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For Political and Economic Democracy

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT LIMITED

Vol. 6. No. 3 Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper. Postage (home and abroad) 4d.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1937

Weekly Twopence

Public Demand Lower Rates, Win Despite Threat of Rise

PRESSURE POLITICS TRIUMPH

LT.-COL. J. CREAUGH SCOTT, campaigning in Northern Ireland against Party government, said at Belfast on Thursday: "When I landed on Monday, the first thing I noticed in a section of your daily Press was a universal revolt against increasing rates and taxes. "If you feel that the rates and taxes are excessive why do you just complain, grumble, cringe, and petition to the Cabinet or the City Council for them to be reduced? These institutions are your servants—policy is your prerogative not theirs.

"Demand a reduction in accordance with your wishes and if your demand is the united voice of the people I tell you that these pseudo-governments which you have enthroned above you will obey you."

ALMOST AS HE SPOKE, THE CITY FATHERS, IN CONCLAVE NOT FAR AWAY, TOOK THE UNEXPECTED DECISION TO REDUCE RATES BY 4d.—A COMPLETE REVERSAL OF ANTICIPATED POLICY.

A fortnight ago ratepayers were expecting an increase. Belfast United Democrats started a steady press campaign, demanding a reduction. Members connected with various trade organisations and similar bodies were asked to press the matter at their meetings.

These organisations made public protest. The campaign was brought to the notice of the Colonel as soon as he landed on Monday. Pointedly, forcefully he whipped up the united demand policy at each of his four meetings and particularly at the Belfast meeting.

Victory for this pressure campaign was

THE MORGAN RACKET

THE (U.S.) firm of J. P. Morgan is representative of the methods used by finance capitalists in concentrating economic power in the hands of a few.

The House of Morgan holds a total of 2,242 directorships in other banks, public utility corporations, insurance companies, manufacturing and mining corporations. The diversification of Morgan's interests is apparent from this analysis:

Banks	219	Directorships
Insurance Co.	215	"
Mfg. and Mining	425	"
Transportation	423	"
Public Utilities	318	"
Misc. Corp.	642	"

Aside from the financial profits to be gained by superior economic position, the financier in control of credit can dictate hours of labour, "break" unions, raise or lower prices; in short, he can supply or withhold the vitalising fluid of the modern economic system: CREDIT. — From "The Christian Front," February, 1937.

announced as he was urging Belfast to further action.

In explanation of the reversal of his previously proclaimed policy that the increased demands of the various services would cause an increased rate, Belfast's Chancellor, Ald. James A. Duff, stated that he was able to effect the reduction, as he found he had a credit balance on the year's accounts of £83,000.

It seems a little strange that the credit balance could be found only at the last minute.

Comments the *Belfast Telegraph*:

Under all the circumstances, we believe that a greater measure of relief might have been afforded.

Not so many weeks ago all sorts of gloomy prognostications of a still greater loading of the heavy burden were heard. In the meantime symptoms of alarm had been displayed.

We believe that the recent evidences of very serious concern on the part of the ratepayers as to how the huge sums exacted from them were being expended have not been without effect.

Had the same spirit of indifference, generated by a feeling of hopelessness, been maintained, it is possible that even the slight relief of fourpence might not have been forthcoming.

We trust that the moral will not be lost on the community.

During the week-end, Londonderry, where similar protests were made, announced a rate reduction of 1s. 2d.

Reason stated is anticipated revenue increase from electricity undertaking and additional Government grants for education.

(Further report on page 3)

We Are Heirs To Great Fortune: Use It

PARLIAMENT has decided to build up great defences against military attack. No one says we cannot afford it. Everyone knows we can. We are rich in labour, materials, equipment, skill—and we are going to use them. This real wealth is an inheritance. It has taken generations to build it up—to acquire the immense capacity to produce, which is what real wealth means.

Our decision at last to use some of our inherited wealth in the hope of defending ourselves in the coming war should awaken us to the understanding that we might use it for other purposes too.

When people inherit a fortune they enjoy it. They lead leisured lives; they are free to choose their own work, their own ways of living.

We, the people of Britain, are the heirs to a great fortune—the ability to produce and distribute abundance—and we could all lead leisured lives, free to choose our own work, the sort of work we like.

But we shall never do so unless we ask. "Ask, and it shall be given you." How to ask so as to get what you want is shown at the foot of the back page.

FARMERS RESIST BRITISH SOVIET

£45 Fine for Selling Milk

THE Government had an idea. Agriculture was facing ruin. Thought the bright boys at Westminster, Marketing Boards will solve the problem; make the public milk-conscious, bacon-conscious, they'll buy, agriculture will be saved.

That bright idea cost a lot of trouble all round, did not work out. Agriculture still faces ruin.

Last week Sheriff's officers took possession of Farmer William Mitchison's holding near Stanley, Co. Durham, following his refusal to pay a £30 levy imposed by the Milk Marketing Board on milk he produced in the last three years.

Mr. Mitchison retails his milk at 3d. a pint as against the price of 3½d. fixed by the M.M.B.

Says Mr. Mitchison:

"I realise that the board can 'break' me by selling up my farm through the county court. I intend to get advice as to what steps I should take next.

"I think the only way to make the board take a more reasonable attitude is for all of us to refuse to supply the milk to the consumers."

OFFERED CONTRACT

The previous day the Board claimed a penalty of £45 from William Charles, a Newport (Mon.) farmer.

Alexander Moore, Swansea, regional officer under the Board, said he visited the farm, and Charles admitted selling milk to a widow without a contract. He was offered a contract for all his milk and for the sale, but he refused unless the lorry was included. Three gallons of milk were delivered to the widow in the presence of the officer.

Frank Harris, another official, said he first visited the farm on May 7, 1936. When he asked Charles if he sold milk he was told to mind his own business and ordered off the farm. Charles objected to having any association with the Board.

Judgment for the Board. Now here's another side of the story. More

important. It concerns the consumer. The hard-hit farmers' market.

Since the Milk Marketing Scheme was introduced demand for tinned milk in villages has been trebled. Mr. James Handley told that to Westmorland County Council.

Another member, Mr. R. J. Dawson, said the reason was farmers found it less trouble to sell 10,000 gallons of milk to a factory than a pint to a village.

Mr. G. Duguid: The best solution would be to give the Milk Marketing Board the sack.

A resolution was passed asking the Milk Board to arrange proper supplies of fresh milk in all the villages.

Such is Government help for industry. Producers, consumers, are penalised to make figures add up in books right.

Here's one fact none can deny. In it lies the solution of the problem. British farmers can produce enough to feed British people. But the British people have not enough money with which to buy British farmers' produce.

There's the market for the farmer on his own doorstep. And there are people begging on his doorstep for a sip of good fresh milk.

How about arranging a transfer?

POVERTY DROVE WIVES INSANE

POVERTY is the most prolific cause of insanity. In Lancashire's five largest mental institutions more than 500 of the 1,500 patients are housewives from distressed areas.

A famous brain specialist says:

"There is little doubt that the paramount reason for so many Lancashire housewives becoming mental patients is that they live in distressed areas where the strain of providing for the family has proved too much for them."

Public Assistance Committeeman J. J. Vickers, of Bolton, says: "The complexities of modern life and the anxiety and monotony of the housewife's life have a great deal to do with it."

The social system which destroys what could be used to feed people spends millions to maintain people who are driven insane by hunger and poverty. Why not spend it to feed them in the first place?

DEMAND NATIONAL DIVIDENDS

National Dividends are monetary or other effective claims to such production as is now destroyed and restricted.



COMMENTARY



Disappointment

THE realistic attack upon the Government Defence programme suggested by *Reynolds Newspaper* last week failed to materialise.

The Opposition did not contend that a munitions programme, like a war, is paid for at the time by energy and materials consumed; that Loan finance means payment over and over again.

They made no attack upon the "whole policy of financing production" by methods which involve the creation of money by the Bank. Scarcely a reference was made to the "unused productive resources represented by idle men and idle machinery" and the consequent possibility of making guns without going short of butter.

We should like to have seen them do it, but we cannot say we expected it, in spite of *Reynolds* and of Tom Johnston, who wrote optimistically in *Forward*.

The Labour Party never says boo to a banker—moreover, it is probably satisfied that rearmament is about as big a public works programme as it could hope for short of war.

And the Labour Party loves work, just as George Robey loves it. It can sit for hours watching people work.

