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SOCIAL CREDIT

For Political and Economic Democracy

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT LIMITED

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Show Their
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FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1937

Weekly Twopence

Fens Could Be Saved From Floods If Government Would Give More Money

THE Government are forcing further debt on the Fenlands. That is their way—dictated by the Bank of England—of preventing Fen flood disaster in the future. And this is how it happens:

The Ouse Catchment Board report that the cost of putting the Fenland out of flood danger would be £4,500,000. The Government offer a 75 per cent. grant. That leaves £1,125,000 for the Board to find. The rateable income of the area is only £28,000 a year.

If the Government would offer a further £500,000 the scheme could be carried out. But maybe the Government (alias the Bank) know this and so make an offer which is just too small to be of any use.

Just another example of the way in which human life and property of the individual is made subservient to figures in books.

Just how bad Fen living conditions are, a woman correspondent in the Fens tells here.

This Is What The Floods Mean To A Fenlander

THE Fen floods are not an "act of God." They could be avoided. I am a Fenland woman, and I have seen great dykes which have never been cleaned in my lifetime (I am over 40). Trees grow in them and grass and wild flowers in profusion—the little water they contain is stagnant and covered with duck-weed—and remember these dykes are of the greatest importance in time of flood.

Fifteen hundred millions for armaments, but nothing for cleaning the dykes! It would do our Members of Parliament good to visit a home when the flood waters have receded, to sniff the awful stench that is left behind, to see the inches of black

slime on the floors, not to mention the swarms of crawling things that appear as if by magic. And I would show our Members of Parliament the sanitary arrangements—and tell them how thousands of people in this country have to put up with sanitation that would disgrace a savage.

We only hear of the floods when a major disaster threatens—and then the Members of Parliament say the newspapers sensationalise it—but minor floods are frequent, and not the least inconvenience is that the little hut at the end of the garden (the lavatory) is always first to be flooded.

Just think that over and imagine what it means to a family!

THERE is—near St. Ives, Hunts.—a whole row of cottages (over a hundred, I think) built over a dyke. The builders had the happy idea of building basement kitchens in the dyke, with the inevitable result that when the river rises the kitchens are flooded.

I have been in these houses scores of times and seen it. Why do these people live there? Well, that's simple. The rents are low and there is a housing shortage.

Fifteen hundred millions for armaments and people living under these conditions. National Dividends must surely come—they are so badly needed.

THE people of the Fens are rushing their bags of blue clay to the banks of the river to try to hold back the waters that threaten to overwhelm them, and the bankers and National Government strive with their tons of propaganda to stem the rising anger of the people, who are turning more and more to Social Credit, and will rise in their turn and with irresistible pressure force the Government to act and give National Dividends to all.

If the people of this country could see the Fens and realise what it means to those who live there they would say, as my husband said to me when he saw it, "My God—we must get that National Dividend."

NUTRITION REPORT TELLS NOTHING, IS CRUEL HOAX

CALORIES

It has been computed that in the average of the years 1934 and 1935 the national food supply contained 55,700 thousand million calories, or, allowing for a wastage of 10 per cent., 50,100 thousand million calories (net) as compared with total estimated net requirements for the population of 44,300 thousand million calories on the basis of the Report of the League Commission.

Thus there is a fair margin of calories available over calories required, and we regard this result as having satisfactory significance.

We conclude from this and from the results of dietary surveys that there is no lack of energy-giving foods in the national food supply.

In our opinion, all—except a relatively small fraction of the population—are obtaining the full amount of calories they require.

The Advisory Committee on Nutrition.

Children Know What They Want—and Get It

SOME Yorkshire schoolchildren are feeling very pleased with themselves.

For years Swinton Council have fought the Ministry of Transport for a 30 m.p.h. speed limit on the Liverpool-East Lancashire road in the town.

Swinton's largest school is on the road. One day a boy was killed there.

Councillor S. Hales, whose child attends the school, organised a petition to the Ministry.

Most of the work was done by the children themselves.

They canvassed grown-up relatives and friends, and finally their petition was presented.

Yesterday the Ministry re-restricted the road.

Fiddling While Britons Are Starving

THE much-advertised Advisory Committee on Nutrition have made their preliminary report, enthusiastically described by the Minister of Health as the most valuable document that has yet been issued on nutrition.

The keynote of the report is contained in the opening words of clause 19: "Although much has been achieved, much still remains to be done . . ."

Those who have expected revelations of a startling nature on the deplorable state of nutrition of half the population will be disappointed at such platitudes.

The Committee were appointed in May, 1935, and so have had the best part of two years to come to their preliminary conclusions. This report is the meagre result of 40 sessions.

The names of Hopkins, Cathcart, Mellanby and Orr, the President and three Fellows of the Royal Society, are a sufficient guarantee that when at long last a final report is made the facts will be there.

The term of office of the Committee will expire on July 31, 1938, and retiring members will be eligible for reappointment. They will need to be, judging from the present report, and assuming that an inquiry into the obvious is needed at all.

"Further Investigation"

It is perhaps significant that a year after the Committee started work, one of the members, Sir John Boyd Orr, published a book, "Food, Health and Income," in which was the following table:

CLASSIFICATION OF THE POPULATION BY INCOME GROUPS AND AVERAGE FOOD EXPENDITURE PER HEAD IN EACH GROUP

Group	Income per head per week	Estimated average expenditure on food	Estimated population of group	
			Numbers	Percentage
I	Up to 10s.	4s.	4,500,000	10
II	10s. to 15s.	6s.	9,000,000	20
III	15s. to 20s.	8s.	9,000,000	20
IV	20s. to 30s.	10s.	9,000,000	20
V	30s. to 40s.	12s.	9,000,000	20
VI	Over 45s.	14s.	4,500,000	10
Average	30s.	9s.	—	—

No reference to matters of this kind is contained in this report except under the heading "Further Investigations Proposed."

The particular questions to which the Committee have addressed themselves are:

(1) Is there sufficient food produced in and imported into the country to ensure for everyone a diet in conformity with the principles of modern knowledge?

(2) Are the diets of different sections of the population adequate in every respect in the light of recent advances in the knowledge of nutrition?

(3) Is the state of nutrition of every section as good as it could be made by the application of modern knowledge?

The answer to question (1) is given by the Committee under the heading "Calories" and is reproduced on this page.

Value of Milk

As it stands it is comparable to a calculation of the amount of sea water lapping the shores of Britain, and the conclusion that all—except a relatively small fraction of the population—are obtaining the full amount of sea bathing they require.

The answers to questions (2) and (3) are "No." These answers are not given in the report.

