

Hard Labour Party

If you want to soak the rich see page 2 and wake up

SOCIAL CREDIT

For Political and Economic Democracy

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1937

Weekly Twopence

WHAT THE ARMS RACKET MEANS FOR YOU

Higher Prices For Essential Needs, "More Sacrifices"

Fifteen Hundred Million Pounds

THIS is the sum suggested for Defence. In providing it debt will increase, taxation will become more severe, there will be less security with less freedom for all.

Defence? Yes, this is important—but there is an even more important Defence Programme. Defence against the frightful results of the financial system which is rapidly driving the world insane.

PEOPLE must be made aware that the Social Credit Movement stands between them and disaster—and that it is undertaking the real programme of Defence for the country.

We must go forward with our great and responsible task and enlist all the help we can—both in effort and in money.

WE DO NOT NEED £1,500,000,000 TO ENSURE SUCCESS.

ALL WE WANT IS TO MAKE SURE OF A STEADY AND ADEQUATE REVENUE.

THE Group and General Revenue Plan has been generously supported, and large numbers have assessed themselves for the maximum they can afford. But the position is not yet entirely satisfactory.

We therefore urge all subscribers to maintain their payments regularly, for there has been a tendency to lag behind in many cases. And we urge those who are still standing out—and there must be a number—to come in and do their share along with their comrades.

Finally, we urge all to press on with the Public Revenue Scheme, whereby members and others can add small amounts to the fund by sticking stamps on the special cards provided. So far, the results of this scheme are disappointing. For other purposes, the scheme has yielded wonderful results. We seem to be missing an opportunity by not pushing it more thoroughly.

ALL WE ASK IS—PLEASE DO YOUR BEST.

THE moment is important. Our task is great. More and more service to the country is being demanded from us. And only you can ensure this being given.

Thank you.

Hewlett Johnson,
Director of Revenue.

J. E. Tuke, Treasurer.

THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT LTD.,
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BECAUSE PRODUCTION WAS RESTRICTED IN "SLUMP" YEARS

WHILE Money Conjuror Neville Chamberlain warns taxpayers to expect more sacrifices to pay for their defence against war, first effects of the gigantic arms programme seep through.

Said the Chancellor on Saturday in Edinburgh:

"The National Government has never hesitated to call on the taxpayers for sacrifices when they were necessary, and I am not saying that the taxpayers have come to the end of their sacrifices now."

With the issue yesterday of the Air Estimates, the total Defence Estimates for the financial year 1937-38 are brought up to £277,685,000.

At the same time the Sunday press was receiving news of increased prices of essential commodities "as a result of arms activity."

The British taxpayer, to be more heavily taxed to provide for his defence when the machines of production can supply adequately and quickly all his needs, is to be further penalised by high prices for personal needs.

Steel Prices Up

The price of steel is to be raised. That means dearer houses, dearer cars. Anything made with steel is to be dearer.

Because, when the market for steel was restricted by finance (by withholding from the steel manufacturers' market the means of purchase), the blast furnaces was closed down, or worked short time.

Today steel is needed in a hurry, so the needs of industries other than the arms indus-

try cannot be met quickly enough—although there is still no lack of materials or the means of production.

So prices must soar, building of steel-framed blocks of flats, hospitals, schools, must be held up.

Minister for Defence Sir Thomas Inskip himself admitted this while speaking in Newcastle on Saturday.

"Stop Building"

Said Sir Thomas: "At the present time when there is a shortage of materials and skilled labour, it would be no bad thing if some orders were postponed.

"I hope the whole community may be prepared to forgo the pleasure of seeing new buildings erected in order that the Government may not be handicapped in completing its programme."

Other increased prices will be in medicine (all glycerine will be "cornered" by the Government), in clothing (because orders for uniforms must be fulfilled first).

Money Aid Refused For Air Raid Defence

THE public will not only be hit by higher prices, more taxation, in this arms racket. Here is something more serious, endangering the lives of millions.

The Government are making no effort to provide money for air raid precaution schemes recommended by their expert advisers.

Local authorities, angry because they cannot get any money from the Government, threaten to boycott the schemes thus exposing their citizens to danger.

Last December, after these authorities had been gulled into believing they would receive adequate support from the Government, they requested, through their Association of Municipal Corporations, a guarantee of 100 per cent. of the cost from the Home Office.

The Home Office have not replied to the request.

Appeals Ignored

With each addition to the defence schemes the Association makes another application to the Home Office about payment. Up to now all its appeals have been ignored.

So, again, it's further taxes or no defence. What absurdity, when the labour, materials, means of production are at hand for immediate use.

Are the population of Britain to be exposed to perils of air attack because of lack of money tickets?

Douglas Tells Newcastle



"It is not the prime object of existence to find employment. I have no intention of being dogmatic as to what is the prime object of existence, but I am entirely confident that it is not comprised in the endless pursuit of turning this originally very beautiful world in which we live into slag-heaps, blast-furnaces, guns and battle-ships."

A report of his speech appears on page 5. It will be printed in full in the next Supplement on April 2.

Means Test Run Mad

HERE IS THE MOST DAMNING INDICTMENT FOR MONTHS OF THE PRESENT EVIL MONEY SYSTEM. IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK, MONDAY, MARCH 8.

Miners, many on crutches, some blind, all disabled, limped into Platt Bridge (Lancs.) Miners' Hall to draw their share of £20,000 compensation for which they had fought two years.

As they drew their money, Public Assistance officials demanded repayment of the money they had paid these crippled men during these two years of misery, semi-starvation.

Their tale of hardship started when two years ago Bamfurlong pit closed and stopped payment of compensation to those miners who had been injured. The Miners' Federation, for those two years fought a legal battle for them, secured an award of 19s. 2d. in the pound.

Three men refused to repay the Assistance officials. They are to be prosecuted.

One, Joseph Anders, who had not worked since 1931—six lean years of poverty because he could not work—received £116. The Assistance Committee claimed £115. Said he: "I will not pay until I have paid bills I owe tradesmen." He settled a grocery account for £44.

Figure out what happened. Because a redundant mine closed, coal production being sufficient to meet artificially restricted demand, miners first lose their means of livelihood, because they lose their jobs; second, having been disabled in the mine service are refused compensation for loss of earning power.

Public Assistance run by the Bank of England, via the Government, then keeps them just above starvation line, but with not enough money to buy the food they need. Result, tradesmen who would supply their needs suffer until the victimised miners get their just needs met.

This might happen to you. What a system! Will you continue to tolerate it? You can change it, via the Electoral Campaign (see back page, where there is a form for your signature).

In Debt for 30 Years Because of Gale Damage

RECENT gales have so damaged the harbour at Watchet, near Minehead, Somerset, that its inhabitants will be paying for repairs for the next 30 years.

"We shall have to shoulder a burden of from 1s. to 2s. in the pound on rates," said Mr. T. B. Peel, a member of the harbour committee yesterday.

The community have only just finished paying for damage to the harbour caused by storms in 1900.



COMMENTARY



Victory for Democracy

THE financial dictators of Australia have just had a severe reverse. In order to keep up prices at home in order that exports at below-cost prices might be made, or destruction sanctioned, elaborate marketing schemes were set up. The legality of these schemes was challenged by a South Australian merchant, and the Privy Council found them to be invalid under the Constitution.

The Federal Government thereupon introduced a referendum to amend the Constitution so that these marketing schemes could be carried through, but the result was a bad beating for the Government. But the Australian people must retain their vigilance, for already the Government is trying to find a way round the adverse decision and force or trick the people to its will and to those of its masters, for, as *The Times* has said:

"Whatever were the reasons for the vote it seems that it will hasten the overhaul of the machinery for amending the Constitution, which under the present system cannot readily be adapted to changing physical and social conditions."

No wonder Federal Prime Minister Lyons was moved to declare: "The referendum results reveal an amazing anti-Federal spirit among the people."

Frustration

IT is quite a change to see Members of Parliament taking their jobs seriously. They have for so long sat meekly under the humiliation meted out to them by the Cabinet that one had begun to despair for British spirit.

When Mr. Foot moved some weeks ago that the power of the Executive was increasing and ought to be diminished, the House was counted out while he was still making the opening speech.

Enraged at the effrontery of the Cabinet in putting forward the whole of the Special Area proposals under a single money resolution, thus stifling all possibility of amendment, private members and the opposition raised strong protest on Monday, but were overruled.

They vented their spleen by shouting down the Minister of Labour when he rose on Tuesday to move the offending resolution.