Sacrifice—Ah Sacrifice

MR. BALDWIN on the other hand was in his most sanctimonious form. Sacrifices satisfy this parader of honesty. He used the word five times in less than a minute.

"Ever since I became Prime Minister," he said, "I have tried to make the people of this country proud of their system and to realise that it is not a system that can be preserved without sacrifice."

"The time for sacrifice is now. I believe the system can be preserved. I believe that which the Government is doing will have that effect."

"It is a sacrifice worth making. This is a good time to be alive for those who believe in the principles of democracy and are prepared to make sacrifice for it, because they have the opportunity now to make that sacrifice."

Why try to make people proud of a system if it is worthy of pride? Systems are made for man, and man should not be sacrificed to any system.

When democracy is at last made to work as it should work, all systems will be modified as often as may be necessary for the convenience of those for whom the systems exist.

Men and women are ready to die to protect their loved ones and their homes and their countryside—but not to preserve a rotten system which demands unnecessary sacrifices.

Poppycock

THE fall in the price of gilt-edged securities proves, to the satisfaction of S. W. Alexander, city editor of the *Evening Standard*, that the old laws of nature still control the economic situation.

Highway Robbery

DURING 1935 taxes on road vehicles amounted to nearly £30½ million. Most of this was paid by the general public in bus fares, freights, etc., and the remainder by the owners of private vehicles. The public as a whole had £30½ million less to spend on the consumable goods which they themselves had produced, so that the nearest they got to that amount worth of goods, of which they went short, was by looking in at the bulging shop-windows, perhaps from the tops of buses on each one of which they paid over £300 in taxes.

On March 31, 1936, the balance to the credit of the Road Fund was £5,348,335, including £5,237,268 invested in Government securities. Why invested? This money was

TAX TOLL

More than £6,000,000 in taxes was either written off or remitted during year ended March, 1936, according to report of the Auditor-General, just published. Of this total, £1,438,106 was owing to bankruptcies or liquidations, and £172,898 on the grounds of poverty.

The report also nonchalantly records that securities accepted in discharge of tax liabilities were for the nominal amount of £582,086, while others nominally worth £2,205,860 were disposed of for £1,558,402.

taken off the public in taxation, the interest on the investment is paid by the public out of taxation, and by investing the Government puts up the price of investments to the public.

It's like the burglar calling for his Christmas box!

For the Common Weal

MAN has acquired a control over machines without acquiring anything like a corresponding control over himself. He does not appear to be able to control satisfactorily something he has created for his own convenience—namely, currency. He has a fatal aptitude for applying his discoveries to destructive ends. The fault is in ourselves rather than in a malignant fate obscurely moving behind the scenes. In the willing co-operation of free individuals for the common weal lies the only solution.

From "Biology of Social Life" by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown in *The Lancet*.

Some men do control the financial system, but for their own convenience instead of for the common weal. By co-operation, by uniting with our fellow men and women in demanding the results we want, we can make those who control the money system and those who control the industrial system operate them to serve us, as well as themselves, to serve the common weal.

The fault is in ourselves that so far we have failed to do so!

Nazi Plan to Check Abundance

THIRTY-THREE trades in Germany have been forbidden for definite periods to extend their premises or build new ones. They are travel agencies, chalk products, paper, typewriters, salt, pharmaceutical glass wares, electric lamps of low voltage and radio apparatus.

There are also several orders for indefinite periods, prohibiting the extension or new erection of premises for other branches of business activities, though in some cases, for example, the opening of new cinemas, special permission may be granted.

The Nazi way of dealing with the problem of abundance is to abolish it by restrictions, except in the case of the means for propaganda—cinemas—for the more you restrict the more you must explain!

Infectious Independence

STREATHAM parents are threatening another Westway "battle" on behalf of children attending Hitherfield Road School.

A deputation waited on the mistresses at the school and received their approval of a letter which is being sent to Wandsworth Council.

Both teachers and parents demand a 10 miles per hour speed limit in Leigham Vale.

They are also asking for the traffic to be diverted to an alternative route and that a policeman should be on duty near the school when children are about.

Nothing succeeds like success, and in these repeated successes, small or large, for pressure politics lies the germ of future victory for the campaign to demand security for all in freedom.

Everybody can take a hand in spreading the infection of sturdy independence.

Whenever anything needs to be done and those who are in charge don't get it done—stir up a demand for results. You will be making history.

Stamp on Plenty

"MEASURED by gross production, the average standard of life has been rising since pre-War years very rapidly."

Who said that? Sir Josiah Stamp. What does he mean? Only that he prefers to measure the standard of life by something so remote from it that it is meaningless—gross production includes battleships.

"If international industrial life could be better integrated there is no doubt that with the scientific potentiality of the world still further advances could be made in that standard, which would make all the efforts spent in disputes about the present distribution of the product of industry seem trivial and unimportant."

If ifs and ans were pots and pans one old humbug would stamp on them too. The way to distribute plenty is to distribute plenty, not stamp on it.

"The two most recent economic factors of importance are the devaluation by the gold bloc countries, which will enable them at

last to join the upward trend of business by the removal of depressing deflation, and the disappearance of the 'overhang' in wheat, which for some years has had such a bad effect upon agricultural prices and prosperity."

So said Sir Josiah last week. The "overhang" he refers to was plenty of wheat which has been successfully stamped on.

Political Apathy

MR. BEN GREENE, Secretary of the Provisional Committee of the Constituency Labour Parties, has been saying "There is something radically wrong with the Labour Party to-day." Everywhere throughout the country, he said, there is apathy and indifference.

He might have added that there is everywhere apathy and indifference for the Liberal and Conservative Parties.

The people are fast realising that there is something radically wrong with party politics. It does not deliver the goods. A new political apparatus is needed whereby the people demand the things they want and get them. Well, it is ready—it is waiting to be used.

National Dividends or Race Suicide

THERE is a feud between "colleens" of Carrick-on-Shannon and bachelors of the district because not a single wedding took place in the four weeks of Shrove-tide season.

Among the reasons given for this state of affairs is the general depression in Ireland. Bachelors, according to the "colleens," consider marriage only when they get the old-age pension.

This is not happening in Ireland alone. The present centrally imposed policy which sanctions the existence of poverty alongside of the destruction of goods and the restriction of production, causes men all over the world to violate the deepest human instinct—the desire to establish a home and a family. Because the only claim to the resources of

this world which it does not stigmatise is work, unobtainable and unnecessary work, men and women cannot marry until they have become sufficiently senile to claim a pension.

This is racial suicide, for Mussolini has warned us that "very soon Europe will be a continent of old men."

Urgently needed is a "pension" to every Briton irrespective of what his or her age may be, provided that such "pensions" are based upon that actual or potential wealth of which we are now being deprived.

Demand National Dividends.

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The generosity of Captain T. H. Story has provided us with a new labour-saving device which addresses and sorts the wrappers in which SOCIAL CREDIT is sent to our direct subscribers.

Our readers who receive SOCIAL CREDIT through the post will find that their names and addresses are neatly typed instead of being written by hand. They will also find beside the address some apparently cryptic figures, such as

102 . APRIL . 4 . 37

S

My first is an index for office routine, A systemised sop to the soulless machine.

My last is another which differs in this, That S stands for Supplement no one should miss.

A date is my middle, I plainly declare, A secret in which I invite you to share.

Here it means that the subscription expires in April, the fourth week; and if our readers will do us the kindness of keeping an eye on the hieroglyphs they will be able to anticipate the renewal of their subscription and at the same time SAVE WORK and REDUCE TAXATION, since we shall not have to send out reminders, thus saving stamps. THANK YOU.

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Canada's Debt Racket

WILL STAMP LEAD NEW TAX PLOT?

THE plot to rob the Canadian provincial governments of their powers, last reported in SOCIAL CREDIT, January 1, is developing rapidly. Those who control Canada by control of financial policy are being forced to act hurriedly, for popular unrest is growing in the western provinces where the debt burden is most severely felt.

Already, as reported on November 6, it has been necessary to buy off serious trouble in Saskatchewan by wiping out £15 million of the farmers' debts.

This is a dangerous precedent and failing some other action the western farmers may next demand that the whole be wiped out.

Loan Council Plan

The original "Loan Council" scheme was exposed in SOCIAL CREDIT by Major Douglas in an article "Finance in a Hurry," January 24, 1936.

Its effect was undoubtedly to open the eyes of certain of the provincial ministers to the trap laid for them, and subsequently the scheme was defeated by their refusal to co-operate.