Most of the report is taken up with a dissertation on the well-known facts that milk

National Rent Strike Threatened

POSSIBILITIES of a national rent strike of tenants in Corporation houses were discussed at the annual conference of the National Council of Corporation Tenants' Associations, which opened at Leicester last week.

"If this country can borrow millions of pounds for destructive implements for war, mortgage our lives and the lives of our children in pursuance of a policy like the mad swine of the Bible which rushed down the precipice to destruction, it can find money whereby our people can live decently, without fear, healthy and happy," said Councillor H. E. Lane, of Wolverhampton, the president.

A parlour, he said, was neither an extravagance nor a luxury, and it was a mistaken policy to omit parlours or cut down the size of rooms.

The country had an immediate need of 2,250,000 new homes, and if the nation in the next twenty years was to be housed in accordance with present-day standards more than 5,000,000 new homes must be built.

Lower-paid workers had been neglected in housing schemes, and the rents of most Council houses were above what the average worker could afford.

What the National Council wants is a national policy with which every one will agree.

At the foot of page 8 is just the policy which fits Councillor Lane's remarks, and which will unite many others behind the Corporation Tenants' Associations.

It is everybody's policy.

**Special
ANTI-TAXATION
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See page 5

NUTRITION REPORT NONSENSE

(Continued from page 1)

has a high food-value, especially for children and mothers; that there is plenty of milk available; and that the present national consumption of milk is deplorably low, being only 60 per cent. of the League of Nations recommendation, even when condensed and dried milk is included.

Understatements

Consumption of liquid milk actually declined between 1913 and 1935, while that of dried and condensed milk increased by 360 per cent.

The detailed findings under various heads are masterpieces of understatement, e.g.:

Fats . . . *There is no aggregate deficiency in the national diet, but there is some deficiency among the poorest.*

Proteins . . . *Although there is no recognised standard requirement of animal protein, it is probable that there is some shortage of this constituent in the diets of the poorest section of the community.*

Fruit and Vegetables . . . *There is, however, good reason to believe that the national consumption of fruit and vegetables is below the nutritional optimum, and that this deficiency is predominantly to be found in the poorer sections of the population.*

End This Fiddling

This wishy-washy half-baked report is a cruel hoax. Millions of suffering Britons meanwhile skimp and scrape and starve.

British farmers cannot make ends meet because they cannot find customers for the fine health-giving foods they produce. Empire farmers are deadly anxious to supply this country with their meat, butter, fruit and corn.

Foreign farmers dream hopelessly of sending to British shores the plethora of good things they produce so well.

Let there be an end to this fiddling while Britons starve amid plenty. There is work to be done distributing plenty, not making solemn reports about it.

Two Men Blow Up A Road Then Vanish

TWO men drove into the Leicestershire village of Ulverscroft, near Loughborough, in a green van.

They stopped, took wooden pegs from the back of the van, began measuring and surveying the road. Pegs were placed at intervals along the roadside.

Then the men bored holes in the grass verge, laid explosive charges and fired them. Reports were heard miles away. Parts of a wall were blown in a field. The road's grass verge was torn up for hundreds of yards.

A County Council roadman at work near by thought the men were making an official survey, but when he approached the men ran to the van and drove off at high speed. Police are looking for the men with the green van.

—“Daily Mirror,” March 6.

*

Government agents creating toil?

THE FIG TREE

A quarterly review edited by Major C. H. DOUGLAS

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★ COMMENTARY ★

The Railway Disaster

ELEVEN human beings died as a result of the collision between two electric trains on the Southern Railway last Friday.

The last coach of a train which was standing at a signal was reduced to matchwood by the leading motor coach of the colliding train, itself partly wrecked. The coach bodies were of old wooden construction, with little power of resistance, and the victims were smashed to pieces with the wreckage.

Such an accident would have been practically impossible on the London tubes because the cars are built much more strongly—their whole framework is in fact of steel—and because their signalling is fool-proof; a train over-running a signal is automatically stopped at once.

The Southern has not been able to afford such luxuries; much of its rolling stock is of weak construction, and it has no means of automatically stopping trains that run past danger signals.

It is possible to make the railways safe, just as it is possible to make the roads safe.

Engineers know how it could be done. It is for the people to say it must be done.

Now They Borrow To Bury Their Dead

IT was the rule of the banks in Texas that killed 450 children in a school explosion—because the school managers, not being able to instal the heating apparatus recommended by experts, through lack of money had to instal unsafe apparatus.

Now, the victims are buried—and their parents had to go to the banks for loans with which to bury their children.

How long will the peoples of the world tolerate such a system?

A Suggestion to Gandhi

MR. GANDHI, the Indian Nationalist leader, has put forward a “formula” the acceptance of which might, he says (in a letter published in *The Times* of April 6), have “resulted in a natural, orderly, and peaceful transference of power from bureaucracy to the largest and fullest democracy known to the world.”

No formula will do this. The first step towards taking power from the super-government of finance, where it now lies, is for the people of India to agree on policy. Power rests on conscious strength; strength depends on unity. It is therefore necessary to find a policy on which everyone will agree.

We commend to Mr. Gandhi's attention the policy set out in the first four clauses of the Electors' Demand at the foot of our back page. He could get such united agreement on that simple “formula” as to build up the strength of unity against which all the powers of oppression would beat in vain.

Dictatorship in India

THE advantage of a wireless set in this country in view of what the B.B.C. choose to call “entertainment” and “instruction,” is that it can be switched off. We may not yet have made our B.B.C.—after all, we pay for it!—give entertainment we like or undistorted news, but at least we control the switch.

The people of India are not to be so fortunate. So great is their poverty that only a very small minority could buy sets, so a paternal government is now experimenting with automatic sets, erected in the streets of certain villages in Bombay. These sets are operated by time switches, and thus the people in the villages where they are erected will not be able to control them.

Programmes are to consist of two-thirds entertainment and one-third instructional talks. Doubtless the “instructional” talks will be devoted, in part at least, to propaganda to prevent listeners even suspecting that as citizens of a rich country they could all own wireless sets and control the switches!

The Dodge-it Budget

THE Budget surplus was all of £7,500,000. Marvellous.

The Budget deficit was no less than £5,597,000. Shocking.

You takes your choice but you pays your money.

You see, it's like this. There was a “real” surplus, but the interest on the National Debt was overestimated by £13,127,000, so there is an actual deficit because the whole of it was applied to redemption of debt.

So the poor tax payer gets nothing, and will get less, while the banks collar the lot.