Nevertheless, they are quite powerless. They will continue to do as the Whips tell them until a more powerful voice than the Whips' is raised to cry them on. The voice of the people.

"Ramsay" Blum ?

LATEST reports from France indicate that the crisis which faced the government has probably been overcome for the moment. But at what cost?

Premier Blum has been forced to call a halt to his promised reforms and to appoint a committee of four bankers' nominees—MM. Rist, Labeyrie, Baudouin and Rueff—to manage the Exchange Equalisation Fund.

The controllers of this fund hold a key position for, if they wish, they can precipitate a crisis at any time. M. Blum and his ministers thus nominally rule France only for so long as these gentlemen consider it politic to allow them to do so.

M. Blum's position during the recent crisis was reminiscent of that of Ramsay MacDonald in the crisis of 1931 in Great Britain. Both crises were created by finance to enforce its policy. In Great Britain, Ramsay MacDonald was used to put over most repressive legislation, and afterwards was discarded when the people realised that he had betrayed them.

M. Blum seems to be taking the same road, and when, either through repressive legislation—to "save the franc" (or what have you?) or the failure of his reforms to benefit the workers, he loses his popularity, he too will be discarded. At present he has a great popular following and so can probably still be useful to finance.

Jeopardising Defence

BANK of England policy imposed on this country after the last war, forced many industries to close down and much plant and machinery was scrapped. The iron and steel industry was one of those most severely "rationalised," and so today the rearmament programme is being held up for lack of supplies.

The country is faced with the necessity of either increasing its productive capacity or encouraging the import of supplies from abroad. Of these alternatives the first is obviously the right one, for imported supplies might be cut off in time of war.

The second alternative is the choice of the Government, and the Treasury has removed the duty on imported pig-iron, and halved that on iron and steel products. This decision to import rather than increase productive capacity, a decision which will cost us dear if there be another war, is yet one more evil springing from the financial dictatorship that forced the ruthless scrapping of plant in the past.

Plant had to be scrapped, not because there was no demand for what it could produce, but because people lacked the money to make demand effective. It is assumed that similar conditions will return when the rearmament programme is completed, and that if additional plant is erected it will then have to be scrapped. For this reason the defence of the country is to be jeopardised.

This choice of evils is entirely unnecessary. Given National Dividends, the iron and steel industry would be fully employed when rearmament is completed, in supplying the materials needed to make this country fit to live in.

Film Finance

IN a report just published by the Film Council, the true story is related of how the film industry is controlled by Finance. Mr. John Grierson, the well-known producer, says "It is not unusual for producers and distributors to be kicking their heels because financiers are too busy manipulating their shares."

"The creative worker lives in such uncertainty from day to day or from picture to picture that in final cynicism he, as often as not, joins the throng and with his financial masters maintains the principle of getting his while the getting's good. This perhaps will explain the uncreative presence of so many creative men in the wilderness of films."

It is not only in films, of course, that industry is sacrificed to Money, but because the Cinema is an immense instrument of power, this particular case has a special significance. We seem to be following in the path of America, where speculators were gradually weeded out and true showmen, such as William Fox, ruthlessly crushed.

At the present moment the whole of the American film industry is controlled by the Morgan and Rockefeller interests. Tomorrow our own may be controlled by the same two giant financial powers.

King Montagu

THE launch of the cruiser "Liverpool," important enough in itself by reason of the fact that it is the shipyard's first launch in twelve months, assumes a new importance.

Mrs. Montagu C. Norman, wife of the Governor of the Bank of England, has intimated her willingness to name the speedily built war vessel. High hopes are entertained that the Rt. Hon. Montagu Collet Norman may also attend the launch.

Thus the *Evening News* of March 3 indicates that Britain's ruling house is taking an interest in the rearmament programme, which its policy has made so urgently necessary.

Since the power of the throne has now been transferred to that international institution known by the misleading title of the Bank of England, it is doubtless fitting that the wife of its nominal head should play the part of Royal Consort, and that Montagu Norman himself should flatter the people assembled for the launch by a personal appearance.

Hard-Labour Party's Five-Year Plan of Toil for All

THE Labour Party has disclosed its ideas of what is good for people in the form of a Five-Year Plan. It thus qualifies for the nickname in history of the Hard-Labour Party.

They propose to meddle with the technicalities of finance.

"No nation can plan its economic life unless it can control both its finance and its financiers.

"The Bank of England, like the central Bank in most other countries, will become a public institution. It will be administered by practical and experienced men under the general direction of the Government.

"Through the Bank of England credit will be controlled in the interests of trade and employment."

The idea is to put the people to work. Do them good!

As for nationalising the Bank—"I welcome it," says Mr. Montagu Norman.

"New investment will also be controlled through a National Investment Board, whose duty will be to mobilise our financial resources, to guide them into the right channels, and to advise the Government on a financial plan for the full employment of our people."

Just in case anyone misses the point, they want to put the people to work—for their own good, of course.

"Large schemes of public development, including housing, electrification, transport

and the extraction of oil from coal, will be carried out.

"There will be no return to the gold standard. Every effort will be made to ensure the greatest possible stability of trade and employment."

That is to say, having got the people to work they intend to keep them at it—it does them good and keeps them quiet.

"Taxation will be used to secure a better distribution of wealth and purchasing power, and to provide funds for the extension of the social services."

In other words, soak the rich, it does them good, but don't give the money to the poor, give them work, it does them good.

"Competition in transport, especially between private undertakings, is wasteful, inefficient and dangerous.

"A National Transport Board will therefore be set up to co-ordinate transport by road, rail, air, and coastwise shipping, and to own and operate the railways and such other transport services as are suitable for transfer to public ownership."

Like the London Passenger Transport Board, only bigger. Sounds just like the P.E.P.

"Labour will encourage scientific research. It will not allow new inventions to be frustrated by private interests. Where scientific discovery creates the possibility of a new industry, Labour will, if the national interest

demands it, finance and develop such an industry as a public enterprise."

This is a curious statement to have strayed into this programme of work for work's sake, especially considering that Labour, it is stated "will launch a determined attack on insecurity due to fear of unemployment and loss of livelihood by adopting vigorous measures to increase employment and concentrating the available work on those best fitted to perform it."

Machinery is so efficient. It is best fitted to perform more and more of the available work. Dilemma.

This is what Labour thinks about coal. "The coal industry is in the hands of a swarm of private owners. Many Commissions of Inquiry have shown that its management is hopelessly inefficient. The miner risks his life for a sweated wage. The retail price of coal is grossly swollen by middlemen's profits. The extraction of oil and other valuable by-products from coal has been neglected.

"The coal industry, including coal treatment and marketing, will therefore be unified under public ownership."

Sounds just like P.E.P. And P.E.P. looks like getting there first.

There is a piece about leisure. The Labour Party's idea of leisure is a forty-hour working week, and a statutory holiday with pay.

That way everybody can be kept with the nose to the grindstone. It is tidy—and it's good for them:

There is No Cure Save War

HENRY A. WALLACE, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, "and one of the big brains who figured out the payments to the farmers for the ploughing under of their wheat," declared in New York on February 3, reports the *Montreal Witness*, that even the top of an industrial boom within the next two or three years would still leave perhaps four million unemployed.

There is no cure for unemployment except war, which is the logical extension of the fight for export markets to keep people employed. In peace-time, each industrialised country must increase its exports constantly. It must try to keep up with an ever-increasing power to produce, side by side with an ever-decreasing power to consume, due to the fact that as productive efficiency grows, so the demand for labour shrinks.

The whole purpose of labour-saving machinery is to save labour. To fight against unemployment is to fight against the machine. Why not work with it by paying out the wages of the machine as National Dividends?

The choice before the world today is National Dividends or War.

New Terms For Political Realists

II.—BASHIFIST

BASHIFIST, a contraction of basho-pacifist, meaning one who believes that the way to obtain 'peace on earth' is to 'bash' everybody into docility.

In particular, these people believe that to overcome an already sufficiently powerful tyranny you should erect a bigger one, and that if you have a lot of rotten beams and crumbling bricks you build them into a nice safe house before they fall to pieces. This is called Collective Security!

Bashifism is inextricably linked with the Great World Problem Mentality, the idea being that when you are faced with a local problem, e.g., a hole in the road, or a lot of surplus food and empty bellies, you cannot do anything about it until unanimous agreement has been reached by 65 nations at Geneva.