Later, in June, *The Times*, reporting that the scheme for a council was being revised, admitted that

"Analysis of the original plan and its implications has produced a realisation that it was politically unworkable, mainly because it offered the backing of the Federal Government for provincial loans on terms which no province could accept without submitting to what would have been tantamount to a receivership."*

Next came the visit of Canadian Finance Minister Dunning to London last autumn.

* (See SOCIAL CREDIT for July 3, 1936.)

Then, in December, a meeting of provincial ministers at Ottawa—"to discuss the measures which might be adopted to introduce a systematic method of Government financing that could be subscribed to by all provinces and the Dominion."

The conference lasted three days, and according to the *Toronto Star*, "totalled up its achievements at zero." None of the provincial ministers secured any financial concessions from the Federal Government, and they "dead-locked among themselves over the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the economic and financial basis of confederation."

Subsequently, on December 19, there was what must be regarded presumably as a repercussion of the conference, in a speech by the Hon. Arthur Roebuck, Attorney-General for Ontario, urging the preservation of provincial and municipal powers and suggesting that any lessening of them would be "one of the first steps leading to dictatorship."

With the opening of the new year a press campaign started in various papers in favour of an official enquiry into the financial situation in the western provinces and their relations with the Federal Government.

Bank's Support

The proposal was strongly supported by some of the bank chairmen in their annual speeches, by Mr. Bennett, late Conservative Premier, and by some provincial Cabinet Ministers. Notable among the latter was Mr. Aberhart, who had previously opposed the Loan Council scheme, but admitted to urging the appointment of such a commission at the Ottawa conference of provincial ministers, referred to above.

The campaign for an enquiry was perfectly timed. It reached a climax in a debate in the Canadian House of Commons

at Ottawa on the very day that the British Privy Council announced its decision that five Acts passed when Mr. Bennett was Premier—the "Bennett New Deal"—against which certain provinces had appealed, were outside the powers of the Dominion Government under the British North America Act.

Of the Acts thus invalidated, four dealt with such matters as wages, hours, holidays and social insurance.

In Canada, as elsewhere, the official spokesmen for Labour favour such forms of legislation, and so to the voices of bankers, politicians and certain business interests demanding an enquiry into the working of the Canadian constitution were added those of the leaders of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

Of course, Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, is a democrat, and so yields gracefully to the demand, so cleverly worked up.

Adjustments

He announced last week that a Royal Commission will be appointed shortly "to investigate the whole system of taxation in Canada and to recommend any adjustments necessary to secure a more equitable and practical division of the burdens between the Federal and Provincial authorities."

The Times correspondent adds—"It is understood that an eminent British economist will be asked to serve as chairman of the Commission."

It is probable that this passage should read somewhat as follows:—"It is understood that when it was decided to use the people's desire for greater security and better conditions, as a means to force the acceptance of a financial dictatorship, arrangements were made with an eminent British economist to serve as chairman of the Commission appointed to carry this plan into effect."

The problem for finance in Canada as in this country, is how to maintain insecurity, despite ever-increasing ability to give security to all.

Sir Josiah Stamp has done more than most economists to make people disbelieve the

SUN NEVER SETS ON BRITISH DEBTS

A VERY general and rough calculation will show that the average man in Canada is paying for the maintenance of government at the rate of 40 cents out of every dollar he receives; that the government itself is paying out of that 40 cents some 24 cents in interest charges on its own debt, leaving 16 cents for the carrying on of public services. Let us put this in another way: each man in Canada is forced to work over four months per year for his own government—and most of this work goes to the banks—before he may do anything for himself and his family. —From "The Periscope," Toronto.

★

THE core of the problem (of India) is rural debt, and with it the enslavement of the peasantry to the moneylender (banker). Blank despair of the future has settled on the countryside. The one effective remedy is the lightening of the burden of debt—that alone will bring new hope, new courage into the life of the villages—9/10ths of the population of India.

The debt is colossal, running into several hundred million sterling, and the annual demand on account of interest exceeds the total revenue of India, central and provincial. The greater portion of the debt is built up with compound interest. In a country which depends mainly on agriculture for its property, the blighting effect of this incubus of debt, not only on the peasantry, but on commerce and industry, can easily be imagined. —Sir William Barton, K.C.I.E., in the "National Review."

(Continued from previous column)

evidence all round them of plenty. Further, he has advanced views on taxation—one of the best means of promoting individual insecurity—as he showed when he said:

"Direct taxation thirty years ago in relation to its effect on individual effort and action seemed to reach a breaking-point, and was regarded as psychologically unbearable at levels which today are merely amusing. But there can be little doubt that with the right applications of experimental psychology and adjusted education the mind of man would be still more adaptable."

In the circumstances he would appear to be an ideal chairman for the Commission. M.W.

15s. A WEEK TO FEED 5

Orders payable at the rate of 3d. a week were made at Clerkenwell County Court against two men sued for the price of electricity by the Borough of Islington.

"We are not living; we are existing," the Registrar was told by one who said he had been workless for more than a year, had a wife and three children, and from 35s. a week benefit paid £1 rent.

NEWCASTLE CITY HALL
Tuesday, March 9th, at 8-0 p.m.

MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS

Will speak on
SECURITY
(INSTITUTIONAL & PERSONAL)
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They Heard The Colonel Then Joined Up

DEMOCRATS GAIN IN N. IRELAND

WHEN Col. Scott went to Comber, Co. Down, on Wednesday last week, the only organisation to greet him, apart from Belfast, was a one-man group, Mr. Gordon Smith.

Today 90 per cent. of those who heard Col. Scott have formed a United Democrats group, with Mr. Smith as organiser. The town is being busily canvassed. The group grows daily.

Previously the townspeople of Comber were afraid of being openly connected with the organisation.

It is known to Belfast group workers that Comber townsfolk were "advised" to boycott Col. Scott's meeting.

Despite this boycott the victory was for the United Democrats.

The Belfast Speech

In his Belfast speech, Col. Scott, after his reference to the lower rate demand (reported on page 1) said he also saw that there was a revolt against the Education Authority because of excessive homework for children.

"Dictate your policy," he said, "and if your policy is the united voice of the people, the Education Authority will obey you. You are the ones to say what is best for you and your children, not any institution."

Dealing with the main subject of his address, the Colonel said the "will of the people" was an expression which was much used and abused. It meant not only the "intelligence," but the "determination" of everybody. If any law, system, or condition of society persisted in defiance of the will of the people it would inevitably be modified or abolished, but only if the people made their will known.

It appeared amazing that the condition known as poverty amidst plenty should be permitted to persist when the people all knew that the very machines which had caused the poverty and distress were equally capable of abolishing it, and that the modern system of

economic production was abundantly capable of giving to man greater happiness, contentment, and leisure with economic security than had ever before been known.

It was not real democracy to vote for party labels or administrative programmes which the vast majority of voters did not understand. The individuals whom they selected to represent them in Parliament did not represent them.

They represented a particular group who stood for a particular set of methods.

At an election the candidates were rocketed in the minds of the people into the awe-inspiring position of experts, but all they had done was to elect second rate experts to tell first rate experts, in the form of bankers, industrialists, agriculturists, and technicians generally, how to do their jobs.

Dictatorship

He could not conceive any worthy argument to show that people so elected to Parliament represented the will of the people for results they wanted. The party system of government, national or sectional, was dictatorship. It was a system which was essentially non-human because it subordinated the individual to the group.

He pointed out the need for a change of financial policy and said that to persist in introducing schemes for the purpose of preventing and eliminating leisure in a power age by creating work, was distinct evidence of mental torpidity.

SOCIAL CREDIT

A Journal of Economic Democracy

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Vol. 6. No. 3. Friday, February 26, 1937

Work and Work

THE current cant about work makes strange bedfellows. Mr. Roosevelt's declared policy is to "put the people of the United States to work." Stalin's new Constitution (Article 12) reads:

"Toil in the U.S.S.R. is an obligation and a matter of honour of each citizen who is fit for toil, according to the principle: 'He who does not work, does not eat.'

"In the U.S.S.R. there is being realised the principle of Socialism: 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his toil.'"

The Labour Party in Britain is named after one kind of work and certainly subscribes to the same work fetish.

The attitude of all these work maniacs was put into a few words a month or two ago by a Conservative, Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of Agriculture, when he said:

"The only device which man has yet discovered, by which the wealth of society can be distributed, is by work in the field, the factory, or the office. Unless there is distribution it is of no use producing. That is why politicians guide themselves mainly by those policies which produce the greatest amount of employment."

