the Indians of Pennsylvania as friends "and not as vermin to be extirpated," an attitude which seemed to his critics that of a madman. Penn, it is recorded, met the Indians, spoke kindly to them, promised to pay a fair price (perhaps it was the just price?) for whatever land he and his friends might occupy, and assured them of his goodwill. If offences should unhappily arise, a jury of six Indians and six Englishmen should decide upon them. "The Indians met Penn in his own spirit. No oaths, seals, no official mummeries were used; the treaty was ratified on both sides with a yea, yea." Voltaire has remarked that it was 'the only one the world has ever known, never sworn to, and never broken.'

It is not out intention to trace the fulfilment of this early promise or otherwise in the later history of Pennsylvania. A correspondent who approaches us on the subject does seem right in thinking that something—something, he suggests, not fully appreciated by the members of the older generation of the Society of Friends—has come over the

order which is now discovering that more than one of its directions happen to be the same as more than one (or perhaps in this case it is only one) of the directions of the Fabian Society. Whether that society has more than one direction is extremely doubtful! The curious point is that the Fabian Society, as everyone knows is all for 'official mummeries' and the eating up of everything into one vast official mummery. In 1907, it appears the Society of Friends went so far in dissociation from the Great Centralisation ramp as actually to set its ban on the receipt of money from the State in the form of school grants. This year, "although there had not been time for all the bodies concerned to give adequate consideration to the matter,"... the Yearly Meeting "rightly decided" to withdraw the ban! It appears that earlier in the year there had been a meeting of younger teachers at Sibford, and some of them were willing to go further than the Yearly Meeting and ask for grants. "A State that gladly accepts the help of Quakers in the provision of allotments for unemployed might be glad also to pay over to a voluntary body, doing the work which *the State would otherwise have to do itself* [our italics: the preparation of school children in Russian history to the exclusion of that of some of our other allies is, presumably, not specifically meant] the £30 or £40 per pupil per annum that represents the cost of the free secondary education for all that is surely coming as part of the brave new World."

Few people would suspect a Quaker origin for the following sentiments:— "Just as the whole of the development of a person from, say, minus six months to 20 years of age, ought to be entirely the concern of one department of the State—the Board of Education—with, of course, the ready cooperation of the Ministries of Health and Labour and the Treasury; even so, we need far more coordination. . . . The word elementary should go and primary education might well be uniform for all [A new Act of Uniformity?] without class distinction. . . . Salaries should be the same for all teachers." There is even a suggestion of new kinds of schools, and, rather abruptly, the single word 'International' is introduced to describe this new kind. What is an 'international' school? The quotations are from a letter to Friend Teachers, and is signed by Francis H. Knight.

There is nothing in the interim Prospectus ("we think it wise not to issue a complete and printed prospectus") of a new school opened at Wennington Hall in the Lune Valley to link it with the Society of Friends. The school building is "a massive structure, built like a castle, which has been recently modernised as a guest house and fully equipped for 100 residents with electrical equipment throughout (including cooking) central heating, modern drainage, baths and lavatories." According to a type-written circular concerning it and its policy, "Circumstances have made us act quickly in order to establish this school for those who need it." The signatories are Kenneth C. Barnes (Headmaster) and G. Frances Barnes. Situated amid "15 acres of parkland and pasture," the school is "to meet the needs of the common people, not merely those of a privileged and *individualistic* [our italics] group." The internal economy of the school seems designed to meet the situation which would arise "if great impoverishment should overtake the country." The staff is prepared to accept a simpler standard of living than remuneration on the Burnham scale would provide. There will be no separate servant class, which "was an anomaly," inside the school. The curriculum "is *superficially* [our italics] not unlike that of a normal sec-

ondary school." "While we shall make ourselves fully aware of individual needs we shall try to see that they are satisfied as far as possible indirectly through the cooperative activities of the community and of groups within it." "There is the danger of making the individual too conscious of himself as the centre of attention, and this we must avoid." "We want to give children an understanding of the *meaning* [our italics] of freedom." Interesting! T. J.

## THE STARS AND STRIPES

By B. J.

The spate of United States histories which are now, under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and related agencies, being poured into this country 'to explain America to us,' are, as a rule, remarkably reticent on the 'formative period' of their Union.