Oddly enough, bashifists are nearly always professed advocates of 'turning the other cheek' and 'doing injury to no man.' Bashifist bishops are almost the rule. Such people sincerely desire peace, and are ready to go to almost any lengths to get it, even to *bashification* with bombs labelled "a present from Geneva." The only thing they draw the line at is the establishment of peace in the economic field by the only conceivable method, namely, by letting everyone have enough to live on happily, no matter whether the man or the machine does the work.

There is only one thing more terrifying than War to the bashifist, and that is freedom.

Next week—Conlaboral.

C.G.D.



THE FIG TREE

A quarterly review edited by Major C. H. DOUGLAS

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TOP OF THIS PAGE IS FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Palmer Says: Equality in Industry Will Not Help Women Workers

WRITING in the 1936 winter number of *Service*, Beverley Nichols asks:

"Does the average humane Englishman know these facts:

1. That the last Factory Act was in 1901 and that juveniles still come under that?
2. That many children are still working 12 hours a day in factories?
3. That the accident rate of employed children is actually increasing at an alarming rate? In 1928 the accident risk among young persons exceeded that among grown-ups by only 3 per cent.; in 1935 the figure has risen to 22 per cent.

Do you think these figures dull? I hope not. To me they are tragic. Particularly terrible is the statement of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops to the effect that "by far the greater proportion of accidents among juveniles occurs at the end of the day, when the children are tired." Think that out!

It is more than thirty-six years since Parliament gave any attention to factory legislation. Meanwhile, working conditions have been regulated by trade union agreement, or by means of strikes. The wonderful achievements of the first part of this century have not resulted in greatly increased leisure and higher wages for factory workers.

The new Bill was issued at the beginning of February, and a poor, weak thing it is. It makes a number of small changes, but avoids all big questions. Regulations concerning the prevention of accidents, and certain provisions for safeguarding the health of the workers are insisted upon, but there is no provision for holidays with pay. Men's working hours are still unrestricted, but if the Bill becomes law women and children

will be forbidden to work more than forty-eight hours in a week.

What is the use of passing an Act to raise the school-leaving age to 15 if children are still admitted to factories when only 14 years old?

What do women think about this? There are a large number of them now in industry and the Bill concerns them quite as much as men.

The Open Door Council have published a short pamphlet entitled "Women's Ninety-three Years Minority in Industry."

They point out that if this Bill becomes law a grave injustice will be done to women. The average citizen may think that women are being "protected" when their working week is limited to forty-eight hours, and they are forbidden to take part in certain industrial processes.

But in practice this "protection" results in women being made the blacklegs of industry. They are classed with children and young persons, paid a lower wage, and so undercut men in the labour market.

The Open Door Council maintain that protective regulations should be based on the nature of the work, and not on sex. Women should be admitted to industry on the same terms as men. They claim that the removal of the sex disability will improve conditions for all workers, men, children and women.

Of course, all this is true, but it leaves the most important factors out of the question.

The members of the Open Door Council are feminists. I am one myself. But perhaps they are a little blinded by their feminism, so that it seems to them particularly unjust that women should be exploited on account of their sex.

What they fail to realise is that the indivi-

dual is exploited in almost every occupation, apart from sex and age.

They are exploited by the insane system which puts pieces of paper and figures in a book before human happiness.

Put women on an equality with men in industry. Will that prevent the young from ousting the old, the lower-paid grades from displacing those whose money should be more?

Women would no longer be exploited as a sex, but under present conditions there would still be more people than jobs, and a mad scramble to get them.

The need for the Over Thirty Association is a case in point. This has been formed to help older women who have lost their jobs, not because they could not compete with men, but because their places were given to young girls.

A women teacher of my acquaintance, through misfortune lost her post in a secondary school. She had nine years' experience. She has been out of work for two years. Education Committees prefer a young woman with not more than two years' experience, and a low salary.

So women compete with women. To remove sex disability will do very little to solve the problem.

The Open Door Council quote these words, spoken by Mr. J. R. Clynes:

"The condition which distinguishes a free

man from a slave is the right of the free man to sell or withdraw his labour as he may choose."

The people have never been free in this sense, neither man nor woman.

How can they "refuse to sell their labour" when they have no other means of support?

But National Dividends would give them the power to refuse work which was undesirable or degrading: it would solve the problem of sex rivalry, and keep the children of fourteen out of the factories.

There would be no need for a Factory Bill then. Insanitary factories would have to close down, for lack of workers!

Let the "average humane Englishman" (and woman) think on these things and demand a National Dividend for each and all, man, woman or child.

ALL women readers who are members of any union or association, and who wish to help in the fight for National Dividends, are asked to write to X.R., 163A Strand, W.C.2.

The Earl of Tankerville Tells More About Sweden

THE article which appeared in SOCIAL CREDIT of February 19 was no doubt intended to show that, no matter how ideal may be the state of affairs in any one country as compared with others less fortunate, no real prosperity can survive for long under the present system of "Scarcity Finance"—and with this contention I entirely agree.

Nevertheless, the picture of Sweden, which that article presents, even though it is based upon the report of a Swedish Committee, will seem very misleading to anyone who has visited and observed conditions as they actually are over there. The omission of a number of facts which are, of course, a matter of common knowledge to Swedes, but which are not realised by most people in England, is also rather misleading.

It should be borne in mind that the report of the Swedish committee of investigation, which forms the basis of the articles in *The Times* and in SOCIAL CREDIT, is compiled by Swedes and is relative to the Swedish standard of living which is far higher than ours in England. In Sweden, they are not prepared to come down to domestic conditions such as are put up with by a suffering majority in this country.

Moreover, as the Swedish Member of Parliament is generally, if not always, elected as a representative of the district in which he resides, and as Proportional Representation is the electoral method, the member is far more under the direct control of his constituents.

AS regards the statement that "the average income of each Swedish wage-earner is £85 a year," . . . etc., etc.; this is misleading, because among the agricultural workers—and these comprise 35 per cent. of the Swedish population as compared with only 3 per cent. in England and Scotland—a considerable proportion of their earnings, though not classified as such, is often in kind, and is in addition to the cash wages mentioned in the report. Furthermore, the Swedish rural housewife has available, and makes great use of, many natural resources which she gets over and above any earnings of either cash or goods.

Owing to fears as to the advisability or

safety of spending their summer holidays in what used to be the more customary places abroad, many British people have been visiting Sweden during the past three or four years, and such of these as I have met have seemed, without exception, to have been struck with the outstandingly happy conditions they found there. To those who have actually seen those conditions, the question very naturally occurs: "Why should not we in England have not only as good but far better a standard of living, seeing that our resources are so many times greater than those of Sweden?" Perhaps this may provide some clue to *The Times'* recent attitude!

As to the reason why Sweden is working so much harder than she need, she is under no illusion as to the instability and probable very short duration of the present armaments race, and is therefore taking the opportunity of building up as much foreign credit as she can, since she is so largely dependent on imports for her food and many other equally essential supplies.

AS to the actual conditions in Sweden, here are a few examples at random:—

There is in Sweden nothing of what we in England mean by the word "Poverty." There is certainly no destitution.

There are no slums, and one never sees

	Great Britain.	Sweden.
Population	about 44.5 millions	about 6.25 millions
Debt	about £7,916.4 millions	about £128.3 millions
Debt per head	about £178	about £20.5
Tax per head	about £17 p.a.	about £8.7 per ann.
Cost of Debt (1935/6) per head	just over £5	just under £1
Proportion of Debt Service and Management to total Revenue	about 30 per cent.	about 11 per cent.

anyone looking half-starved as over here.

The sick, the aged, and the genuinely needy are cared for—and cared for extremely well, too—by the State, not as a charity, but as a right.

The workers' "tenements" (so-called by *The Times*) are all centrally-heated and have electric light and telephone. These things are always taken for granted in Sweden.

At the most expensive hotel in Stockholm—a hotel which is well known for its

300,000 Mothers Demand Cheaper Milk

THREE hundred thousand mothers in five thousand villages of England and Wales sent a deputation to the Minister of Health last week to plead for cheaper milk for expectant mothers and children under school age.

Under Milk Board operations the price of milk in the places where it is produced has risen beyond villagers' means.

The mothers recalled that the Ministry's advisory committee on nutrition had recommended that everybody should drink a pint of milk a day, children between one and two pints, nursing mothers at least a quart.

Replied Sir Kingsley: "In many districts, including the necessitous areas, local authorities would, if Par-

liament approved the proposals now before it, have increased resources after April next to provide milk free of charge or at reduced rates for mothers and young children, as well as school children."