Right, left and centre, they all want to keep man's nose to the grindstone.

THAT is the fallacy of the century. It is due to a confusion about what work is and means. The confusion on the part of governments and politicians, dictators, presidents, premiers and all who aspire to power is deliberate.

By making "work" in this limited sense an end in itself, belauding it, condemning all criticism of it as an incitement to idleness, inefficiency, and vagabondage, and pretending that there can be no other claim to consideration and to the good things of life, Governments have obtained the whip-hand both of the "willing horse" and the unwilling.

The poor bemused "man in the street" is too busy at the work which has been forced or "wished" upon him to clear his mind of the cant about work and see what it really is.

WORK is the expenditure of energy, and energy can be expended by human beings, by beasts, and by all the unlimited forces of nature through the machine.

Nowadays most of the "work" in civilised countries is done by machines, and the services of men and beasts are less and less required.

A quick mental picture of what this means can be obtained by thinking of the unemployed, and of the number of horses in the streets compared with, say, thirty years ago.

But all this refers only to work on production, which is simply the application of energy to raw material to convert it into something people want.

THE work men do because nature makes them we will call *Labour*. In the sweat of his brow has man laboured, and been rightly proud of his achievement. For in the ways of a thousand years he has shifted most of the burden on to the backs of machines.

The work men do because other men force them to we will call *Toil*. Stalin gives it the right name. It is slavery, oppression, blasphemy.

The work men do because they want to we call *leisure*. It is the crown of glory. Nearly all the greatest achievements of art, of adventure, of invention, of the mind, and of the spirit, are the work of what we call *leisure*.

THE lives of men today are ruled by a misbegotten creed. Upon the very threshold of the promised land, they are brought to worship toil, to pray, to plead, to beg for the toil that has been cunningly dangled before them as the sole title to food, warmth and shelter.

By G. W. L. DAY

The Way The World Is Heading

THE other day I heard of a Russian who was arrested in Germany, where he had been living for five years, and kept in prison for many months without any trial or charge being brought against him.

When he demanded to know what he had done wrong, the reply was that it was necessary to seize people and imprison them like this so as to demonstrate the power of the Police and inspire the people with a healthy respect for the State.

When asked later by an Englishman why he didn't return to Russia, he said it was just as bad there.

I could cite a good many stories of the same kind about the Soviet régime. For instance, some that have been told me by Sir Paul Dukes, who was head of our Secret Service in Russia in the early days of the Revolution.

If ever I repeat these stories to any of my friends who are Communists, they smile patronisingly and explain that force and ruthlessness are necessary to introduce Utopia, but that all this will pass when the State is secure.

* * *

WELL, twenty years have passed now since the beginning of the Revolution, and a new Soviet Constitution has been set up which is loudly advertised as embodying the principles towards which all good Soviets have been striving to move.

The *Monthly Review*, issued by the U.S.S.R. Trade Delegation in Great Britain gives among other things a speech made by Stalin on this Draft Constitution. All the information is authoritative and up to date, so let us take a look at it.

The State Throws Him Into Prison, To Show Him

Right on the first page is the statement: "The individual is no longer opposed to and at war with the rest of society, but is working for the general good of the whole community."

It looks good, but actually here we come up against something fundamental. Suppose we take on the one hand a Russian citizen, and on the other hand the whole Russian community, and consider them side by side.

The citizen is a highly organised, complex entity, to wit, a man; the community is possibly on a level with an amoeba. Yet according to Soviet ethics, the creature who is relatively high in the evolutionary scale must be subordinated to the creature who is at the very bottom of it.

That is the whole tragedy of man today. He wants to follow his star, to be an individual, to evolve; but the great amoeba of which he forms a microscopic part clutches at him and tries to drag him down to its level.

In Germany and in Russia it throws him into prison, although he is innocent, just to show him.

THERE'S A WOLF AT THE BACK DOOR, TOO!



—From the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

WHAT are a man's powers? He has physical, mental and emotional energies. All these the amoeba tries to appropriate—in Russia with considerable success.

First, physical energy. A man can work, and he can fight. In the U.S.S.R. enormous emphasis is laid on work, or "toil," as the word is more often translated in the *Monthly Review*. Compulsion is laid on every man to work and fight for the State.

Here are two quotations from Stalin's speech: "This is quite a new, a toiling intelligentsia, the like of which you will not find in any country on earth."

"The chief basis of the draft of the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R. consists of . . . abolition of unemployment; work as an obligation and a matter of every able-bodied citizen in accordance with the formula, 'He who does not work, neither shall he eat.' The right to work, that is, the right of every able-bodied citizen to guaranteed employment." Etc., etc.

All this and a great deal more in the speech is a graceful way of saying that the State proposes to appropriate the physical energies of its citizens and use them how it will. By education, by propaganda, by the use of terrorism, it appropriates also their mental and emotional energies. It upholds, in fact, a very thorough and pervasive system of slavery.

There are several reasons, I think, why Soviet sympathisers in this country cannot see this. One is the lurid Fascist background against which they see Russia. Another is the somewhat dazzling success of the Five-Year Plans. A third is the fact that they don't have to live in Russia. And a fourth is the skilful propaganda which is used to emphasise the importance of the amoeba and the unimportance of the individual.

* * *

AT first sight, especially when viewed against a background of corrupt democracy, there seems something splendid in each man (even though coerced) working for the community, in each man owning a fraction of all the Russian industries, lands, mines, forests, etc., in each man helping to administer (in theory at any rate) the State through the soviets.

But actually all these things are mere shadows. It is even a matter of secondary importance that a new Russia of splendid new buildings is arising on the site of the old. The substance, namely, true individual liberty—liberty of thought and action, economic liberty—is missing.

Unless We Wake Up, And Assert Ourselves

If the U.S.S.R. were really a desirable country to live in, surely people of other nationalities would rush to become naturalised Russians? Yet even Mr. Bernard Shaw lives peacefully in Ayot St. Lawrence.

In the *Monthly Review* there is a tremendous to do about the absence of any exploiting class in the new Soviet State. Instead of tyrannical capitalists and landowners, there is now dictatorship by the people.

Now this very word "dictatorship" seems to me to give the show away. It implies that the Soviet citizen is enslaved to some entity. Who is the enslaver? Stalin would reply, "The Russian people," but is it really they? No, it is the Russian State.

* * *

THE Russian State, despite all denials, is a small minority of men who control the sanctions, the propaganda, the secret police, and who therefore shove the people in whichever direction they wish. It is they who control policy. The proletariat, if they have any say at all, can only modify the methods whereby this arbitrary policy is to be achieved.

Far from the people becoming dictators, they are being exploited. Their energies are being appropriated towards ends chosen by others, their will is being sapped.

They are in a most perilous position, for at any moment they are liable to be seized and imprisoned without charge or trial. Only under a system where the people really dictate policy is there any security for the individual.

This dictatorship of policy has nothing to do with any system of communal administration. In the speech of V. M. Molotov on the new Constitution, he says that the Soviet order is more impregnated with democracy than any other because the masses administer the State through the soviets.

This is a complete distortion. The people should have nothing to do with administration, for this is the job of the experts. What they should have is control of policy, namely, the results they wish to see.

They cannot have this unless they exercise their will. Now, will is like muscle. If you exercise it, muscle grows stronger, if you don't, it grows weak and atrophies.

* * *

IN Soviet Russia there is already something like paralysis of the public will. Nor can we afford to feel superior about it. We are headed, unless we wake up and assert ourselves, in exactly the same direction ourselves.

L.C.C. ELECTIONS ARE THURSDAY NEXT. HERE IS A LESSON FOR ELECTORS

FACTS ABOUT YOUR C3 CAPITAL

“Where Nothing Is Done Until It Is Too Late”

GRIM RECORD OF SUICIDES AND DAMAGED MINDS

LONDON is a C3 capital. London is the place where nothing is done until it is too late, where things are not always done then. Its opportunities for sensible organisation are the greatest in Western Europe, yet its needs remain the greatest.

Thus London journalist Robert Sinclair, author of “Metropolitan Man,” just published, condemns the city of his adoption.

London’s would-be administrative leaders now bidding for election might read this study of a degraded city and act accordingly. London electors, who next week will go to the poll, might digest these facts, then demand results.

London electors must be convinced by the facts Mr. Sinclair places before them that they have been victimised in the game of party politics. But they can have an A1 London for the demanding—by electing councillors who will tell the experts to produce the results their electors desire.