Sweet Sabotage

NONE of the twenty-two Governments represented on the International Sugar Conference can be satisfied with the present position, says *The Times*. “In no country is the industry in a really healthy condition. It is the old trouble; the capacity to produce has been expanded beyond the capacity of consumers to purchase at a remunerative price.”

The *Financial Times* suggests that the prospects of a successful outcome of the Conference are considered favourable. The object of the discussions, it states, will be twofold:

(a) To raise world sugar prices to a remunerative level; and

(b) To do so by means of an agreement which is sufficiently flexible to permit of adjustments to meet both increases and decreases in world requirements.

Apparently difference of opinion exists on the advisability of a restriction scheme based upon a quota of output. In some quarters it is held that by restricting tonnage, costs of production may be forced up, to the disadvantage particularly of producers in the British colonies.

Restriction of acreage with a view to fostering the most efficient producers is held to be preferable.

Just what suits the bankers. Get them quarrelling over methods of restricting plenty and they will forget to demand its distribution.

They Want It to be a Loan

THE remote history of fen drainage is romantic; its more recent history has been in some aspects deplorable; its future history must at least be creditable.

Thus *The Times* leader on the Fen flood scandal.

Should not the last word have been “credit-worthy”?

The Menace

TYNEMOUTH Chief Constable Blackburn says his men must be “properly dressed” when off duty.

“Properly dressed,” in his opinion, means a blue suit, bowler hat, collar and tie and kid gloves, and no exception for beach or light summer wear at this seaside resort.

What will he do if they all wear whatever they like in their private lives?

Religion at Blackpool

THE Blackpool local Education Committee has launched a scheme whereby the Council school children must attend church or chapel services from 9 to 10 a.m. on six chosen days in the year and their teachers have been asked to attend with them.

The teachers have refused. Mr. Patten, the president of the N.U.T., publicly resents this attempt to “sort out the children into good little Roman Catholics, good little Anglicans, good little Nonconformists, and good little ‘nothingarians,’” and then press teachers to submit themselves to the same process.

Small Change Famine

THE *Yorkshire Post* points out that the shilling-in-the-slot principle for gas and electricity meters leads to a famine of small change in remote villages up North. Even the shops and inns are cleared out of shillings for customers to put in their slots. Soon a situation arises that, until the collector arrives, there is a famine of shillings, and although householders have £1 notes, they are obliged to sit in the dark and shiver.

Shilling tokens have been suggested. Orthodox economists will surely condemn this as unsound finance. However well a token works, householders must remember that a token is not sound money and they will be trying to get something for nothing.

THE GOSPEL OF WORK

Last week we invited readers to give their opinions on a letter written by “Nomad” on the Gospel of Work. This letter expresses the opinions of many we have received.

NOMAD has done good service in attracting attention to these fundamental questions concerning “work” and “rewards,” and we as Social Crediters cannot afford to allow ourselves to be misunderstood, genuinely or deliberately, any more than we can possibly help.

Every individual knows the inherent truth of the Social Credit contention that Work is a Means, not an End; in his private and business life and even in his sport he acts on this knowledge, but he is at war with himself when he is persuaded to support any institution which believes—or pretends to believe—that Work is an End in itself.

If the motor-car industry could be persuaded to pay lip service to the idea “that the purpose of a motor car is to consume petrol,” even though the idea were not carried out completely, the industry would be thrown into a state of confusion similar to that of the economic and political life of the nation.

It is true that every healthy individual needs and desires mental and physical activity to ensure health and happiness; when cornered he will obey this urge in undesirable ways, but given a free choice he will spend his energies where he acquires the most satisfaction, and service to his fellows may well be the deciding factor in his choice. The Jarrow marchers should not be excluded from this general truth, but they were led into a falsehood when they asked for work when they meant food, clothes, tobacco, etc.

A milk roundsman trains his horse to stop at the cry of “milk,” but “milk” and “whoa” are not the same thing in all circumstances.

On the question of rewards; anyone who has faced the fact that our great potential wealth is due to “cultural inheritance” and the “increment of association” and, to a very small extent, the energy and capacity of the individual, must realise that, in a state of absolute justice, there is a case for giving everyone approximately the same reward irrespective of considerable variations in capacity and energy.

But it is not inconsistent with Social Credit or true democracy to adopt some form of reward by capacity as a matter of expediency—realising that this is a dangerous kind of reason which may easily become an excuse as at present—though it is not consistent with Social Credit to submit to the imposition of any system by underhand financial methods: whatever variation from the absolute was adopted should be by the sanction of the whole community or a substantial majority.

NOMAD seems to be saying much the same thing when he puts the view that ownership of an inheritance carries certain responsibilities. In blunt terms, there is no such law as “the rights of property,” but there is such a thing as true leadership which means the willing acceptance of added responsibility. There will always be individuals in a virile race willing to take this on for the satisfaction they derive and without extra reward, but there is nothing to be said against allowing leadership extra reward if it is the will of the others not in the position of leadership.

The question of authority is again an entirely separate one; it is merely foolish to refuse authority to genuine leadership. In sport, where man is more or less free of financial considerations, and he behaves naturally and according to his nature, the truth of these statements can be checked and verified.

Erdington, Birmingham.

P. R. MASSON.

Rise In Food Prices Is Result Of Restrictive Market Planning

London Tube Passengers Show Their Mettle

NORTH-WEST Londoners are getting fed up with the service they are getting on the Morden-Edgware Tube—and are behaving in a very spirited manner about it. Only a month ago a meeting, claiming to represent every section of the community served by the Morden-Edgware tube, protested against a proposal of the L.P.T.B. to extend the line to Elstree.

It was contended that if an extension was made, conditions would become chaotic for passengers, for whom the present capacity was even now quite inadequate.

Last Monday a remarkable demonstration took place against the way passengers are treated by the railway which exists to serve them.

A number of passengers objected to being ordered to change at Colindale at half-past eleven at night, when their train should have gone on to Edgware.

Shouts of "Stay in your seats and demand to be taken on to Edgware—we've had enough of messing about on this line," vied with the porters' "All change."

Several men urged people to stay in their seats, or to keep the automatic doors from closing—and disregarded warnings that they would be fined for obstruction.

Left in the Lurch

Most of the passengers alighted, but those in the first carriage still refused. The doors were then closed, and with these passengers still in the train it was shunted into a siding.

On the platform groups gathered and criticised the running of the line. One man said it had taken him three-quarters of an hour to travel from Moorgate and he had had to change three times. Others complained that they had been turned out repeatedly at midnight.

If, instead of grousing, they had joined with their independent fellow ticketholders in the front carriage in demanding that the railway should carry out its advertised service they would have won.

It Has Been Done

Less than two months ago the other end of the same line passengers won hands down. A train labelled to Morden stopped at Tooting. On being ordered to change, the passengers all sat tight.