The special problem facing mothers in rural districts, which was the chief reason for the deputation's visit, was ignored.

extremely high standard and for the beauty of its situation—one can actually get an excellent fixed-price light lunch for about eighteen pence. (When in Stockholm, I myself frequently take this lunch there.)

In one of the British geographical magazines of a few years ago, a writer described Sweden as "the country of the happy children." This is certainly true; so that, whatever may be the facts as to birth-control, children in Sweden are at any rate not brought into the world to suffer the horrors of dirt, squalor, disease, and semi-starvation, which is the lot of so many tens of thousands of our little ones in Britain.

THE comparative figures below provide, I think, a considerable part of the reason why the mass of the population enjoys such strikingly better living conditions in Sweden than in England.

A Nice Cup of Coffee

SXTEEN million of the twenty-two million bags of coffee produced in Brazil every year are exported. The other six million make up the "sacrifice quota" which all producers are obliged to surrender to The National Coffee Department.

This coffee is destroyed!

SOCIAL CREDIT IN THE NURSERY

"MONTY Banker, do be franker, How does your money grow?" "With lending and buying, And discreet lying, And figures all in a row."

"Neville Monty, Tweedle-tum-tee, How does your power grow?" "Midst plenty make scarcity, Money a rarity, And Borrowers all in a row."

"Douglas, Douglas, wise and wary, How do high prices grow?" "With A costs, plus B costs, Ebbing and flowing, And customers all in a row."

"Workless wage slaves, hungry and weary, Why are you patient so?" "Your claim should be Dividend, Just Price, and everything That civic power and justice bestow."

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does real culture grow?" "With Freedom and Leisure, Knowledge as treasure, And true Fellowship; now you know."

FROM the above, it will be seen that the disease of "Sound" Finance has not yet reached anything like such an advanced stage in Sweden as in England, and consequently it has been, up to the present, extremely difficult to get Swedes to turn serious attention to the cancer which is eating its way into their still-happy land, or to realise the even better standard of living, and/or the increased leisure, which they might enjoy were they to free themselves from it.

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G. W. L. DAY debunks —

THE NEW GOSPEL OF TOIL

The Malignant Sponge

WE may see taxing against social evils rather than for revenue, says the financial editor of the *Evening Standard*, and concludes an ominous article on the subject with what seems likely to be a deadly accurate prophecy. It is possible, he says, that through taxation the whole face of the country can be changed more rapidly and to a greater extent than by any legislation framed for any single purpose. It is indeed possible. There is no weapon in the hands of our modern ruthless pseudo-democratic rulers which can be used to more devastating effect. The influence of the horse-power tax on the design and development of British cars shows what a tax can do to distort a thing of iron and steel. Human beings are more malleable.

DIFFERENTIAL taxation is a subtle instrument of government whose danger lies as much in the ignorance of its victims, as in the distortion of truth it represents. The financial system should make it as easy as possible to buy what industry can produce. Differential taxation deliberately impedes the freedom of choice of consumers.

Yet Mr. Alexander in his article suggests there are occasions when it is desirable to tax articles not merely for what they will produce in the form of taxation, but for the effects of taxation on social conditions or on the balance of payments. He suggests, for instance, that although tobacco taxation already produces a huge revenue, the Chancellor might say that in his view the total imports of the ingredients were too heavy in certain conditions and that he desires that if the money should be exported at all it should go out for the purposes of bringing in steel or oil or some other article which is regarded as essential for the immediate purposes of the nation. Guns instead of cigarettes, in short. It would scarcely do to mention butter!

BRITISH public finance has always paid at least lip service to the cardinal rule that taxation should be directed solely to securing revenue, and not to some ulterior purpose. None the less, as Mr. Alexander's article portends, we may see this influence operating openly. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, but the poor harried British taxpayer has not got eyes in the back of his head, so the Philistines are upon him, and they are insatiable. Indeed the Chancellor's main task nowadays, as Mr. Alexander says, is to follow the money round and when he sees anyone becoming overwhelmingly prosperous—like, say, the co-operative stores—he must find some form of impost which will bring them down more nearly to the level of ordinary mortals.

THE touch about the co-ops is delicious. Makes it more palatable to his readers, who are mostly indifferent or antagonistic to the suggested victim. This is one of the recognised dodges to obtain acceptance of an unpalatable proposition, and is in striking contrast with the unvarnished and uncompromising statement on this subject in the Social Credit Secretariat's statement of policy, which advocates "The separation of the Governmental or moral system from the economic system. This involves the abolition of differential taxation, e.g., beer taxes." It would be so easy to say, e.g., entertainment taxes and obtain facile applause. But all differential taxation is of the devil.

HAVING said something about Soviet Russia, let me say a few kind words about Nazi Germany. Once again there is a sharp conflict of views on the subject. In Germany there is State Socialism, yet, strange to relate, the Socialists in this country look down their noses when you mention Hitler. Conservative Members of Parliament return home from conducted tours in Germany full of praise and thanksgiving. Yet many a German citizen, not suspected of being certifiable, seems only too glad to escape from the country. Evidently it is not quite so pleasant for the resident as for the sightseer.

GERMANY today presents a spectacle of a nation of helots. To a visitor this is edifying. Besides rearmament, there is a vast programme of public works. How much better, says the visitor, that Germany should be constructing roads, railways, reservoirs, and so on, instead of standing idle. It may be so, but there is a catch in it. Egypt built the Pyramids, but where is Egypt now? Nazi Germany has a new Gospel of Work, the essence of which is set forth in two articles called "Work, Our Right and Our Duty," by Professor B, in the Bulletin of the Hamburg World Economic Archives for October 1 and 15, 1936. The writer quotes two Articles of the programme of the N.S.D.A.P. Article 7 declares "We demand that the State shall undertake, first and foremost, to provide for her citizens possibilities of subsistence and of living (through work)." The most important task of the individual, says Professor B, is to contribute his work as a living efficiency factor to the community and co-operate in the tasks that have been set the nation. (Who has set them?) Each citizen who is able to work must place himself at the disposal of the material tasks of the people. This duty to work is

now for the first time in the history of mankind not only demanded as a moral fundamental duty, but actually realised. It is work and its accomplishment for the nation which gives the life of the individual its purport and its ethical foundation.

Article 10 goes a step nearer the ant-heap. It says, "The first duty of each citizen must be to create either intellectually or bodily." Right to work and duty to work, says the writer, mutually involve each other; it is only in both that the moral task of man fulfils itself within the community of the nation. He goes on to say, "Right to work and the duty to work having thus been proclaimed as the most important foundations of the life of the individual and of the nation in its entirety, the State that made such demands of its nationals must necessarily give work and the position of the worker among the people quite a new moral foundation as compared with his former position that was independent of any ethical standpoint. . . . In this way work was assigned a dignity and a value that raised it far above its former capacity."

To Multiply Toil

THIS is pretty strong language and its meaning is quite clear. Whereas previously work was regarded as a means to an end—just as building a house is a means towards warmth and comfort of a winter's night—it is now regarded as an end in itself, the purpose for which man was born on this earth.

All the blah about ethics is sugar-coating for the pills which the Germans are being asked to swallow. You might as well tell homeless builders that the great thing is to go on laying bricks all night instead of getting a roof above their heads. In his second article Professor B describes with National Socialistic zeal the various tyrannical measures which have been passed in Germany to increase and multiply toil among the people.

Young Germans are conscripted to labour service, and soon there will be a women's compulsory labour service to prepare them for their duties as women and mothers. Labour can be switched about where and when required. Capital can be mobilised by the Government. Workers are selected and graded by bodies of experts, and unemployment is treated as a disease. Not only is present unemployment to be liquidated by force, but new unemployment is to be nipped in the bud. The freeing of men by machines is to be limited to the unavoidable minimum. There are bans on the investment of capital in certain industries, and also control of new technical improvements in industry for fear of unemployment.

What We Want ?

THIS, I think, is enough to show which way the wind is blowing in Germany. Clairvoyants who profess to be able to see across a few hundreds of millions of miles say that there is a very low, quasi-human civilisation on Mars of extremely efficient workers. Hence the Martian canals. Without offering any opinion on the possibilities of inter-planetary clairvoyance, I believe we shall soon be having a civilisation much like this one described here on earth.