Now listen to Sinclair. Says he: “The result of a couple of generations of ballyhoo has been to make the river of thought run backward in the minds of Londoners. There was a time when the personal ideas and the domestic passions of the English moulded their business relations and their public life. . . . Today the popular idea does not well up in the popular mind, but is introduced from outside.”

This seems to contain a world of truth in a few words. The substitution of externalised control for inward inspiration is taking place all over the world, but nowhere so rapidly as where men are herded together in great cities.

Damaged Minds

Let’s examine, with Mr. Sinclair, London’s health—C3!

Apart from people treated at doctors’ surgeries, 2,300,000 new patients are recorded every year at London’s hospitals. The enormous total of 17,000 schoolchildren living in the inner County of London are victims of rheumatism brought about chiefly by damp and insanitary housing.

Among adult Londoners the standard of health is so low that only one in three would-be busmen passes the doctor.

Then there is tuberculosis, the “disease of houses.” In 1930 the London death rate from tuberculosis was 43 per cent. above that for the population living outside big cities. In London 50 per cent. of children and 97 per cent. of adults are infected.

Worse than this are the figures of London’s damaged minds. Number of known lunatics has doubled in 40 years. One in every 84 Londoners is insane. And there are more than 100,000 dull and backward children not far removed from borderline.

Finally, there is the grim record of suicides, which is a barometer of nervous resistance in relation to pressure of circumstances.

One in every 70 deaths in the County of London is a case of suicide. The suicide risk in London has grown by exactly 50 per cent. in ten years. Today the suicide risk in London is 20 per cent. greater than in the Provinces.

15,000 Homeless

One night in February every year a census is taken of Central London’s homeless. Last year’s census showed between 14,000 and 15,000 homeless men, women and children, of whom 3,400 had not even the few pence necessary to pay for a bed.

In spite of slum clearance schemes, there are still half a million in inner London living in less than half a room apiece. There are actually 20,000 basement dwellings in London medically earmarked as unfit in which live an army of 60,000.

In 1931, more than 12,000 families in inner London were living four or more to a room. Of these, 3,033 families were living five to a room, and 2,087 families six or more to a room. The pressure of population on houses is so great that landlords are able to charge extortionate rents and even demand “key money.”

A stocktaking in 1935 revealed vermin in 79,000 children, which is 14 per cent. of the entire elementary school population. But

worse than vermin is hunger. Only about one in six of London children seem adequately nourished. Forty thousand of them are fed in inner London schools every year as necessitous cases. Nearly all are fed free.

According to one authority, “The school medical service is a receiver of damaged goods, and spends most of its time and its energies in patching them up.”

Explaining how the Londoner is robotised so that the lives of the humbler ones are “as elective as the flutterings of the cuckoo in a cuckoo clock,” Mr. Sinclair remarks that work has long been held up to the young Londoner as a virtue, a duty and a right; nevertheless, Londoners drift into employment in a haphazard manner and in a similar way drift out of it again.

Of young men who have held employment, 40 per cent. are quite unskilled, 75 per cent. are not fully skilled, and 70 per cent. take any job they can find without conditions. At one end of the labour market are thousands of youths clamouring for a job, at the other are thousands of old men refusing to die.

London swiftly kills those it attracts. Londoners die out after the second or third generation. They lack any corporate sense and have hardly any local patriotism. The home, the furniture, the householders themselves are all mass-produced.

Robotised

Mr. Sinclair again and again shows how a complete robotisation is taking place among Metropolitan men, using figures, anecdotes, reports, and Court cases to prove his points. The reader is left with the impression that the civilised world has taken the wrong turning, and that unless some general change of direction takes place, it is doomed.

Life in big cities is the test of civilisation, and it fails most lamentably.

CANNOT WED, NO HOUSES

LADS and lasses of the Dorset village, Milborne St. Andrew, cannot get married because there are no houses for them. And 13 cottages have been condemned as unfit.

So serious is the position that it was decided at a public meeting to seek the advice of the Ministry of Health.

Mr. J. V. Dowsett, a resident, says a number of young villagers would have been married a year or two ago if there had been anywhere for them to live.

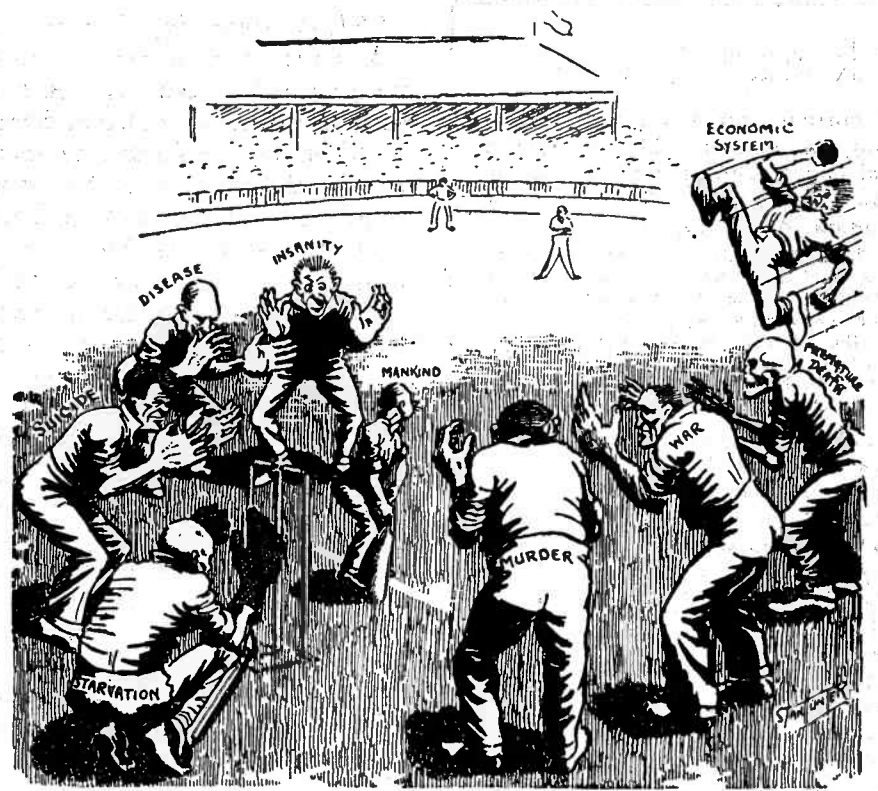
“The condemned houses are in a deplorable condition,” he said, “because of flooding. Heaven knows what will happen to the people who live in them.”

“We are making a big drive in the village now to get some more houses built and I think something will be done.”

Meanwhile an official of the Ministry of Health says “No decision has yet been made.”

You know, of course, why Milborne St. Andrew cannot have more houses. Not lack of building materials. Not lack of labour. Lack of money? Yes, and lack of pressure to get what they want from those whose job it is to see that they get it.

TEST MATCH



Cartoon by Stan Hunter in *The New Era*

We Can Have Whoopee, GUNS AND BUTTER

REFERRING to the Coronation, the Bishop of Chichester writes in his Diocesan Gazette for February: “As we read the daily papers and as we watch the preparations, we observe the vast sums of money which are being spent and the apparent ease with which the money is found, where this great national festival is concerned. Yet simultaneously we see the lack of direction, the want of a constructive plan in helping the vast number of unemployed.”

“The contrast between wealth and poverty will be more marked and more keenly felt than ever if the splendours of the Coronation are allowed to grow on so lavish a scale while the unemployed continue to suffer neglect and the depressed

areas are permitted to remain in their extreme depression.”

We can afford, because we have the skill, the energy, the machinery, and the material, to have a bumper Coronation; to build a strong Army, Navy and Air Force, and to feed, clothe, shelter, service and amuse every British subject.

Unless those British subjects demand their birthright we shall actually have rearmament and a lavish Coronation—but nothing will be done for the millions—and when the armament boom subsides, although all the factories and resources will be available just the same, we shall have a slump—more and more misery. All in a land of plenty. Are we, then, so lacking in sense, spirit and independence?