That train went on to Morden. (See SOCIAL CREDIT, February 19.)

People acting in unison can always impose their will on those who serve them. That is democracy.

AND MORE RESTRICTION IS COMING

THE scarcity-mongers have done their dirty work well, and food prices are going up and up. Meat, bacon, eggs, potatoes, bread, sugar have started a steady climb up the price scale, and none can say where it is going to end.

It is not a failure of harvest that has brought this about—it is a deliberate policy, which has been steadily pursued, to reduce the production of wanted goods to the amount the people could pay for.

The fact that poor harvests in certain places have occurred merely underlines the criminality of the deliberate restriction, and in many cases, destruction that has gone on.

Now that the damage has been done the reduction in Britain's potato crop by 81,000 acres between 1933 and 1936 is deplored by the Food Council in their annual report to the President of the Board of Trade, issued last week.

They say: "The reduction suggests the advisability of suspending the levy of £5 an acre imposed by the Potato Marketing Board on plantings in excess of each producer's basic acreage."

That levy was the instrument for reducing acreage.

WE WARNED

SOCIAL CREDIT has given repeated warnings against the orgy of destruction and restriction that has been going on.

On the back page every week appears a demand that it shall cease and that the abundance that could be distributed should be distributed.

Instead we are threatened with a wheat famine.

Bread is now at its highest price since 1928, and will rise further, and bread and flour, it is estimated, represent a fifth of the total expenditure of poor families on food.

We may see a shilling loaf—but that is not the end of wheat's importance to the housewife.

It is fed to poultry, for the production of eggs and table birds.

With the milling offals—bran, weatings, and thirds—it is an important item in the feeding of pigs, the fattening of beef cattle.

As bread, meat and eggs go up in price, the demand for alternative foods will increase.

People will want to eat more potatoes and other vegetables, as well as fish and cheese. And with increased demand the prices of these commodities will go up.

And that is exactly what the restrictionists want.

RESTRICTION TO GO ON

After bread comes news of a possible price increase in sugar.

Representatives of 23 nations met in London on Monday to "talk sugar" for several weeks.

Broadly speaking, the object of the conference is regulation of sugar production. So the policy of restriction is to go on.

The foodstuffs which increased most in price last year were potatoes, flour, bread, cheese, butter, margarine and eggs.

The retail price of fish is still higher in relation to pre-war than any other food. Milk is the second highest.

The news about fish and chips is bad for poor families. Both the fish and the chips are going to be dearer.

A fish and chip supper, now threepence, will soon cost fivepence—a penny more for the chips and a penny more for the fish.

Wholesale prices for favourite varieties of home-grown potatoes have risen by 10s. to £1 a ton in the last weeks because of the shortage in supply.

And the shortage of supply both of potatoes and fish is due to deliberate restrictive measures.

Fishermen have had to restrict fishing time, and to use wider-meshed nets to let "surplus" fish through!

It makes the platitudes of the Nutrition Report look a bit silly.

IT ONLY NEEDS A PUFF OF WIND...



THE WAY TO WIN

WE only asked a penny an hour more on our time rates. We knew it could be paid; our firm had received armament orders in a hurry from the Government.

We could do with sixpence or even a bob extra, if it comes to a question of needs—but we asked for a penny.

We canny Scots in Glasgow always ask.

But the employers said "No"!

Now what?

To get the result we wanted we were faced with war—and not only war but the necessity of winning it.

Somehow, we felt that together, fifteen hundred of us, united in a common demand, could get what we wanted, if we acted rightly.

Yet our Trade Union officials said, "Don't strike, leave it to us to negotiate." We felt that this was not the right way to win our objective.

After all, the only sanctions we've got as employees is to withdraw our labour. We've tried the "postpone action" and "negotiation" game. It's a dud, and we know it, if we can't explain it.

If it hadn't been for Sam Conn we should have been led up the garden path again.



We had practically decided on striking at once—an "unofficial strike" they call it, when Sam stood up.

"Wait a minute," he shouted. He climbed on to a forging which lay in the yard, where all of us could see him and about a thousand of us could hear him. He held up his hand.

"Fellow-workers, if we go outside and strike unofficially we'll be cutting our own throats, because we'll get no dole, no union benefit, no assistance. If we leave it to Union officials there'll be a lot of talk, no strike, and no extra penny an hour.

"Trade Union officials are anxious to continue representing our grievances; it provides a well-paid career for them. They're NOT so anxious to abolish the grievances. They don't suffer them, and it might abolish the necessity for their paid services. Their aim is to compromise, ours is to win satisfaction.

"This is what we must do.

"We won't strike officially, or unofficially;

let's clock on inside the factory as usual, but do no work until we are satisfied about that extra penny an hour.

"The firm, by law, have to pay us our time rates, while we are inside.

"We don't need any committees, delegates, or representatives.

"If the foreman picks on you, Jim, or you, Bill, and threatens to sack you, start work while he is with you, but stop the moment he leaves you.

"If the firm locks us out rather than pay us time-rates for no output, that's their business, we're each entitled to the 'dole' then.

"Let's try it—and win."

Well, in spite of its strangeness, we gave it a run. Next morning it was a real joke to see the efforts of the management to find a committee to negotiate with, but even the shop stewards wouldn't wear it.

"No, sir, it's nothing to do with me, I'm only one man." And nobody did any work.

The firm posted up the notices next morning that from 8.0 p.m. the time-rates of all would be raised by one penny an hour.



That's how I dreamt it, but this is what I read in the paper this morning when I woke up:

1,500 engineers employed at Parkhead Forge by William Beardmore & Co., Ltd., are on strike to enforce a claim for a penny an hour on their time rates.

... decided to ignore the instructions of the National Executive of the Amalgamated Engineering Union that the strikers return to work.

The question of strike benefit is now being discussed, and it is probable, unless the National Executive endorses the strike, that no benefit shall be paid to the men. . . . the executive committee of the A.E.U. is concerned with restoring discipline and not, at the present juncture, with the conditions of employment at the Parkhead Forge.

George Hickling

SOCIAL CREDIT IN THE NURSERY

By G. A. HALL

(Previous verses under this heading were also written by Mr. Hall)

MONTY had a subtle plan
By which he sought to rule,
O'er England first, then Basle,
And out to far Japan.

With purpose clear, ambition dear,
His plan 'cis true had merit;
Not force of arms, virtue, wit,
But monopoly of credit.

Not knowing that which was,
Which is, or is to be,
He yet had deep humility
And sole control of credit.