A machine-like precision and organisation of industry has nothing to do with human progress. If it had, why didn't Christ say something about it? He said nothing about the right or the duty to work. In fact, so conspicuously did He avoid the subject that the Nazis have been put to the trouble of retranslating the Gospels. If it came to a choice between the Gospel according to St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, or St. John, and the Gospel according to Hitler, I think I should choose the first. The Gospels that I know don't recommend any specious immolation in the interests of the State. They declare that each man should decide upon his own policy in matters where he is concerned. The Nazis, on the contrary, say that the State should decide upon his policy. And the State begins by dictating a policy of work.

Access To Plenty

BY "policy" I mean simply what a person or persons want. The end is the result that they want, not the method of getting it. Now, is industrial work the thing above all others that we all really want? I have heard people say that work is certainly the thing that the Germans want because it is in their nature. But with this I don't agree. The Germans are a highly impressionable people and will readily follow a strong lead. It has been powerfully suggested to them that it is work they want, and they have yielded to the suggestion.

In this country, too, it is being suggested to us, and in the years to come it will be suggested more and more strongly. Do we really want anything like Naziism or Sovietism? Do we want to be helots? I can't believe that we do. What we do want is access to all the things that the energy of man or machine can produce. The less obligatory toil for men the better—the machine can tackle that burden.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT.
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Y^E BANKER OI, Oyez, SIRE, YOU MUST NOT CREATE MONEY.

KING. Why not ?

BANKER. THAT, SIRE, WOULD BE INFLATION. NEIN, I WILL CREATE THE MONEY AND LEND IT TO YOU.

KING. Isn't that INFLATION ?

BANKER. NEIN, NEIN. THAT IS SOUND FINANCE

* If we look the truth in the face we must say that England has gone in for a pure inflation policy.—Professor Gustav Cassel.*

DOUGLAS TELLS NEWCASTLE

"You Don't Have To Build A Warship To Get A Loaf Of Bread"

AN attentive and enthusiastic audience in the Newcastle City Hall, presided over by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Tankerville, heard Major C. H. Douglas deliver a closely-reasoned speech on Tuesday.

Security—institutional and personal—was his subject, and in his opening remarks the Earl of Tankerville stressed the increasing insecurity of life in these days of increasing unrest, increasing taxation in different forms upon all sections of the community, and other unnecessary personal sacrifices.

We are now, he continued, probably in the birth pangs of a new era—a battle is in progress between warm-blooded, sentient, human beings, and cold, inhuman, and unfeeling institutions.

"If you can come to understand, in realistic perspective, your relationship to these excellent 'servants' but terrible 'masters,' and will therefore take such *action* as will effectively put them under your command, then shall we indeed have entered upon that new and happier era of Freedom-in-Security-for-the-Individual which is now struggling to be born."

"It was the simplest things," Major Douglas began, "which were always the most profoundly misunderstood, and the average individual was most difficult to convince of any error in his belief about simple things."

An example of this was the persecution of Galileo for maintaining that the earth revolves round the sun when everybody believed the contrary.

The first of these simple matters—the difference between policy and administration—was illustrated by a man standing on the platform of Newcastle Central Station. It was obviously of primary importance whether he decided to go to Edinburgh or Darlington.

"The question as to whether he goes by a fast or a slow train, whether he finds that the railway is well or badly operated, or whether he decides finally to go by motor-car is of secondary importance to the question of his making up his mind where he wants to go."

Yet in all current discussions which are allowed publicity, every effort was made to concentrate attention upon questions of *administration* (on how to make the railway in the illustration better, or to improve the road or the motor-car) while we were having a *policy* imposed upon us. This policy, practically identical everywhere, whether in Russia, Italy, or Germany, was the gospel of work.

"It is not the prime object of existence to find employment. I have no intention of being dogmatic as to what is the prime object of existence, but I am entirely confident that it is not comprised in the endless pursuit of turning this originally very beautiful world in which we live into slag-heaps, blast-furnaces, guns and battle-ships."

World Dilemma

The extreme simplicity of the world dilemma became evident at just this point. That some of us might "earn a living" by building a battleship did not in itself mean we could not live much better, more comfortably and safely if the battleships were not built.

The fact that financial policy had made war nearly inevitable and rearmament necessary did not affect the point, which was that there is no law of nature which says that you cannot get the amenities of life unless you build a battleship.

Yet rearmament was being accompanied by a so-called revival of prosperity, and our rulers were already considering methods of keeping us busy when, if ever, we had enough battleships.

"Now if you were to say to an intelligent child that the objective of the average human being was to live in a pleasant house, have sufficient to eat, and to be well-clothed, I think that child would say at once that what you ought to do was to build sufficient pleasant houses, grow sufficient food, and weave whatever clothes you require, and then stop, and enjoy yourself."

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The economist could not imagine a state of affairs in which, if you want something, you proceed to make it, his idea being that if you wanted a loaf of bread you must obtain employment making radio-sets, or machine-guns, or something else.

"Once again, do not misunderstand me; I am not saying that you should not make radio-sets, or machine-guns. What I mean is that it is not fundamentally necessary to make radio-sets or machine-guns in order to obtain a loaf of bread."

It was assumed, however, and never argued about in official circles, that without full employment it was impossible for the population of the country to be fully supported in food, shelter, and clothing, and that it was better to have full employment making poison gas, than any unemployment.

Simple Answer

"May I ask you to divest your minds as far as possible of every political preoccupation, and to consider whether the fundamental policy of Fascist Italy, so-called Communist Russia, the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, is not identical, and that it is (by varying methods, but with identical objectives) to force people to subordinate themselves, for a number of hours per day greatly in excess of those really necessary, to a work system?"

"I can imagine that you will say, 'How is it possible to obtain correct action in regard to this problem until a very large proportion of the people concerned understand what the problem is?' Well, the answer to that is really very simple too."

"If you could only persuade people to ask for what they want, instead of for some method through which they think that what they want can be given to them, the problem would be half solved already."

At the present time the affairs of practically every country were at the mercy of a small group of people who knew exactly what they wanted, and manipulated much larger groups that did not know what they wanted, but thought they knew how to get it.

The working-man of this country had been taught by propaganda of all kinds that it was a meritorious thing for him to ask for work, but a contemptible thing to ask for money.

Utopianism

"Please do not, once again, think I am suggesting that there is anything virtuous about laziness. Far from it. There is nothing specially virtuous about work either."

The method which was followed to ensure that the people should not get what they want was to divide up the population into warring sects, each of which imagined that it had a complete set of blue-prints for the construction of an immediate Utopia. Since practically all these Utopias were schemes for penalising somebody else, you had only to adopt each in turn to reduce everyone eventually to a dead level of slavery.

"I can imagine quite a number of people in this audience saying that I am one of those people who has a complete set of blue-prints for the construction of a Utopia, and, therefore, perhaps you will allow me to explain exactly why I should not agree to that charge."

"I have no views whatever as to how my neighbour should spend his time, so long as his method of spending it does not infringe upon my own liberties."

"The technical proposals which I have put forward from time to time may be considered to differ from, let us say, the well-known beliefs of Utopianism, such as Fascism, Communism, State-Socialism, and so-forth, in that, so far from exerting further

compulsion upon individuals in order that they may conform to some machine-made conception of a perfect state, I should like by the simplest possible methods, to provide people with the means of making their own individual lives approximate to their own ideas, and not to mine."

To Security

The first step towards the security of the individual, said Major Douglas, was to insist upon the security of the individual, not the security of any institution. Institutions were means to an end, and the elevation of means into ends, of institutions above humanity, was an unforgivable sin, involving the most tremendous penalties.

"Governments are your property, and you are not the property of Governments. There is no more pernicious and blasphemous nonsense existent in the world today than the statement which has been incorporated in the constitution of the modern dictatorships, which claims that the State (by which is indicated the Government) is everything, and the individual is nothing. On the contrary, the individual is everything and the State is a mere convenience to enable him to co-operate for his own advantage."

The primary use of a Government in a sane world would be to secure the greatest common measure of the will of the population from whom it derived or ought to derive its authority, which was for enough money for decent sustenance.

There was only one policy which would obtain the unquestioned acceptance of everyone for himself, and that was comprised in the word "freedom." And it was exactly that policy which required to be made universal. The oligarchy which rules was, of course, favourable to freedom for its own members, but implacably opposed to freedom for the general public.

Key To Freedom

The key to economic freedom was the command of money, and differential and arbitrary taxation was the greatest enemy of freedom which the legislative authority had at its disposal; and it certainly used it.

"Taxation is a negative dividend. There is a short cut, straight and simple from the present system of modified slavery to one of comfort, security, and freedom, and that is the abolition of a negative dividend, and the substitution of a positive dividend."