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WITH 3 MONTHS WRITTEN GUARANTEE

21 EXCELLENT ROVERS

- 1936 14 h.p. Streamline Coupe, Grey, Blue trimming.
- 1936 14 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Black, Brown trimming. Also similar car, Black, Brown trimming.
- 1936 14 h.p. Sports Saloon, Black, Brown trimming. Also two similar cars, Grey, Blue trimming, and Blue, Blue trimming.
- 1936 12 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Blue, Blue trimming. Also two similar cars, Green Green trimming, and Grey, Blue trimming.
- 1936 10 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Green, Green trimming. Also similar car, Blue, Blue trimming.
- 1935 14 h.p. Streamline Speed Coupe, Grey, Blue trimming.
- 1935 14 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Grey, Blue trimming. Also similar car, Black, Brown trimming.
- 1935 14 h.p. Sports Saloon, Black, Brown trimming. Also similar car, Blue, Blue trimming.
- 1935 12 h.p. Sports Saloon, Grey, Blue trimming.
- 1935 12 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Maroon, Maroon trimming.
- 1935 10 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Maroon, Maroon trimming.
- 1934 14 h.p. Sports Coupe, Green, Green trimming.
- 1934 14 h.p. 6-light Saloon, Green, Green trimming.

STUDEBAKER

1935 Dictator Saloon, 8000 miles £165.

RILEY Nine

1935 Kestrel Special, 2-carburettor series, self-change; faultless.

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THE essential power which the banks have acquired is monetisation of real wealth. That is to say, the power of creating acceptable and accepted orders or demands upon the producing system and of destroying them on recall; and the essence of their fraud upon civilisation is not in the magnificent technique of the system which they employ, or even in the charges which they make for the use of this money they create, even though these charges, i.e., their interest rates, may be considered in many cases exorbitant.

The essence of the fraud is the claim that the money that they create is their own money, and the fraud differs in no respect in quality but only in its far greater magnitude, from the fraud of counterfeiting. At the instigation of the banking system, barbarously severe penalties are imposed upon the counterfeiter of a ten-shilling note, but a peerage is conferred upon the counterfeiter by banking methods, of sums running into hundreds of millions.

May I make this point clear beyond all doubt? It is the claim to the ownership of money which is the core of the matter. Any person or any organisation who can create practically at will sums of money equivalent to the price values of all the goods produced by the community is the virtual owner of those goods, and, therefore, the claim of the banking system to the ownership of the money which it creates is a claim to the ownership of the country.

Major C. H. Douglas at Belfast, November 24, 1936

CLAIM YOUR BIRTHRIGHT!

STOP THE BANKERS' RACKET!

PRESS CLIPPINGS . . . for a Social Crediter's Notebook

A farmer, whose assets were more than enough to pay 40s. in the £, told Blackburn Bankruptcy Court that his position was due to his refusal to register with the Milk Marketing Board. They obtained judgment for £178, plus £10 fine and £8 costs, but as he ignored this and did not pay, they filed this petition against him.

The Board had since informed him that if he supplied the information required, they would consider some remission of the penalties.

The Registrar remarked that he had never known a similar case, and advised the man to apply for an annulment or discharge immediately.—*"Morning Post,"* February 4.

Turkey's Five-Year-Plan is already bearing fruit. Several new textile factories have been completed, three of which will total over 50,000 spindles and 2,000 looms. The machinery installed was made in Russia.—*"Liverpool Daily Post,"* February 4.

Farm workers in East Anglia increased their output by 24 per cent. in the years 1931-35, yet labour costs remained the same. This is the report of the Cambridge University Farm Economists on 170 observed farms. Tractors, fixed engines and motor-vans on these farms increased by 50 per cent. in the same period.—*"Daily Herald,"* February 4.

A nurse told Manchester City Council that she had to take a dying woman all round a city hospital before she was admitted. The occasion was a motion for an extra grant of £5,000, which was only carried by a narrow majority "in face of strong opposition."—*"Daily Herald,"* February 4.

The Bacon Development Board is of opinion that young pigs—like young children—need half a pint of milk a day. "Pigs receiving milk grew 7 to 10 per cent. faster than those receiving the normal meal ration."—*"Daily Herald,"* February 4.

No fewer than 317 collieries have been closed in South Wales since 1927. This has thrown 63,195 miners out of work. Output has fallen from 51 million to 35 million tons, but percentage per man shift has risen sharply owing to mechanisation and the longer working day.—*"Daily Herald,"* February 2.

THE ALBERTA EXPERIMENT

An Interim Survey
By Major C. H. Douglas

Will be published in March
by Eyre and Spottiswoode.
The first chapters of this
book on this most stirring
and momentous piece of
current history will appear
in the next issue (March) of

THE FIG TREE

—YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT, WOULD YOU?

"HOW would you like to light a fire in the middle of one of your rooms to dry it after it had been flooded to a depth of nine inches?"

"How would you like to sleep in a chair so that your children could have the only available bed?"

"How would you like to bale out about ten pailsful of water from your bedroom at 2 a.m.?"

"How would you like one of your children to lie ill with congestion of the lungs, and another likely to be taken to hospital at any moment?"

These are some of the things that have been happening lately at Jute Works Buildings, Aberdeen, where 46 families are living in temporary dwellings until they can get better houses.

Efforts have been made to get the buildings demolished, but the Town Council feel that the place is still necessary as a clearing house for tenants awaiting houses.—*"Aberdeen Evening Express,"* February 3.

Evidently they think that after three months in Jute Works Buildings, people will not be too critical of accommodation offered them.

Disquieting rumours are prevalent that the wheat subsidy levy on millers is to be extended to cover wheat milled for animal and poultry food. This would increase the cost of pig and poultry production.—*"News Chronicle,"* February 1.

According to Sir Enoch Hill, since the war £1,000,000,000 has been advanced by building societies to finance "home ownership."—*"Daily Mirror,"* February 2.

20,108 underground bedrooms in London were declared unfit for human habitation in 1934—the most recent investigation.—Minister of Health, in a written answer in the House of Commons.

Cambridge University is to spend £10,000 in setting up a computing laboratory. Many of the machines to be installed are so ingenious that they almost seem to be actually thinking.—*"Observer,"* February 7.

★ LETTERS ★

An Albertan View

I THINK your paper is wonderful. It is a mystery to me how you are so accurate in your overseas notes. Douglas' article on Edward's abdication is a masterpiece, and so is the article on the back page giving the Catholic point of view.

My idea of what is happening here is that Aberhart was badly let down at Ottawa with the purpose of driving him into some idea of S.C. His conscience is bothering him, judging by the way he is attacking Douglas.

About this time of the year previous to the provincial election the President of the Conservative Association of Calgary was here and told us that Bennett had approached the Association and asked them to support Aberhart in his political campaign. There was a division and the Association refused.

Then Bennett got behind him himself until the people poured in the funds. A short time afterwards a prominent official of the wheat pool was in town who was a member of the Conservative Association and a cousin of a business man in town.

This business man told him about the Conservative Association, and he was amazed to know that it had got out but admitted it and gave more details. Of course, the results of the election were very much bigger than B. or any of us expected.

Since then I have taken the stand that Aberhart never intended to implement his promises and I think subsequent events have proved my position.

Alberta

"Mac"

Religion and Poverty

AS a "Methodist Layman," may I be permitted to ask "Country Parson" (Letters, Feb. 5) just exactly where Christ in His Sermon on the Mount advocates poverty? By that, I mean lack of food and the necessities of life.

As I read the Life of Christ his whole business was to fill the lives of the people, not with words only, but with things which satisfied the hunger of the body.

There are numerous instances in the life of Christ which show that he was fully alive to the bodily needs of the people, and he satisfied these needs.

To say that Social Credit and the Christianity of the Sermon on the Mount is as the poles apart, is to me ridiculous. To me it is yet another proof of the many excuses which many "priests and laity" in the Churches—my own included—advance for doing nothing to ameliorate the lot of suffering humanity. Small wonder is it, that the Churches are fast losing their hold on the people.

May I in conclusion commend to "Country Parson" the sixth chapter of Luke, especially v. 46:

"Feed my sheep"; but not only with words and pious platitudes.

Brighton

H. W. JEANES, M.M.

IS it not peculiar logic for your correspondent, "Country Parson," to contend that sharing your goods with the poor is an advocacy of poverty; surely it's an effort to alleviate poverty and not to condone it.

These clerics presume to be leaders of mankind and still express ignorance of any change in 2,000 years of economic development.

N.W.5

J. CRAWLEY

POVERTY is not advocated in the Sermon on the Mount. The only thing in it about poverty is contained in the first sentence: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Now let "Country Parson" tell us what it means.

Darwen

POOR RICHARD

Better Roads—More Speed?