The series of events connecting Mason Jefferson's purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon at the price of 15 million dollars (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*: "Which was a violation of his party principles, but all his minor successes were, like this, a recognition of the National, *i.e.*, Federal, sovereignty which he disliked so much") to the purchase from the Russians of Alaska, which came as a surprise to everybody except, perhaps, that mysterious 'Russian' diplomacy which so stirred Disraeli's racial pride, are barely disguised Judaeo-Masonic manoeuvres of aggrandisement. The methods employed in the annexation of Texas and the Mexican wars have been decried by American writers from James Russell Lowell downwards: the United States, its offer to buy Texas being turned down by Mexico, resorted to other means of peaceful penetration. Professor Butler says in *Building the American Nation*:

"Various groups went from the United States into Texas and established themselves in positions of economic, political and military importance. A revolt was organised, and in 1836 Texas appeared as an independent state."

The personnel employed in this move can be gathered from this passage from the *Jewish Encyclopaedia*:

"One of the first to take advantage of the new channel of trade opened to the U.S.A. by the Battle of Jacinto in 1836, which made Texas an independent state, was Jacob de Cordova, of Spanish town, Jamaica. He had a large share in settling persons on tracts of land in Texas. He introduced the Order of Odd Fellows into Texas and was the first deputy grand sire of the Republic. Adolphus Stern, who was a member of the first Grand Lodge of Freemasons in the state, was a personal friend of Houston, the President of Texas. Henry Castro, entering into contact with Houston, effected the first organised emigration to Texas from a foreign country...."

The western boundary of the newly independent state still being undefined:—

"the Polk administration directed General Zachary Taylor, the American Commander in Texas, to cross the Nueces River and seize the disputed territory; collision with the Mexican troops followed, and on the news of the first bloodshed Congress declared war on Mexico."

—*The Encyclopaedia Britannica.*

Thus, one thing having led to another, the Peace Treaty with Mexico rounded off the Federal structure, and by the year 1848 forty eight stars were 'fixed' in orderly rows on

the Union's famous banner.

The year 1848 also saw a series of revolutions in Europe, which opened all the Ghettoes of the central European countries, and, as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* remarks, it was fortunate that "both the East and West had their institutions fixed before being called upon to absorb an enormous foreign element."

California, that brightest of stars, had been 'fixed' just in time for the golden rush of 1849:—

"The very year of the discovery of gold in California we find large numbers of Jews venturing into the new Eldorado... many Jews were engaged in business and mining, as well as in the grain, hay and wine industries."

(—*Encyclopaedia Britannica.*)

And the *Encyclopaedia of Jewish Knowledge* says:—

"Jews swell the ranks of the public school teachers: Philip E. Bush was the President of the School Board. They are well represented in the legal profession: Solomon Heydenfeldt was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. One of the most prominent members of the state legislature for many years was Julius Kahn, born in Germany, who was responsible for the introduction of *Conscription* into the U.S.A...."

*Gold and conscription*—the emphasis is mine.

Dr. Nevins, the author of a new textbook of U.S. history\* for the use in British schools (a work sponsored by the Board of Education and the American Ambassador, Mr. Winant, who has written the foreword) finds it unjust to talk, as did the angry writers of the day, about a 'wolf-and-lamb fight' in this connection. He describes the annexation of the South East as:—

"A natural and inevitable process brought about the addition of this territory to the United States; a process well hit off by the phrase 'manifest destiny.'"

There is, as Mr. Winant says, "much to know," but you will look in vain in Dr. Nevins's "history" for any mention of the remarkable fact that hardly a trickle of the vast Central European emigration flood found its way to the Southern states.

"The emigration avoided slave-toil as if by instinct. And as sections began to differ further in aims and policy the North began to gain heavily in ability to ensure success."

As far as the Jewish emigrants were concerned, they were organised by the powerful Jewish organisations of New York, who thus put at the disposal of the Federalists of the North a highly emotional, recently emancipated group of people to whom the very word of 'slavery' acted as a fire-brand. That none of these new 'Northerners' had ever been within miles of a live Southern slave did not prevent them from becoming very vociferous adherents of the anti-slavery campaign which was the red herring the Federalists drew across trail to disguise the genuine issue of Federal Absolutism *versus* State Independence, *i.e.*, centralisation *versus* decentralisation.