The existing taxation system was completely unnecessary, wasteful, irritating, and predatory, and instead it would be possible to issue a dividend to every man, woman, and child, in this country without depriving

any individual, but, on the other hand, increasing the privileges of everybody. Such a policy *would* deprive certain individuals of unjustifiable and anti-social power over others; since, unfortunately, these persons had come into control of the sanctions of government, the problem was not so much technical as political.

"We have devised a mechanism which if we could induce you to carry it out would impose your policy upon your Member of Parliament quite infallibly, and if you imposed the same policy upon a majority of Members of Parliament, that policy would come into existence."

A Member of Parliament should be a representative—not a delegate. It was his business to learn what his constituents wanted and see that they got it—not to tell them what they ought to have nor to make himself responsible for its production.

Policy and administration were two entirely separate things, and administration in this country was admirably carried on by a trained Civil Service (which included the staff of great productive undertakings just as much as the officials of Government departments). What the administration lacked was clear instruction in regard to policy, and it was the business of the electorate to give them that instruction through their Member of Parliament.

Common Factor

To agree upon a policy it was only necessary to find a common factor of human experience. There is no difficulty in getting an agreement about a policy for oneself.

"The first thing that we all want is at least a minimum supply of money. We may want more, but none of us, I think, want less. If there is such a person in this room and he will give what he does not want to me, I will see that good use is made of it."

The mechanism of democracy could never be applied with success to *methods* of realising a policy. An understanding of this had enabled our lords and masters to split the so-called democracy of this country on every occasion on which it was desirable to the maintenance of their power. To submit a highly technical question such as Free Trade, or Tariff Reform, with its endless implications, was as absurd as to submit to a democracy the relative advantages of driving a battleship by steam turbines or Diesel engines.

"But this is not true of policy. Any man who is not a congenital idiot can decide for himself whether he wants to starve to death, live in misery, or live in comfort, and I can assure you that you have only to unite implacably upon a common policy and to pursue it, and the proper means for realising that policy will be found for you."

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Story With A Warning . . . By Charles Jones

Parliamentary Nightmare

MR. TOM TRENCHER, M.P. — plain Tom to his friends—first attracted notice in the place he alluded to as the 'Ouse, in the course of a debate on voting taxpayers' money to buy surplus milk for taxpayers' children, some of whom, if certain evidence could be believed, were in need of it.

"You talk," he began, "of providing free milk for school children out of national revenues.

"Well, where do national revenues come from? Out of the pockets of people who want milk. It's money they've earned. If you just left off taxing folks, and let them keep their money to buy milk, surely to goodness that would be better than pinching it just to buy the milk for them.

"First it costs tons of money to collect the taxes; then the Milk Board blows gouts more of it trying to stop down the production of milk, and loading it off on to starved kids if they don't succeed."

"It doesn't matter whether's it's taxation or anything else you're chewing over, you chaps have got this money business all wrong. Money ain't no good at all unless people get milk and anything else we can produce when they want them, and as fast as we can turn them out.

"If money ain't for that, then what is it for?"

"If people by the million want milk, and milk is there waiting for them, can any Hon. Member tell me why they shouldn't have the money to get it? What the people produce, the people ought to consume. No need to put the money on the roundabouts and tell folks who hate charity that it's free because they pay for it back-handed.

*

"What I suggest first is abolishing taxation. Cut it out. I know it's an old Spanish custom, but I've got another one of those for you—dividends. Nobody objects to dividends, and even if tax officers lost their unpleasant jobs they'd have a chance to be useful before they died besides having their dividends just like human beings.

"How is it to be done?"

"Well, I've been into this question in my spare time, and I find that good firms in the business can produce £1,000 of decent-looking money for about tenpence. I know that's a bit higher cost than most money, but

ordinary people like a bit of cash they can handle.

"The sort they knock up at the banks—the sort that makes the poor Chancellor so fidgety—costs the banks a round O, and that's why they provide you with bags of free stationery and run gilded halls to do their pen-work in.

"But the sort of money I'm speaking about is printed at tenpence a thou., and you won't do it cheaper. This will be special money, national money; there won't be any interest on it because the nation can't charge itself, and there won't be any interest in it much, once it does its job properly.

"Now, when the busy boys in my constituency up north, and places like it—pretty well everywhere outside of Whitehall—when they get going at making things, and milking cows, and raising pigs, and growing potatoes and so on, all the marketing boards can run away and dance around the maypole. Because national money at 10d. a thou. could be doled—pardon me, that sounds bad—dished out all round to buy what can be produced. This system is called giving credit where credit is due, which is another old Spanish custom.

*

"That's a sort of suggested rough outline. The Treasury lads can design the consumer credit and fill in the details—and they can take the sack if they don't produce the results we're after. Because, if people aren't able to buy the goods they produce, what the blazes do we produce at all for?"

Once more Mr. Trencher swept the House with interrogatory fervour.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs took the floor with dignity.

"Foreign markets . . . investment abroad . . ." he began, and seemed about to say ahem.

Tom Trencher allows no time for ahems. "Foreign markets!" he bellowed, like Stentor through an amplifier. "There ain't no such thing until *after* you've fed and clothed and housed your own folks. What do the foreigners do? Try to keep our goods out by tariffs. Why? Because they're in the same boat as we are—they can produce, but they can't consume.

"They haven't found out that *goods* are real wealth, and money is cheaper than tin soldiers, tenpence a thou.

"Our job and the foreigners job, too, is to make money do its work—feed the hungry, clothe the cold, house the folks who live in hovels; in a word, hand out the goods. When that's done you can talk about foreign markets till the cows come home, if you still want to."

The Minister resumed his seat in disgust, and Mr. Trencher became wheedling.

"Now, what about it, boys? My people up north tell me they want National Dividends with no more taxation and no monkey tricks with prices. I propose we switch the Treasury lads off the Budget business—that can wait till Doomsday—and put them on dividends for all. That'll solve your milk problem, and any others you've got up your sleeves. I'm willing to serve on a committee to see that the Treasury lads don't migrate to the Bank of England for further instructions, if you want me.

"Will anybody buy that one? And please don't all speak at once."

Tom Trencher sat down mopping his brow. The newspapers included the whole of this maiden speech in the laconic statement, "the debate continued."

*

You may have guessed that this did not happen last week, but is only the product of my prophetic imagination, a warning given in deadly seriousness.

If the tendency so manifest in these days continues, the tendency that is, to allow people who have not received a classical education to enter the talking profession, such unreportable occurrences as that described will become commonplace. Moreover, the finances of the country will go to the dogs* irretrievably.

*These dogs are the kind who bark whilst the caravan moves on. They are not of the same breed as the dogs the country was going to whilst retired colonels warmed their coat-tails during the reign of Victoria the Good.

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

Daily Express columnist William Hickey quotes (February 25) following letter by G. B. Shaw, referring to his remarkable crisis fantasy, "The King, the Constitution and the Lady":

My object was to show that as Edward could have held on and married Mrs. S. if he wanted to, he was really throwing the crown at our heads as not worth wearing at the price of being the Prime Minister's puppet . . . to say nothing of the daily drudgery and dressing-up.

World production of motor vehicles increased by 14 per cent. last year, and is now only 428,000 below the record established in 1929.—"The Times," February 27.

Absorption of old Cheshire Lines Railway by the L.M.S.R. on February 20 results in the displacement of about 400 men. The remainder come under a new scale of wages, some of them losing from 7s. to 15s. weekly.—"Daily Herald," February 20.

Outbreak of swine fever reported in piggeries of millionaire J. Pierpont Morgan. Pigs, all prize bred, have electric light in sties and a light railway to carry their food.—"Daily Express," February 26.

"The European barque is being carried comfortably and speedily by a trade wind towards the rocks of war."—Mr. D. Lloyd George in "Sunday Express," February 28. (Our italics.)

Gas-proof cradles and perambulators are now being experimented with by the Government, according to a statement made by Wing-Commander Steele-Perkins.—"Morning Post," February 13.

Aberdeen Guild of Hairdressers passed a unanimous resolution recommending to the

Chancellor of the Exchequer a tax on safety razor blades for his forthcoming Budget.—"Hairdressers' Weekly Journal," February 6.

* * *

Premier Duplessis, of Quebec, is so impressed at the facility with which Mr. Chamberlain persuades the British taxpayer to pay up that he is sending for an English tax expert to go and tell him how it is done.—"Daily Herald," February 17.

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THINK IT OVER

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DO not be misled by any such phrase as "The nationalisation of banking."