ON reading page 181 of your issue of January 15 on "Better Roads," I am sure that you are being led to false conclusions.

Our experience here leads many of us to an opposite conclusion. We are improving our roads all the time. All those hazards you mention are being eliminated. In spite of that our death roll steadily mounts.

The reason is very plain. The better the roads, the faster people will travel, and the more serious the accidents that will occur.

We have almost reached the point where the roads are perfect—yet, when climatic conditions render roads unsafe, we are noticing that accidents are fewer because speed has perforce to be reduced.

Therefore those of us who "sit by the roadside and watch the world go by" are noticing an agitation in our brain cells which seem to infer, Social Credit or no Credit, that a simple law passed to prevent the manufacturers of automobiles of all kinds from making cars capable of travelling more than 35 or 40 miles an hour should be passed, and a recommendation to their inventors to concentrate their energy on reducing the consumption of gasoline per mile would be in order.

The only fault so far found in this idea is—that it will be immensely unpopular to every class of driver who seem to enjoy the possibility of getting killed or the pleasure of hitting a pedestrian.

The result of a law limiting and recognising a safe speed on the roads, would be to throw unlimited speed to the railroads and flying machines—improving their business, which needs improving.

I found out in the Boer War that it is impossible to dodge a bullet, and that is what one is expected to do on a perfect motor road.

Montana

H. C. B. COLVILL

★ "I"

HARKING back to our great loss last December, I am surprised to find no remark in the press (not even SOCIAL CREDIT) on the emphasis ex-King Edward put on the word "I," in the phrase "as I would wish to do" in his last broadcast.

It gave me the impression that it was the only way he could express to his people his feeling towards the real issue.

If I am wrong, then what was the reason for the emphasis?

Liverpool

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Mrs. Palmer's Corner for Women

TOO OLD AT THIRTY?
FOR WHAT?

THE number of organised charities grows apace. They are the props and patches that help our Heath Robinson economic machine to go on its lumbering way without breaking down altogether.

No sooner is one section of the people assisted by some sort of public subscription than another is found to be suffering, and a group of philanthropic workers (mostly women) will form yet another committee and appeal for more funds. So things go on. And no one knows whose turn it will be next.

One of the newest is the Over Thirty Association, which was the object of a recent broadcast appeal.

"Educated women of the war generation, once pioneers of a better way of life and proud of their independence, find themselves caught in the web of economic circumstances," said Miss Dorothy L. Sayers, who is a detective story-writer.

"If by misfortune they become unemployed, it is often impossible to find another position. Most of them are unfitted and untrained for domestic work."

"Owing to changes in the firm's policy, your services will no longer be required."

These terrible words fall on the ears of many a woman worker with the finality of a life sentence. She knows that her "career" is ended. Henceforth she must compete with girls in their twenties, in the hey-day of health and good looks, with the latest training at their finger tips.

All she can look forward to is a succession of temporary posts varied by periods of unemployment on the dole, which to a lonely woman with rent to pay means little more than starvation. How can she "live" on 15s. a week?

As she becomes shabbier her chances of re-employment recede altogether.

Miss Sayers appealed for work for these women, and for £5,000 to build

a hostel where they might always be sure of a meal, and where they might get advice and further training.

Training—as middle age approaches and energy wanes, to be asked to take up the struggle again, and compete in a new field with the young girl in her twenties, who has everything in her favour except the wisdom which should come with maturity.

Is this all that these women have to look forward to, some of whom gave their best years to the struggle for the vote, or to war work?

READERS of this paper know why there is little work for the older woman, and why there is likely to be still less work as time goes on.

In the business world alone the invention of the calculator, addressograph and dictaphone have dispensed with large numbers of clerks, and the same sort of thing is happening throughout industry.

The workers displaced do not receive the wages of the machine—they have less money to spend, and so there is a decline in the demand for goods, leading to unemployment in other industries, and bankruptcies among business men.

The remedy is not to "make more work," a thing which no one in his senses would dream of doing, but to distribute the wages of the machine so that everyone will get the benefit of labour-saving devices. Let progress pay us all dividends.

One of the objects of the Over Thirty Association is, in its own words, "To secure public recognition of the need for securing to all an adequate standard of livelihood, whether in or out of employment."

It is encouraging to find the "right to live" recognised, although it does not come first on the list of the Association's aims.

How long will it be before the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness is also recognised?

When it is recognised it will be within our grasp.

WOMEN of the war generation, you can help us to bring life, liberty and happiness to all! Never mind if you are nearly forty, or have no money or feel you are not wanted. You are wanted here—to take your part in the greatest struggle for freedom in history.

Help us to get for every one their birth-right, the dividend that is due to every Briton, man or woman, as a shareholder in Great Britain, Ltd.

BOOKS

MONEY

"Where Does the Money Come From?" Pamphlet by the New Economic Group, Boston, Mass. Price 10 cents.

This pamphlet can be thoroughly recommended as an introduction to Social Credit financial technique, or in fact to any aspect of finance and economics. The pamphlet does not pretend to be more.

It contains a very good and concise description of the United States Banking System, and is a very useful pamphlet of reference for anyone who might write or speak on United States Banking. Other chapters deal with gold, foreign exchange and similar matters.

The pamphlet advocates a Government issue of credit to supplement Bank credit, but confines itself to saying there are several ways of doing this. H.R.P.

FLATS

FLATS.—Design and Equipment, by H. Ingham Ashworth, Pitman, 25s.

THIS book is written by a fully qualified architect, and is as full of useful information as the proverbial egg is of meat. It discusses flats and conversions of existing town and country houses in maximum detail, from buying a site down to refuse disposal; and it gives copious plans and photographs of British and Continental examples.

The chapter on "Economic and Financial Issues" is particularly interesting.

The book is technical and of the greatest use to architects, but the general public also will like to see and read it. A. WELFORD

FROTTI

has another interview with

GEOFFREY CROWTHER

(imminent economist of the Nose-Comical)

Geoffrey Crowther is Still Bumping Himself Out of Sloom

(News Chronicle, February 16)

GEOFFREY. "The alternative to the Defence Loan, as everybody knows, is increased taxation."

FROTTI. "But surely everybody knows there is a third course—I mean, the utilisation of the national cred—"

G. "If £400,000,000 more had to be raised in taxation in five years, nearly every form of tax and duty would have to be raised."

F. "Yes, I know—income, tea, beer, petrol imported eggs—horrid!"

G. "Would not these increased taxes, you might ask, hurt the little man much more than a loan for the same amount?"

F. "You certainly might ask that—but I don't see that it applies."

G. "I shall try to answer as simply as I can. The Government can borrow from the citizens and repay them in the future."

F. "Do you call the Bank of England a citizen, by the way?"

G. "But the community as a whole cannot borrow from its own future."

F. "What do you mean by that? When the Government borrows, the community has to pay it back."

G. "How can you borrow a 1957 model aeroplane?"

F. "Well, if it comes to that, how can you? But what has that to do with the way money is borrowed?"

G. "It is merely a choice between different methods of making the present pay."

F. "Look here, Geoffrey, in that case why worry about it? Let's give it up and go to the pictures."

G. "But that is not quite true. There is one profoundly important difference. When the Government raises a loan . . . the rise in prices puts almost the whole burden on the wage-earning and salaried classes."

F. "But higher taxation of every kind has the same effect and raises prices too—which, Lord Wardington says, is a sign of prosperity."

G. "The second reason also involves . . . explanation. Booms alternate with slumps. Both have their advantages and disadvantages."

F. "Are you suggesting now that slumps are a good thing?"

G. "In booms there is plenty of employment but the cost of living rises."

F. "Oh, dear!"

G. "In slumps living is cheap—but there is heavy unemployment."

F. "Good lord!"

G. "There is one important way in which the Government can help to moderate the excesses of boom and slump. In slumps . . . the Government should . . . borrow, in boom times . . . it should, if possible, pay off some of its debt."

F. "Where do you get all this?"

G. "Any economist will tell you that . . . it would have a much less disturbing effect on . . . honest business."

F. "You are having a very disturbing effect on me, so please go away, Geoffrey—but before you go, just explain one more thing to me. You have repeatedly stated that Government loans are raised from taxpayers, and loans and taxation come out of the same pockets. Now, I want to know when the Government is going to repay the National Debt it borrowed from me and the other taxpayers in the War. Dash it, I'm still paying interest on the blooming thing, and by rights I should be getting interest on it, not to mention repayment of the principal. Perhaps you will deal with this point in your next News Chronicle article and see if you cannot get a little of our money back for us."