When war broke out Messrs. Seligmann and Company of New York enlisted the help of European financiers, while Marx and Engels, of England-Germany, headed the Parlour Pinks of the old world in an attempt to gain the sympathy of the 'workers' for the cause of the valiant North against the decadent South.† What happened on the home front

\*ALLAN NEVINS: *A Brief History of the United States.*

†See Marx's correspondence.

during the first large-scale war of history is indicated quite plainly by Dr. Nevins:—

“On both sides the States were allowed to interfere far too much in military affairs, while in the North particularly politics played an unhappy part in army appointments . . . Washington became full of dishonest contractors, speculators, lobbyists, and other foul birds of prey. The depreciation of paper money in the South carried prices to absurd heights and ruined great numbers of people. In the North a pronounced inflation encouraged all kinds of gambling . . . and helped to make a new crop of millionaires.”

Dr. Nevins cannot be expected to go further in identifying these ‘birds of prey’: he does not report the statement attributed to General Grant, during the war (1861):—

“The Jews are a class of people violating every regulation of Trade established by the Treasury Department and also Department orders. They are therefore expelled from the Department without 24 hours from the receipt of this order.”

The few Jews on the other side often occupied distinguished positions, and the brilliant lawyer, Judah P. Benjamin, was known as the ‘brain of the Southern confederacy.’ When the South lost, and physical slavery (together with the right of the stars to disturb the symmetry of their parallel lines) had been abolished, Mr. Benjamin left for London where he embarked upon ‘a legal career that even to-day has seldom been surpassed.’† His fellow-combatants of the South, the ‘decadent’ planters were less fortunate. Their way of life, the culture of the leisured life of the plantations had gone and in its stead there appeared—Modern New Orleans: *The Encyclopaedia of Jewish Knowledge* says that Louisiana “had hardly any Jews before the Civil War but in Modern Orleans half a dozen streets and three public schools are named after Jews.”

The Civil War having for all time settled that relations between the states and the Federal Government should be decided according to the principles of the one-street philosophy, and made clear the sort of sanctions which would be applied for refusal to toe the line, no more stars, either singly, or in groups, ever attempted to upset the perfect symmetry of the 48 arrangement. They settled down comfortably to applaud the further progress of ‘Pan-Americanism’ which was carried on in their name and under the glitter, so to speak, of their blessing. They worked up a suitable enthusiasm when this progress was carried on in a martial manner (applauding the dashing Colonel Roosevelt in the Spanish Wars), and indulgently shut an eye when a less heroic, more ‘dollar-diplomatic’ line was taken (as when the U.S. Fleet sailed down to collect the interest on the Wall Street loan to San Domingo: *vide Dollar Diplomacy* by Scott Nearing and Joseph Freeman).

In the third, post-48 period of ever growing Bigness, the Dependencies, Protectorates, Spheres of Interests and Borrowed Bases which have come into the orbit of Washington have, as a rule, been allowed to flutter their own flag in peace, and it is in their Moving Picture Temples that the Cubans, Philipinos, and Costa Ricans generally have frequent opportunity to pay homage to the ‘Stars and Stripes,’ while enthusiastically stamping to the inspiring Anthem of the same name.

†ROTH: *The Jewish Contribution to Civilisation.*

## Points from Parliament

SEPTEMBER 30

### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

#### Letter Censorship

*Sir John Mellor* asked the Minister of Information, to what extent are censors authorised to disclose to other Departments the contents of correspondence?

*The Minister of Information (Mr. Brendan Bracken):* Censors are not authorised to disclose to other Departments the contents of correspondence except, as regards internal mail, instances of breach of operational security, and, as regards other mails, certain clearly defined categories of information necessary for the performance by the Department concerned of its part in the war effort.

*Sir J. Mellor:* While thanking my right hon. Friend for his reply, am I correct in understanding that disclosure is limited to matters affecting security and does not extend, for example, to evidence of minor offences against the ordinary law?

*Mr. Bracken:* I would like notice of the latter part of my hon. Friend’s supplementary Question, but I think his assumption is probably accurate.

*Mr. A. Edwards:* Is not the Minister aware that the Treasury frequently communicate with people after having received information from this Department?

*Mr. Bracken:* The postal censorship is of great value, because it enables people who are trying to evade their responsibilities in war-time to be prosecuted.