Douglas had a better plan
For he would save the world
From Poverty and War's alarms,
And so a flag unfurled.

A flag of hope, and simple plan,
By which the people's credit
Should issued be to Everyman
By justice, right—not merit.

To each his share; so this plan
The reason and the technique gives,
And natural social man
Obtaining Freedom, truly lives.

SO USEFUL

THE Population Investigation Committee, a semi-official organisation, having Government blessing, want to investigate the economic causes of small families—how far couples are deterred from having larger families because they would be reduced to poverty and unable to provide the necessities of life: the question of insecurity and unemployment or of inadequate housing, and the difficulty of finding work for children when they grow up.

Another inquiry into the obvious.

Promising

Extract from the Chairman's Speech at the Eleventh Annual Meeting of Scottish Wool Growers, Limited (1937).
"The year closed under almost exceptional conditions, the stocks of wool being particularly low, and the outlook for 1937 promising."

SOCIAL CREDIT

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Vol. 6. No. 9. Friday, April 9, 1937

Food 1919-1937

THE starting point (said Major Douglas in 1919) is clearly a reasonably uniform and plentiful distribution of simple necessities; food, clothes, housing, etc.

Now the actual production of these articles presents no difficulties whatever . . .

The primary necessities of life, as above defined . . . have an important characteristic which differentiates them from what we may call conveniences and luxuries; they are quite approximately constant in quantity per head of the population; in other words, the average human being requires as a groundwork for his daily life a definite number of heat units (calories) in the form of suitable food . . . and the variation between the minimum and the maximum quantity of each that he can utilise with advantage to himself is not, broadly speaking, very great.

This fact renders it perfectly feasible (it has already very largely been accomplished) — to estimate the absolute production of foodstuffs required by the world's population; the time-energy units required at the present stage of mechanical and scientific development to produce those foodstuffs; and the time-energy units approximately available. Accuracy in these estimates is unnecessary . . .

THUS, eighteen years ago, Major Douglas anticipated, more precisely and comprehensively, the Advisory Committee on Nutrition, whose portentous mouthful about calories (see front page) is now both obvious and misleading.

Since practically no one in this country is actually dying of starvation, no human being takes in too few calories to maintain life.

On the other hand the total calories produced or imported are even now more than enough to maintain every man, woman and child adequately. Even now, when over two million acres of good farmland have gone to grass.

How many calories can be grown on two million acres? How many calories in the mountains of coffee destroyed in Brazil? How many in the cattle that have been destroyed, in the gluts that have gone to waste for lack of buyers?

Accuracy in these estimates is unnecessary, since there is not the very smallest doubt that the margins are so large that it is only the failure of "effective demand" under existing circumstances which has prevented over-production.

(Over-production in the real sense of more than is required by everyone.)

WHAT is needed is not any enquiry into the questions propounded by the Committee, but a National Dividend.

It is not now a question at all of whether every person can or should have such and such a minimum ration of fats, proteins, calories, or vitamins.

It is a question, so far as the consumer is concerned, of quality and freedom of choice.

It is not a question of making him drink fresh milk instead of tinned, of forcing on him a set of standardised rations.

With money in his pocket he will buy what he wants, and the more money he has the more will he tend to choose the best.

Even the Committee admits that, "given adequate resources, most people instinctively consume sufficient of the energy-giving foods."

What is wanted is ever-increasing power to buy and freedom of choice.

The spectacle of the productive resources of the world expanding and blossoming and showering cornucopias of rich, succulent victuals before hungry but discriminating public waits—waits—waits upon a National Dividend.

G. W. L. Day writing of Man versus Machine asks

SHALL MAN BECOME SUBMERGED IN CODES AND CROWDS?

UNDER the title, "Man versus Machine," the Bulletin of the Hamburg World Economic Archives for December 15, 1936, discusses the apparent conflict between Man and the Frankenstein Monster he has created.

Professor B., the learned writer of the article, belongs to that international fraternity who observe the sacred science of economics with ponderous verbiage, thereby causing the simple-minded to gape and scratch their heads at the condition displayed. (Owing to the literal translation of his German, he has an unfair advantage over his British confrères.)

In this article he explains how the fear that machines will relieve us from the Curse of Adam and leave us jobless and uncomforted has deepened since the war. Unemployment, he says, has grown much worse in the post-war period, not only on account of increasing mechanisation, but due to the—here he brings an exceedingly lop-eared rabbit out his hat—to the immense destruction of capital by the war!

After noting, quite correctly, that the period of great industrial expansion in the older industrial countries is now a thing of the past, he says that under present-day conditions there is danger that man may no longer remain master of technical science, but that technical science may run amok—this because technical science is not in the hands of an organised totality but in those of selfish individual producers.

He goes on to say that life in the factory has become soulless and oppressive to the spirit. To overcome this, Germany selects and grades her workers.

"This is not only in the interest of such workers themselves, but of the total efficiency of the economic system."

She also inculcates in the factory a spirit of "comradely co-operation which conceives the factory as a unified whole in which the individual worker is only a member of the whole organism." In this way the worker feels that he is master, not slave of the machine.

* * *

THE first thing that strikes me about all this is that it might just as well have been said by Stalin. Surely, with the help of one or two of our Cabinet Ministers the Soviets and the Nazis could find a formula so that they could both broadcast the same propaganda? In all that matters, they agree perfectly.

The next thing that strikes me is how smooth and plausible it sounds, but how far removed it really is from genuine ideals of freedom.

It has been my misfortune lately to have to wade through a great many tomes on unemployment. In nearly every case the authors have written about it as if they belonged to the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

It is just this little mote in the eye which distorts the whole picture. Suppose, now, if we were to regard all men of genius as dangerous to the State and therefore on a par with criminals, the science of Eugenics would sink to the level of the so-called science of Economics. One false premise destroys the whole argument.



BOOKS



Mathematics for the Individual

MATHEMATICS FOR THE MILLION.
By Lancelot Hogben (Allen & Unwin.
Price 12s. 6d.).

THIS is a fascinating book and will be read by a good many thousands of the kind who would like to know a bit more than the dry residue of their school days about mathematics.

It is doubtful if it will be read by the million for whom it was written; and it is certain that the value of their votes would not be enhanced by it, as the author hopes, even if they read it and became as erudite as Professor Hogben himself.

Indeed, what Professor Hogben has failed to see is that his vote is precisely as valuable as each one of the million he wants to educate to become perfect democrats, and they will always swamp him if he tries to use his vote to record his intelligence.

The aim of education is to make a full

individual, not a political economist or a statistician; and the millions who have little knowledge, and Professor Hogben who has much, can unite on common ground if they will use their votes to demand the results they want, and not try to demonstrate their superior intelligence with them.