Will advertisers please note that the latest time for accepting copy for this column is 12 noon Monday for Friday's issue.

Announcements & Meetings

Notices will be accepted in this column from affiliated Groups at 6d. a line, minimum three lines.

Bradford United Democrats. All enquiries welcome; also helpers wanted. Apply R. J. Northin, 7, Centre Street, Bradford.

Cardiff United Democrats. Meetings each Wednesday at 34, Charles Street, at 8 p.m.

Glasgow Douglas S.C. Group. A public meeting will be held in the Central Halls, 25, Bath Street, on Tuesday, March 2, at 8 p.m. Speaker: A. F. Stewart, Esq. Subject: "What is This 'Social Credit'?" Chairman: Dr. T. Robertson. Admission tickets 4d. each, obtainable from members. Bring a friend.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. A public meeting will be held in the Sandon Music Room, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 4. Mr. J. M. Brummitt will give an address on "Current Events." Admission free. Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre.

Northampton. Anyone in town or surrounding districts interested in the active side of Social Credit, please communicate with the local Secretary, 14, Victoria Road, Northampton, or 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

National Dividend Club. Electoral Campaign. Enquiries are invited and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary: Capt. T. H. Story, 28, Ashburnham Gardens, Upminster, Essex. At all meetings time is set aside for comments, discussion, questions and answers, for our mutual assistance in the Campaign. Whether yet members or not, all are welcomed.

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome.

Sutton Coldfield S.C. Group. Meeting in Co-op Hall, Parade, March 5, at 8 p.m. Speaker: L. D. Bryne, Esq.

Miscellaneous Notices

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What is it all about—this Social Credit? Leaflet entitled "Ask and It Shall Be Given You" explains briefly yet pithily. It is available at 4d. a dozen (or 2s. for 100; 8s. for 500; 15s. for 1,000) post free from SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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BANK'S COMIC SUPPLEMENT

A COMIC supplement has just been issued by the Bank of New South Wales. It is a reprint of the "evidence" submitted by that bank to the Commonwealth Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems which met last year.

There is a significant article by one Fisher, Professor of Economics in the University of Western Australia. Not even Frotti could have given the game away more completely, and we recommend this pamphlet for quotation purposes.

"Broadly speaking," says Professor Fisher, "the claim would appear to be justified" that economists no longer agree with Cannan and Leaf, who held to the hard and fast statement that "banks can lend no more than they borrow."

Leaf, as chairman of a joint-stock bank, made this flat assertion. Broadly speaking, the Professor proceeds to name half a dozen well-known men who now contradict it.

"Banks create money," says Hawtrey, and G. D. H. Cole, Hartley Withers, Harrod, Radice, Cassel, Davenport and von Mises are quoted in support.

So banks create money—there we have, chapter and verse, all the proof we need that most economists now agree with Major Douglas's contention, which in 1919 they flatly contradicted.

"It may be," says the Professor, "that Cannan and Leaf were somewhat rash and over-emphatic in appearing to represent the banks as merely passive intermediaries."

It may well be. He is very upset by the further suggestion, made by "incautious popular writers," that "it is unreasonable to charge interest on loans which are created out of nothing, and that the process is not only magical but fraudulent."

An old man of 65 was sent to prison for ten years the other day. This "crime" was forging and uttering Bank of England paper.

Perhaps his counsel would have got him off had he pleaded that the poor old man was, maybe, somewhat rash and over-emphatic in appearing to represent himself as merely a passive intermediary between the Bank and the public.

And perhaps not.

M.H.

Worried Herself Ill To Pay Debts

Blackburn Chief Constable told the magistrates recently that he was arranging for a woman to have a fortnight's holiday at the seaside. She was charged with attempted suicide, and it was stated that she was deserted by her husband in 1927; her daughter died, and two sons were in poor health; the weekly income for the three was 22s. 6d.; and she had worried herself ill through being unable to pay her debts.—"Daily Herald," February 2.

SOCIAL CREDIT ABROAD

Belgium, Stirred To Demand Results, Forms Secretariat

"DEMAND Results, Poverty Must Be Removed," is the title of an excellent article by C. Leblanc, published in *De Dag*, an Antwerp paper, with a daily certified circulation of 90,000.

M. Leblanc was replying to an article by Dr. Laureys, a leader of the Social Reformist Movement, which advocates nationalisation of the means of production.

Pointing out that Social Credit is more concerned to achieve the distribution of existing production than to raise production which is already highly successful, M. Leblanc says that such nationalisation of the means of production is only an administrative change.

What is required, he continues, is for the community to control financial policy, and for this to be effective a National Dividend must reach every individual, thus placing the worker in a position where he will be able to accept or refuse the conditions of employment offered, whether it be private or State employment.

Result That Matters

"Once the workers has reached the position where he cannot be exploited as a producer, and where he has control over industrial policy as a consumer, then in all probability the chief reasons advanced for nationalisation will have disappeared."

It matters little, says M. Leblanc, who produces, but a great deal that the result—the National Dividend—should be made available to all.

"Demand must start from the individual. Each individual gives, as it were, an order to the productive system by the purchase of goods. If the producer does not comply with this order, he will have to close his shutters, and this will only injure himself and not, as at present, the whole community. Under a Social Credit system, it matters little what amount may be in the hands of consumers; that amount will always be able to buy the whole of whatever goods are available for consumption.

Why Squabble?

"Douglas is bitterly opposed to all totalitarian forms of State, whether of right or left. He will have nothing to do with planned States, even of well-fed slaves, where each person is only a number; a State of army barracks. (And in Russia, Germany and Italy, incidentally, the slaves seem to be very badly fed.)

"WHY SQUABBLE OVER METHODS WHEN SO MANY AGREE THAT THE PARADOX OF POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY AND OF GOODS-DESTRUCTION CAN AND MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH?"

M. Leblanc urges voters to make a demand such as that printed on the back page of SOCIAL CREDIT, and the article concludes:

"It is not the job of the citizen to indicate methods. It is rather their duty to demand results. The Flemings of old were not men to mistake the moon for green cheese. I hope that this spirit still lives."

★

TEN days after the publication of M. Leblanc's article, with its appeal to all reformers to unite in a demand for results

rather than arguing over methods, a meeting was held which brought a Social Credit Secretariat for Belgium into being.

This Secretariat is intended to act as a centre of reference for all those interested in the Social Credit financial technique.

It will not take action itself but will encourage the formation of action groups among those who accept the Social Credit objective of freedom and plenty in security for all, and the formation of study groups for those wishing to understand the financial technique.

Party Dangers

The general secretary of the new Secretariat is M. C. de Wit, one of the best-known exponents of Social Credit in Belgium, and the address 28, Avenue Rubens, Antwerp.

The establishment of the Secretariat may scotch, for the time being, the danger of Social Credit being used as a party platform plank, or perhaps it would be more correct to say, as a rung in the careerists' ladder to political office. This danger will persist, however, until the proposed action groups have succeeded in arousing the people of Belgium to the need to demand the results they want.

THEY ASK TO BE A SPECIAL AREA

WITH half of its population of 15,000 unemployed and many empty shops in the town, Kildgrove (Staffs.) Urban District Council have appealed for Government assistance for industrial development.

A petition signed by 50,000 local people supported a deputation to Parliament to appeal for Kildgrove to be included under the scheme to relieve the "special" areas.

Poor souls! Petitions will not help them—nor will it help them to be called "special."

Let them wake up and demand what they want. There is a form on our back page which will unite them with all other "depressed people" in a virile demand in keeping with the spirit of the British nation.

Delegates to Scottish Women's section of the British Legion annual meeting were asked to try to create extra demand for the products of the Earl Haig factory in Edinburgh so that additional men could be employed.—"Glasgow Bulletin," February 1.

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No. 4 (revised)

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ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

- I know that there are goods in plenty and therefore that poverty is quite unnecessary.
- I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.
- I demand, too, that monetary or other effective claims to such products as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want of them.
- These distributions must not deprive owners of their property nor decrease its relative value, nor increase taxes or prices.
- In a democracy like Great Britain Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
- So I pledge myself to vote for any candidate who will undertake to support this my policy, and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law making before this.
- If the present Member of Parliament here won't undertake this, I will vote to defeat him and his successors until this, my policy, prevails.

Signed

Address

(Signatures will be treated confidentially.)

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(Confidential to Douglas Cadets only)

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