### SYNTHETIC RUBBER

*Mr. Parker* asked the Minister of Production whether, in view of the fact that the basic materials required for the production of Neoprene synthetic rubber are coke and limestone, he will reconsider the possibility of erecting a plant for the production of this material in this country?

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Production (Mr. Garro Jones):* My right hon. Friend has asked me to reply. The basic raw materials for the production of Neoprene are available in this country; but the relative effort required for the erection of a plant with a substantial output and the length of time necessary to get it into production are such that its erection in this country would not, having regard to the production already arranged in the U.S.A., be justified.

*Mr. Ivor Thomas:* Would it not be more advantageous to erect a plant for such rubbers as Buna and Buryl?

*Mr. Garro Jones:* All these questions have been carefully considered, having regard to other claims upon the plant and material available, and it has been decided that this is one of the cases where manufacture could best be entrusted to the United States.

*Mr. James Griffiths:* Will my hon. Friend consider the possible developments and production of rubber as a by-product of carbide from the works now functioning in this country?

*Mr. Garro Jones:* I should not like to say that we have reached finality in our consideration of the subject, and, should any new circumstance arise, the policy will be re-

considered, but at present we are quite satisfied with the arrangement made to produce in the United States.

*Mr. Parker* asked the Minister of Production to what extent the discussions with the United States Government leading up to the decision only to erect one type of synthetic rubber plant in this country revealed serious difficulties over patent rights; and to what extent they played a part in that decision?

*Mr. Garro Jones*: No difficulties regarding patent rights have been encountered in the consideration of this subject.

*Mr. Shinwell*: Is it not true to say that the patent rights are held by foreigners, including the enemy? Is not that the position?

*Mr. Garro Jones*: That is another question. I did not say that there were no patent rights. I said that they had not given rise to any difficulty. All the main patent rights are held in the United States, but they have not affected our consideration of the subject at all and have not stood in the way of our decision.

## OCTOBER 1

### BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

*Mr. G. Strauss* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the British representatives on the Bank for International Settlements have the special permission of His Majesty's Government to enter into business relations with enemy aliens, and whether he will give their names?

*Sir Patrick Hannon* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the present position of the Bank for International Settlements?

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Kingsley Wood)*: The President of the Bank is an American citizen and the conduct of the Bank, which is guided by a strict policy of neutrality, is wholly in his hands. No transactions have taken place since the war between the Bank of England acting as a member of the Bank and enemy Central Banks forming part of the institution. There have been no meetings of British and enemy directors since the war and there are no business relations between them. There is no British member of the Management at Basle. The two British Directors are Mr. Montagu Norman and Sir Otto Niemeyer. The only British subjects on the staff at Basle are three subordinate officials and they have nothing to do with the policy or management of the Bank. The Report just issued is that of the American President of the Bank. No one else has any responsibility for it and neither of the British Directors is concerned in it. No copy of it has in fact yet reached this country, and it was not submitted to the Treasury or the Bank of England before publication. This country has various interests and rights in the Bank under International Trust Agreements between the various Governments and it would not be in the national interest to change our connection with the Bank as at present constituted and conducted.

*Mr. Strauss*: In view of the fact that the great majority of the shares are owned by the Nazis, either directly or indirectly, would it not be very much more satisfactory if the British Government and the Bank of England dissociated themselves from the Bank of International Settlements by withdrawing any representation and arranging that their

interests should be looked after through Swiss sources—by Swiss bankers?

*Sir K. Wood*: No, Sir, there would be no public advantage in that at all. We have substantial interests in the Bank, and we have to safeguard them so far as we can.

*Mr. Pickthorn*: Will my right hon. Friend say whether when this Report does reach this country a copy can be placed in the Library?

*Sir K. Wood*: Yes, certainly.

*Mr. Mander*: Is my right hon. Friend aware that the issue of this Report has been received in Germany with warm approval?

*Sir K. Wood*: I have no knowledge of that, and I do not know how we can comment on it. So far as we are concerned, no copy has reached this country.

*Mr. Loftus*: Could the right hon. Gentleman inform us on what date this Report was issued to the public Press here and on what date it was communicated to the Bank of England?

*Sir K. Wood*: No, Sir. No communication has reached the Bank of England about this Report, and no copy of this Report has reached this country.