The State and the banking system are very nearly one and the same thing at the present time and are wholly one in policy. While the Bank of England is a private bank owned by international financiers, the Treasury plays straight into its hands, and the nationalisation of, for instance, the Bank of England, would mean the transfer of the Treasury into the Bank of England rather than the transfer of the Bank of England into the Treasury.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is a Government Bank, but its policy is identical with the policy of the Bank of

England; and the same comment is applicable to the Bank of New Zealand, which has just been nationalised with the able assistance of its governor (who was sent out from the Bank of England to do the job), and to the Bank of Canada.

No nationalisation of banking would put one penny into the hands of the individuals comprising the countries over whom it rules, so long as this question of the ownership of money is left unaltered. But if it once be admitted that the community, not its Government, is the owner of the money, and the individual, as part of the community, is entitled to his share of it, the situation is obviously very different.

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

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★ LETTERS ★

Religion and Poverty

IF Mr. McDowell will read the Pope's Encyclical Quadragesimo Anno, together with a good exposition of Social Credit, he will find the similarity of philosophy so marked that he will gladly concede that Social Crediters are also "seeking first the Kingdom of God and His justice."

Naturally, as is seemly, His Holiness stresses the religious and Major Douglas the economic side, but the parallelism is delightful.

Two examples: On pages 46-48 of the Encyclical (C.T.S. edition), His Holiness's condemnation of "those few . . . who are able to govern Credit and determine its allotment, for that reason supplying, so to speak, the life-blood to the entire economic body, and grasping, as it were, in their hands the very soul of production, so that no one dare breathe against their will," agrees with that of Douglas, although far stronger.

On page 53, we read "Man, endowed with a social nature, is placed on earth . . . that he may develop and evolve to the full all his faculties to the praise and glory of his Creator." The definition of Social Credit is "The power of human beings in association to produce the result intended, measured in terms of their satisfaction," to which His Holiness might comment: "Uneasy is our heart until it rests in Thee."

From page 65 onwards one notes "A difficult task" is common ground. Every Social Creditor might exhort his colleagues "to be overcome by no difficulty," "daily more to take courage and be valiant," "to oppose with real manly constancy unjust claims and unjust actions," "to avoid every extreme with consummate prudence and discretion," "not to urge their own ideas with undue persistence, but be ready to abandon them should the greater common good seem to require it."

Finally, may the promoters of Catholic Action realise—as some already do—that Social Crediters are included among the "Men of good will" who are to "stand united."

CATHOLIC ACTION

* No Logic

THE logic of those who seek to prove that a Christian should not concern himself with the situation of poverty amid plenty is as flawless as that used in the demonstration that Achilles never passed the tortoise. The fallacy is theological.

There was a time when the Church was not afraid to stand up to the money power; before the middle of the seventeenth century, she fought the usurer, the financier, as a moral sinner, and actually got laws passed prohibiting his activities.

Is there no difference between chosen poverty and forced poverty, between sufficiency without luxury, and racked existence in a verminous dungeon?

By producing a reason from an age when the Devil's quibbles weren't thought so much of, I have shown that Justice is on our side; and I have restrained myself to reason, and trust the priests will have the humility to agree with the truth, and that useless bickering will be at an end.

Nevertheless, to a resident in Durham their words are worse than quibbles; we live here amid human misery, distortion, waste; no one seems to care a damn about the people; and when a priest snaps his fingers in their faces, then his religion must appear something like "opinated" selfishness.

THE ALBERTA EXPERIMENT

An Interim Survey
By Major C. H. Douglas

The first chapters of this book (Eyre and Spottiswoode) on the most momentous piece of current history appears in the March issue of

THE FIG TREE

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Their Master did not turn attention AWAY from the poor; He didn't make these false divisions in Christian activity; I assure them Durham is five times worse than it is painted, and only pray that those who know not what they do will realise it, and help.

HENRY S. SWABEY

University College, Durham

* Poverty—the Ideal?

HERE is a little game for your readers: spot the contradiction in the ensuing quotation from Mr. McDowell's letter (Feb. 5)—"There is nothing political in such an apostolate," which means—but Mr. Mitchell evidently did not think it worth while to find out—that Catholic Action is not a political party, but that every Catholic should work in whatever party he belongs for an improvement of conditions."

But Mr. McDowell "evidently did not think it worth while to find out" from the dictionary what the word "political" means

All the quotations and information used in my article were obtained from the *Catholic Times*, which, in common with the leaders of the Catholic Church, has a healthy dislike of poverty, and ventilates it very freely. I have no reason to suppose that Mr. McDowell is any more reliable in his information than the *Catholic Times*.

BOOKS

UNCOMMON SENSE

"I Tremble To Think," by Robert Lynd (Y.Y. of the *New Statesman*). Published by Dent, 6s.

HERE is a Socialist who can write a book of 29 essays without once offending against the principles of Social Credit. When I started to read this book, I thought to myself, "Aha, now for our old friends—the Work Mania, the Planning Pash, the Less-for-some Complex, the Nationalisation Kink, the Great World Problem Blur!"

I read it, so to speak, half-brick in hand, and was more than a little peeved when the half-brick remained in hand at the end. So annoying! and so refreshing!

The essays are all about this and that—subjects as various as Sweets, Arguing, the Flat Earth Theory, All-in Wrestling, and Nice Behaviour ("never pull the gum out in long strings!").

In the main they just show an uncommon sense, charmingly expressed and flavoured with a pleasing tang of humour. Here and there, however, shine those special jewels which gladden the heart of the Social Creditor.

The essay on Pocket Money is especially rich in these. Dr. Marie Stopes "is very much perturbed by the thought that the gift of pocket money may undermine the character of the child." The child must earn every penny he gets and keep a wages book with such items as "to cleaning paint, 2d.," "to chopping wood, 2d.," etc. Robert Lynd makes pleasantly short work of the Stopesian philosophy.

"In her Utopia," he writes, "it may be presumed, the child who had earned a penny by honest work would look down on his less fortunate comrade, who had been given a penny for nothing by a self-indulgent parent, as a parasite, or what the Bolsheviks call a bourgeois."

Moreover, "if the child is brought up on the principle of 'No work, no pay,' may he not, if a practical child, interpret it in his own interest as 'No pay, no work'? If you associate work with the idea of reward in the mind of a child, indeed, I do not see how you can define 'work' in such a way as will not leave an opening for a bad child to be for ever blackmailing his elders."

It remains only for the author to apply these ideas to grown-ups, which apparently he is quite willing to do, for "even today," he writes, "I would rather be a parasite, getting money for nothing, than a navvy earning his bread in the sweat of his brow."

But perhaps the title essay is the best. "As a rule," he says, "a man who trembles to think is a man who has scarcely paused to think." "There are many people still living who once trembled to think what would

Your unnamed clerical correspondent says that the Sermon on the Mount advocates poverty as "the ideal for mankind."

Evidently the Catholic Church does not believe in the Sermon on the Mount; or can it be that it does not agree with "Country Parson's" interpretation of it?

Victoria, S.W. JOHN MITCHELL

* Irrelevant

ALL that "Country Parson" says (March 5) is irrelevant to the analysis of poverty which was the point of my letter, and a pertinent reply to his remarks on poverty. I did not mention, as I might have done, that, in any case, the Sermon on the Mount does not enjoin material poverty the only kind that was in question.

Indeed the promise that the meek shall inherit the earth might be quoted in support of a contrary view.

Presumably the "interim" period in which the ethics of the Sermon on the Mount hold good is still running, and compassion for the destitute has not become invalid.

The point is that the giving of alms today merely lends support to a system of which poverty and destitution are inevitable and increasing results.

Social Credit, therefore, being the only means by which the hungry can be fed, and the naked clothed (and that immediately) should commend itself to all those who respect and hold sacred the teachings of Christ, as distinct from mere professional Christians from whom, alas! as a body, one has ceased to look for help or support in this matter.

Bromley, Kent B. C. BEST

happen to family life if hungry school-children were fed at the public expense."

"Children indeed have had some odd defenders. Many people used to tremble to think what would happen to them if the half-time system were abolished in the factories." "There was a great deal of trembling to think when old-age pensions were first proposed." "The national character would be sapped." "I am inclined to the opinion," quoth Robert Lynd, "that people who tremble to think are nearly always wrong." "Let us then cease to tremble to think, and take to thinking instead."

Even so, I cannot help trembling a little to think what would happen to the Tory-liblab United Front against National Dividends if people were to take his advice.