With this correction of a fallacy in Professor Hogben's mind his book can be recommended to all.

National Dividends

NATIONAL DIVIDENDS. A sane plan for Social Security Without Taxation. By "A Country Banker"; Riverside Press, Indiana; 25 cents.

IT is a pleasure to read a pamphlet that is written in so breezy and readable a style. The Social Credit case for financial reform is ably set out. The author does not go into technical detail and this must be one of the soundest booklets in the United States on the subject of Social Credit.

He advocates National Dividends and, as Douglas, H.M.M. and others are freely

quoted, the author apparently means what we do by that phrase. No safeguards, however, against any rise in prices are mentioned.

It would appear that the author is troubled by the old bogey of "cancellation," but he lightly and ably skims over this difficulty. After all it is only a technical matter and is not affected by fundamental principles.

It is, therefore, disappointing when we come to the last chapter entitled "What to do." In it we are asked to do no more than write to Congressmen and Senators and to buy more copies of the booklet.

The disappointment is all the greater as the author rightly draws attention to sections of the U.S.A. Constitution which in effect render the present bank-controlled Money System illegal.

This, in conjunction with the recognised fact that the bankers will never give up their power without definite pressure to bear on them, should have given the author an unmistakable line of action. He has failed to point the way.

I feel spirits of this kind all around us. All mass meetings, all speeches by dictators and demagogues, the greater part of our daily news and much of our radio broadcasts seem to be services to these heathen gods.

I say heathen because everything which they bid us do is anti-Christian. They tell us that the Kingdom of Heaven is without, that Salvation lies in submergence, that we should obey fixed codes of thought and behaviour instead of obeying the voice of reason, or conscience, and so on.

I don't know how many times in the Gospels we are told to awaken. At any rate the injunction occurs so often that it must have been considered a very important point.

Totalitarian fetishism tells us, on the contrary, to sleep more deeply. By becoming completely submerged in codes and crowds it wants us to abandon all independent thought and feeling. It wants to convert us into cogs, pinions and ratchets.

If this is not anti-Christian, I don't know what is. Those ecclesiastics who denounce Communism with such crusading zeal surprise me. Why don't they denounce Fascism and Nazi-ism, too?

* * *

SO far very little has been heard about any alternative to both Right and Left. But taking the Christian standpoint, what would it be?

It would entail, in the first place, awakening. Once we had struggled out of the Waters of Lethe we should rub our eyes and look about us in amazement. We should find that we were being led along paths down which we had no desire to go, and set to work to labour for objects which we had no wish whatever to achieve.

Discovering this, we should probably feel highly indignant, and the heat of our united indignation would very quickly force our leaders to pull up abruptly.

WHERE WOULD THEY TAKE US TO THEN? THAT WOULD BE FOR US TO SAY. WITH OUR EYES OPEN, WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE IN A MOOD TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

H.R.P.

TRUTH ABOUT THE U.S.A. STRIKES

Staged By Hired Thugs In Pay Of Reds

REGULAR EMPLOYEES MACHINE-GUNNED OUT OF WORKSHOPS

SOCIAL CREDIT Correspondent

Detroit, U.S.A.

THE truth is far from being known in the strike situation in the motor-car industry now spreading to all other kinds of business. These strikes are all staged affairs.

They are not voluntary resistance on the part of under-paid employees against hard-hearted employers, but are forcibly engineered by hard-boiled thugs in the pay of the Communist-directed renegade Labour Movement called C.I.O.

The purpose is not better working conditions or higher wages; it is control of industry for so-called "Labour."

The organisation of this group is almost perfect. A place is selected for a sit-down strike. Thugs go through the place and order every one to quit, and slug every one who refuses to quit. The regular employees are ordered out and the hired "sit-downers" take possession of the plant or store. These "sit-downers" receive food and such bedding as needed as well as \$1.00 (4s.) a day.

Nation of Errand Boys

THE National Union of Teachers fear that Britain is becoming a nation of errand boys. They passed a resolution at their conference last week calling on administrators and teachers to improve educational facilities under the School Leaving Age Act, and deploring the absence of maintenance grants, the provision of exemptions.

Mr. J. W. H. Brown, a Somerset teacher, said there would be a contest between teacher and employer. The child and its parent would have to decide which they would choose.

"It will be perfectly natural," he said, "for the child to want to go out to earn money. In a few cases, the poor child, of necessity, will have to contribute to the family income. The schools must have something particularly good to offer the child."

"It behoves the Board of Education, local authorities, and the teaching profession, to use the period between the passing of the Bill and its coming into operation, to plan so as to make the best possible use of the extra year at school."

Dealing with the exemption clause, Mr. Gwyn Jones, of Finsbury, said there would be difficulty in deciding what was a "beneficial" job. If jobs as errand boys and shop boys were beneficial, they would have to continue their agitation to have the Act amended.

No one knows what the machine-gun men get, but it is likely to be enough.

The organisation have a commissary, armed forces, and transportation, and all the regalia and gear of an army. When they take over a plant they supersede the police, take over the direction of traffic on the nearby streets, and admit no one but their own gang to the premises, take over the offices, the switchboard, stop the United States Mail, and in general act as an army in conquered territory, as indeed they are.

These things are done in the highest paid parts of the industry. The other day a crowd of men were ordered to assemble by these thugs and were told that they must strike. They were drawing 85 cents (3s. 6d.) to \$1.35 (5s. 8d.) an hour and none of them wanted to strike. The thugs insisted.

Police Helpless

The question of what demands to make and so forth came up and all they could think of was a demand for shower baths and loud speakers to hear ball games with. As this was silly considering the wonderful cleanliness and sanitary condition of the plant, it was at last decided to "strike anyway."

That is about the story with most of them. The ordinary citizen has not yet awakened to the situation. The police are helpless and the state authorities are in league with the gangsters.

You may have read of the State troops being called out at Flint for the General Motors strike. Perhaps you did not know that they did not have any ammunition, and the only purpose they served was to prevent the outraged citizens from clearing the hired thugs from the city.

500 SLUM FAMILIES WIN PROTEST

THE Dublin Corporation Housing Committee was recently faced with a proposal to rehouse 500 slum families in wooden huts for a period of "five years at most," pending slum clearance. Of course, all the proper experts had been consulted. An important trade journal, the *Irish Builder and Engineer*, had devoted a leading article to support of the scheme, which it described as sensible, practical and economical. Naturally, the motion was passed, despite the opposition of Mr. Belton, a member of the Committee resident in the area concerned.

On March 21, while the Committee was in session, there entered a deputation of the wives of the quay workers whom it was proposed to transfer.