*Mr. Loftus*: Is my right hon. Friend aware that on September 5 the *Frankfurter Zeitung* devoted a whole page to the details of this Report?

*Sir K. Wood*: No, Sir. Whatever may have appeared there, no copy of the Report has reached this country.

*Mr. Bellenger*: Although the Report has been issued on the authority of an American citizen, does not that by implication also commit our own directors of the Bank as well, and therefore should we not entirely dissociate His Majesty's Government from the views expressed in the Report?

*Sir K. Wood*: No, Sir. I have already stated quite explicitly that this Report was issued on the authority of the American President of the Bank alone. I do not know, in fact, what is in the Report or whether it is open to any objection.

*Mr. Strauss*: In view of the difficulty of dealing with this important question by this method, I give notice that I shall raise the matter on the Adjournment.

### COAL SITUATION

[In the course of his speech opening the debate, the Minister of Fuel and Power, Major Lloyd George, stated that in 1938 coal production in this country was 227,000,000 tons of which 46,000,000 tons were exported. Production in the year ending with Dunkirk was 300,000,000 tons, of which 45,000,000 tons were exported. The industry's manpower declined sharply and domestic consumption increased. In the present coal year (starting on May 1) output is at a rate that would produce something under 200,000,000 tons and requirements in this country have risen, munitions industries requiring 25 per cent., electricity and gas 40 per cent., and 15 per cent., respectively, and railways 13 per cent., more coal than in the pre-Dunkirk period. The current estimated deficit is about 14,500,000 tons, which measures already taken will probably bring down to 11,000,000 tons.]

*Sir Arnold Gridley (Stockport)*: The House will forgive me if I remind it that eighteen months ago the Eighth Report of the Select Committee dealt with the then serious coal situation and made certain recommendations. Three months later, in the worse situation which

had then been reached, it was urged in the 16th Report that the situation could only be remedied, first, if thousands of experienced miners now in the Army and in various industries were released for return to the pit; second, if by hearty co-operation between mineowners and workers output could be steadily increased and sustained by reducing idle time and absenteeism to the minimum; third, if the users of coal, coke, gas and electricity for domestic purposes exercised economy to an extent few have yet attempted to achieve. In the body of that report it was emphasised that economy must begin at once and be maintained until coal production had been increased by at least 25,000,000 tons per annum. That was 15 months ago. Four months later, just under a year ago, the 24th Report recommended, first, that greater efforts should be made by the Mines Department and the gas and electricity industries to secure voluntary savings, and, second, that the question of releasing miners from the Services or other employment should at least be reconsidered. We used that careful term in the Report because we knew that up to then the Government had stuck their toes in and said, "No more men from the Field Forces." Finally, another Report which dealt solely with the coal situation and was presented to this House on 19th February last included among some 14 recommendations this outstanding one: that a plan should be prepared for the temporary release of men from the Army this spring to help in building up stocks for the winter of 1942-43.

I wonder of what use all these recommendations have been? For 15 months there was little effective action. In the past three months there has been some activity. We now have a Minister of Fuel and Power, we have Government control over the industry, and there is now in active operation a scheme for securing a reduction in domestic consumption by voluntary means. Can it be wondered at that in the circumstances, and having regard to the serious, indeed, most grave situation, in which the country stands as regards the supply of its coal needs, many of us are driven now to raise very definitely the issue of urging the recall of coal-face workers from the Field Forces? . . . May I turn the attention of hon. Members for a moment to another point upon which I hope I will not be doing the House an injustice when I say I doubt whether any hon. Member has really considered it before? The coal which is required to meet the needs of the gas and electricity undertakings to enable them to supply their domestic household consumers for a year on the old rate of consumption represents only 152 hours' mining output. . . .

Just consider what that figure means. If everybody, large and small users, succeeded in cutting the use of gas and electricity by 25 per cent. in domestic household establishments, we could do without one week's output of coal from the pits. There are few houses in this country which have not their worries, anxieties, discomforts and inconveniences, yet the harassed domestic household is being harried to make cuts which, if wholly effective to the extent of 25 per cent. will represent only one week's effort, or 2 per cent. of the rate of output. . . .

Scots professor facing lecture-theatre full of students:—

"Students are very much like beer. . . ." (uproar from back benches). "The scum always rises to the top. . . ." (uproar from front benches) "—and the dregs sink to the bottom."

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