Geoffrey Dobbs

THE CONSUMER

"The Decline and Rise of the Consumer." By Horace M. Kallen (D. Appleton—Century Company, 10s. 6d.).

THIS is a book in which the author puts very well the ideals which have inspired the Co-operative Movement from its inception.

There are many who think that the existing method of "co-operation" is the right answer to the world's developing economic chaos.

Certainly the movement, by its emphasis on the importance of the consumer, is closer to reality than the Utopias of most political dreamers.

All that can be said for the movement is stated very attractively in this book, but there is no apparent awareness that present methods of cost-accountancy and money issue are incompatible with the ideals of the Rochdale pioneers.

In his preface the author says that the effective enterprise, establishing the working man as a free man and a consumer in personal thought and action and in economic organisation and philosophy, has been, on a record of fifty years, the consumers' co-operative movement which began with 28 men in Rochdale and now counts 28 millions all over the world.

G.H.

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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.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, will be welcomed.

London and Home Counties. A meeting will be held at the Milton Café, Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.2, on Tuesday, March 16, at 7 p.m., to discuss and decide action to be taken on the new phase which Major Douglas has recently indicated to be of vital importance to the Social Credit Movement. All who are interested in this new development will be welcome.

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.

Portsmouth. Meetings conducted by Mr. Jackson are held every Thursday at 8 p.m. at 65, Elm Grove, Southsea, to prepare recruits for Electoral Campaign.

Miscellaneous Notices

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Press Cuttings Bureau. Accountant; *World's Press News*; *Countryman*; *Scottish Farmer*; *Church Times*, *Banker*. Will anyone willing to act as scrutineers for the above papers please write to Mr. T. L. Mawson, Petit Port, St. Brelade's, Jersey, C.I.

Social Credit literature (including all Major Douglas's works), leaflets and pamphlets can be had from the same address. List on application from SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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IF every family of Britain could afford to set aside a room for gas-proofing as protection against gas attack it would at best secure protection for about three hours.

This is one of the conclusions drawn by Cambridge Scientists Anti-War group in their published report "Protection of Public from Aerial Attack" (Victor Gollancz, 2s. 6d.).

Actually one million people have no such spare room, and another seven million would be living in conditions officially described as overcrowded if they adopted the recommendations.

Further conclusions are:

That no effective form of protection has yet been devised for children under five. That the official gas mask will give no protection against vesicants, which attack the skin, e.g., mustard gas.

That thermite bombs weighing about two pounds would be sufficient to start fires against which the ordinary householder would be helpless, for neither water nor any known chemical will extinguish thermite.

OPTIMISTS

The authors made no tests of the effects of modern explosive bombs on the ordinary house, but that even a modern fortress such as the Bank of England is not regarded as

HURRAHS FOR DEATH PIT

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT cheered as it was announced in the House of Commons last week that Whitehaven Colliery in Cumberland was to be reopened.

The Whitehaven pits run out under the sea. In 1910, 136 men were killed in an explosion there; in 1928, 13; in 1931, 27. The 13 killed in 1928 were engaged in opening a part of the pit sealed off after an explosion in 1922 which killed 39 men.

These figures show that those who work in Whitehaven work under the shadow of death.

Members of Parliament cheer because men are to resume work under that shadow. Why? Because it will reduce unemployment.

Today, figures in books and tickets representing those figures, for that is all money is, count for more than men's lives.

National Dividends will distribute the plenty which is now restricted or destroyed for lack of markets, or which is exported in competition with other countries — hence wars for export markets.

With the issue of National Dividends men's lives will count for more than ledger figures, and the many safety devices which are not used, because they are "too expensive," and the many labour-saving machines unused for the same reason or because they would "throw miners out of work," will be employed to the full.

Work will be recognised as a means to an end, and that end a full life—plenty for all.

BETTER LIVING, LESS CRIME

Crime will decrease with the coming of healthy, decent housing conditions, declares Edward Cadogan, author of "The Roots of Evil," just published (Murray, 9s.).

secure is shown by the report that the Bank is preparing to duplicate all its records and store the copies in a depository in Wales for safe keeping.

This report demonstrates a surprising optimism on the part of those whose financial policy of export or starve has brought about a situation which makes the study of methods for avoiding death by fire, gas and explosion a matter of urgent necessity.

They believe apparently that the survivors of another war will be content to continue to live under the system that brought it about.

Evidently they think it possible to fool all the people all the time. But many people today realise on whom responsibility will rest should war come, and therefore those responsible will be extremely fortunate if they survive it, and quite unbelievably lucky if they are allowed to maintain the financial system that brought it about by fostering the economic warfare that led to the real warfare.

WOMAN TELLS POVERTY BOARD

MEMBERS of the Oslo "Poverty Board" (the Municipal "dole" committee), were entertained by the Municipal Council of Aker (district surrounding Oslo) at a banquet last month.

Mrs. Sigrud Gustafson, member of the Poverty Board and the Rural Council and Conservative Member of Parliament 1934-1936, said: "There is surely a curious discrepancy in the connection of 'feast' and 'poverty.'"

"Two years ago Major C. H. Douglas and Dr. Hewlett Johnson visited Oslo. I was struck by their phrase 'poverty in the midst of plenty.' It burned in my memory."

There was dead silence as Mrs. Gustafson, addressing herself particularly to the Deputy Mayor of Aker, a lawyer closely connected with Norwegian banking, asked him to use his influence with his banking friends to induce them to lend a willing ear to the suggestions and demands that are being put forward urging them to remove the shame and scandal of "poverty amid plenty."

R.M.

First Year of The Fig Tree SCOOP FOR MARCH ISSUE IS DOUGLAS ON ALBERTA Advance Extract From His New Book

WITH the March number, now on sale, THE FIG TREE* completes its first year of publication. This time a year ago the idea of a quarterly magazine was taking concrete form. Late in June the first number appeared, the work of a loyal body of contributors and an equally loyal—and amazingly numerous—crowd of advance subscribers.

After four numbers their faith has surely been justified. The demand of later subscribers for the back numbers is sufficient proof of this, for the FIG TREE has taken its place as a work of reference essential to the bookshelf of all students of monetary and social reform.

June, September and December contain two of Major Douglas's great speeches of the year, A. Hamilton McIntyre's authoritative reply to the Labour Party, Edward Hewlett's "Emergence of a Dynamic," Tudor Jones's "Our Cultural Inheritance," W. L. Bardsley's "Escape from Utopia," L. D. Byrne's "Alternative to Disaster," and the excellent technical articles of Paul Hampden, R. L. Northridge and A. W. Coleman.

A. C. Cummings' European survey has become a quarterly landmark, the outcome of unrivalled sources of information and masterly presentation of material.

THE present number of the FIG TREE is especially rich in articles to keep for future consultation. Dealing with Alberta, the Editor defines the particular "change of heart" which is necessary there. A. A. McGuckian, member of the Northern Ireland Pigs Marketing Board, deals carefully with the whole subject of "Marketing," and particularly in his own industry. With great weight of cumulative fact it is borne in upon us that "Marketing" invariably means restriction and destruction. Nor are Mr. McGuckian and his friends to blame. Their choice is "Marketing" or ruin, even when for many others "Marketing" means starvation. Miss D. E. Faulkner-Jones, with similar

*THE FIG TREE, edited by Major C. H. Douglas, 3s. 6d. quarterly or 10s. 6d. a year (163A, Strand, London, W.C.2).

weight of fact, demonstrates the insane financial policy which has rendered England impotent in the face of coming war, her people wealthy and despairing, her defences down and the agriculture on which she must rely in an advanced condition of ruin.

Lord Strabolgi points the moral by outlining in "Finance and War," the crafty methods by which the bankers reassumed control of our money after the war, and the years of disaster which followed. He concludes with a tribute to the remarkable progress of "the great Electoral Campaign under the leadership of Major Douglas."

THE FIG TREE has secured a "scoop" with the publication in advance of a section from Major Douglas's new book, "The Alberta Experiment: an Interim Survey." We may hope that its appearance will serve to stiffen the resolution of Canadian Social Crediters in this critical period of their struggle for life.

The verse section is generally a source of great pleasure to many readers, who will welcome the appearance of Ruth Pitter as a contributor to this number, along with Geoffrey Dobbs and Herbert Bluen. Interesting articles by Alfred Jefferies, the Rev. G. R. Robertson, and M. B. de Castro, with an amusing short story by Norah M. Jeans, complete the body of the magazine.

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- 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.

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