The chairman said that as the scheme existed only on paper so far, he felt that they had come without very strong reasons. He then had to sit and listen while the women gave their reasons, at some length and with no small emphasis. The chief "reasons" appeared to be:

1. Their men would be too far from their work.
2. The fares would be more than they could afford.
3. Anyway, they would not go.

This last seems to have struck the chairman as a good argument, as he hastened to assure them that no one was going to move them, and they had no reason to complain.

Exit the first deputation.

Enter another deputation, this time of three men representing 2,000 inhabitants of the Gaeltacht Park area, where it was proposed to put up the huts.

A member of the Committee protested against this marshalling of people before the Committee. It was a publicity stunt, he declared. The chairman agreed with him, but he had to receive the deputation.

The spokesman, a Mr. Parkinson, then told the Committee a thing or two:

1. The people would be taken three miles from their work.
2. The Tramway Company had told them they could not hope for an adequate service for some time.
3. There were already not enough churches in the district.
4. The water supply was inadequate.
5. In case of fire, they were three-quarters of a mile from the nearest telephone.
6. Their life-savings were invested in their

houses, which, once depreciated, could not be restored in value.

7. The Corporation had assured them in 1933 that no houses below £650 would be erected in their neighbourhood.
8. The Corporation's own Chief Medical Officer had said that wooden huts were unhygienic.
9. They were not going to put up with a wooden internment camp in their district.

Another member of the deputation said that ideal homes could be built for the workers of Dublin without destroying anybody's property.

Exit the second deputation.

Then arose Mr. Belton, who had previously been powerless to prevent the scheme going through, and proposed that the motion to erect huts be rescinded.

The motion was rescinded by 16 votes to 4. Another motion was tabled to build houses instead of huts.

SEE

SOCIAL CREDIT SUPPLEMENT

for reports of

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FULL PARTICULARS ON PAGE 8.

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COUNCIL DEFIES UNEMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

BY 40 votes to four on March 27 Norwich City Council voted a full week's allowance to the unemployed who were to be transferred to the Unemployment Assistance Board this week.

Miss Clarkson, chairman of the Public Assistance Committee, said that the Council was legally entitled to pay only 5/7ths of the usual allowances, but this would mean serious hardship on the men, who would lose compensation for two days.

Miss Clarkson, who went to London for advice, was warned that the Council would be liable to a surcharge if it made this illegal payment.

But, she said, it was better to run any risk than make the lives of hundreds of men, women and children harder than at present.

That is the sensible attitude when there is plenty for all. What are the other councils doing about it?

They will yield to pressure.

There Would Be No Maid Problem, No Kitchen Economy

"HALLO! Is that Marjorie? I'm frightfully sorry, but I'll have to put you off today. I've just had a fine flare-up with my maid. I've sent her packing, felt I couldn't stand her a minute longer. There isn't a thing in the house for lunch and the whole place is upside down . . . What did she do? What didn't she do is more like it. I'll tell you all about it when I see you.

"I stood it for six months simply because I knew I shouldn't get another in a hurry. Modern girls! Don't talk to me about them. They're not worth their salt.

"And if they had this National Dividend that you're so fond of talking about, we should get no servants at all . . .

What's that? Would I like my own daughter to be a maid? What a question! That's quite beside the point . . ."

* * *

WE won't listen in to the conversation any longer. It is clear that the lady is very annoyed and may say something she will afterwards be sorry for. But she is quite right about one thing.

The National Dividend would put a stop to domestic service as it is known today.

But she is wrong in thinking this would be a disaster. It would be a great blessing. One scarcely knows which to pity most, mistress or maid.

I am not concerned with the domestic problems of the wealthy. If they can pay good wages they get good service. It is the struggling middle-class wife who deserves pity, and the unfortunate being who has to take service with her.

* * *

The middle-class woman who keeps one maid usually has at least one child and not very much money to keep house on.

She is absorbed in the struggle to keep up appearances, particularly if her husband is a professional man.

This means "economy" in the kitchen. She cannot afford to pay high wages, nor can she afford an up-to-date labour-saving kitchen, for all these devices are much more expensive than they should be.

What should be the workshop of the home, run by an expert, is a mere makeshift, an apology.

It would, I think, be quite fair to say that the majority of middle-class kitchens today, even in new houses, fall far below the standard that modern science has made possible.

Yet the mistress expects first-rate service from second-rate equipment, run by a girl with little or no training, and the most elementary of educations. Is this quite fair?

* * *

Intelligent girls know that Cinderella still sits in the kitchen. It is not one atom of good to talk about getting rid of our snobbish attitude towards service.

This will remain unsatisfactory until the kitchen can be equipped, as carefully as a laboratory, for a domestic science expert, trained for her job.

According to a report compiled for the Bolton Public Assistance Committee, the people who come at the top of the list in mental institutes are those with uninteresting jobs, such as labourers, mill hands, domestic servants and weavers. Figures are low among people who have plenty of variety and change of scene.

It is not only that the work is often uninteresting. The old idea persists that anyone can undertake domestic duties, that little intelligence is required. Two of my friends each obtained a maid from an orphanage, only to discover later that she was mentally defective.

* * *

Girls of this type are the first to be affected by the conditions of their work.

The nerve strain involved both for mistress and maid is incalculable. There are

By
MRS. PALMER

you throw the garbage. It drops down into the incinerator in the cellar. This other door is the clothes chute."

"What's this over here?"

"That's the dishwasher sink. You stack

Girl Victims At The Altar of Sound Finance



I AM not troubled about the position of women in domestic service—it is the children who worry me—the unfortunate girls of fourteen who cannot fight for themselves. They are dragged from their homes in the distressed areas, and are generally of very little use to any but a very kind and understanding mistress. Poor little drudges! The battles I've fought for them.

I was once a housekeeper in a school and these girls were expected to work from 6.30 until 10 p.m., with the usual weekly half-days. They would stay a week, or a month or two, sometimes only a couple of days. I couldn't stand it. I left.

These girls are generally underpaid when they first come south. They must stay three months or lose their fare money.

There is no welfare supervision for them, as there is for child factory workers—I am not advocating it as it would only be a palliative—but with the National Dividend these children could stay with their parents.

I am not saying that all mistresses are cruel, but many of them are indifferent. The opportunity of exploitation is there. Most of us want as much as we can get for our money.

An employer will be good to a good servant—it pays, but these young maids are not good servants, and some of them never will be. A girl does not automatically become domesticated because she is poor.

They arrive at their first job frightened and very homesick—even the language seems different. A month to wait before they have any wages, and seldom more than a copper or two when they arrive. I have seen young girls not yet 16 with terrible varicose veins caused by hours of standing—poor unfortunate children—victims on the Altar of Sound Finance.

— From a correspondent, Mrs. White.

few middle-class households that do not have a domestic upheaval from time to time.

It is no use for mistresses to deceive themselves. The fact is that an intelligent girl will not enter service if she can find some other work. Today there are many opportunities for the young girl, if she has brains. She may find herself unemployed in middle age, but even then she will only turn to service as a last resort.

What difference will the National Dividend make?

* * *

First of all there will be far less work to do in the home. Careful planning and furnishing will minimise housework, while much of the drudgery, including laundry work and mending (if any), will be undertaken by agencies.

There will probably be a revival in the fine art of cooking, and there is no reason why there should not be an organised service of visiting experts for different branches of household science. The care of children will certainly be one of these.

But I think that "living-in" as it is known today is doomed. It is already fast disappearing. The old system of keeping a maid to prepare breakfast for us before we catch the 8.33 will be a thing of the past. We shall probably prepare our own breakfast.

We shan't have to catch the 8.33 any way.

* * *

HOW do you like this extract from an American short story by W. H. Upson, written in 1931? (They do things so much better over there.)

"Look, the electric refrigerator was turned on only this morning, and already we have plenty of ice cubes. This little door is where

the dishes in this wire basket right over the little paddle wheel. You turn this handle, which lets in hot water. You throw in washing powder. You close the lid. And you start the paddle wheel, which shoots the water over the dishes. Then you drain out the dirty water, rinse the dishes, and the job is done."

"Over here is the electric mixing machine; it mixes dough, grinds meat and coffee, slices vegetables, beats eggs, whips cream, turns the icecream freezer, and even grinds knives and scissors."

* * *

JUST one more point. In medieval times it was the pages who waited at table, and they were usually the sons of noblemen. They were not paid wages, but thought it an honour to serve.

Shall We All Become Experts?

SPEAKING at a recent League of Nations Union Conference held at the London School of Economics, the Rev. Gwilym Davies said that the League of Nations would close its doors at Geneva for the last time on the same morning as the Bank of England would close its doors, and for the same reason—that Western civilisation had gone over the precipice.

The conference passed the following resolution:

"We strongly recommend the inclusion in the syllabus of matriculation and school certificate of modern international and League of Nations problems."

ECONOMY

WHEN the elementary school children who had been invited to King George's Silver Jubilee were told to bring either a coat or mackintosh it was found that hundreds of them had neither.

So the L.C.C. begged about five hundred second-hand coats from charitable persons, and these were lent for the occasion.

They were then carefully stored away, and will be distributed again at the forthcoming coronation.

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.

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

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.

Sutton Goldfield S.C. Group. Next Meeting, Friday, April 16, 8 p.m., Methodist Hall, South Parade. Mr. Cooper—"The Nature of Money."

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.

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LOCAL OBJECTIVES

THE editor will be glad to receive reports from anywhere where people are asserting their sovereignty over the institutions which should serve them.

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It does not matter if they are badly managed or ill-directed. It is sovereignty that matters.

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FREEDOM NONSENSE

WHEN Edinburgh proposed to confer the freedom of the city on the Duchess of Gloucester, Councillor Tom Murray, Socialist, opposed it on the grounds that the honour would be better conferred on one of the housewives who maintained a family on meagre money.

This is just the sort of thing we women have to contend with. We work our

fingers to the bone, while politicians think all we need is a little praise to keep us at our backbreaking toil for ever.

A housewives' strike would show up the farce for what it is.

Don't let us be deceived. Let the Duchess have her honour, but let us demand something more tangible for ourselves—a National Dividend.

Choice of Evils for Belgium

Corporate State or Bank-Ridden "Democracy"

MONDAY'S by-election in Brussels will inevitably influence the future of Belgium. The opposing candidates are M. Degrelle, the 31-year-old leader of the Fascist Rex party, and the Prime Minister of the present coalition government — the National Union — M. Van Zeeland, formerly Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Belgium.

The people of Belgium have thus a choice of evils. To support the National Union, and so help to maintain the present hidden financial dictatorship masquerading as democracy, or to support the Rex, and an open dictatorship equally under financial influences.

In fact, whichever side wins, the people of Belgium lose. They have yet to realise the necessity of refusing to vote for labels or programmes, and to insist that their representatives do in fact represent their demand for results, and enforce it on those who control the financial and economic systems.

Everything points to a victory for M. Van Zeeland. He is an orthodox financier, wedded to the system which automatically produces the paradox of poverty in plenty, the fight for export markets and its eventual outcome, war, but—he has won much praise for the manner in which he engineered the devaluation of the franc, which has improved trade, and he is thoroughly honest, as even his rival M. Degrelle, an expert mud slinger, admits.

M. Degrelle, as reported in SOCIAL CREDIT on June 19 and November 27, 1936, first rose to prominence through a campaign to expose political corruption.

Fascist Support

He is reported to be merely a little Hitler, who copies Nazi methods down to the smallest detail. If elected it is believed he would concentrate on making the work of Parliament impossible.

In some quarters it is suggested that he is merely an agent of Hitler, who wishes to complete the encirclement of France at the north, which is being attempted in Spain to the south. Whatever the truth of these suggestions it is clear from the following report from a correspondent that both Hitler and Mussolini support him.

"Degrelle was refused the use of the

Belgian broadcasting stations for his address to his constituents, and the government station at Turin (Italy) was placed at his disposal."

"He made a long stay in Germany, nominally as correspondent for his paper, *Soirées*, and made friends with all the leading people in the Third Reich. His lieutenant Pierre Doye, assisted at the Congress at Nuremberg."

An Animator

"Some time ago, having announced that he was retiring to a monastery in Holland for 'retreat,' it was divulged that he was in Berlin."

One thing is to be said in Degrelle's favour. He appears to realise the correct relationship between the government and the experts, for in a recent speech he is reported to have said:

"People say that I have no programme, no plan. My programme can be set out in very few words: to reconcile (*réconcilier*) the Flemings and the Walloons, the middle classes, the workers and the peasantry, to govern the people for the people. How? You will see. *I am not a technician. I know it very well. I am an animator (animateur). When I shall have got the power, I shall easily find the technicians I need. Here... why not Van Zeeland? I have nothing against him. He is honest, patriotic, and a fine fellow. He would do jolly good work under my direction...*" (My italics.)

Same Delusion

Unfortunately, M. Degrelle thinks he knows what is good for people and seeks to impose his will on them. Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini, to mention no others, suffer under the same delusion.

In the circumstances, a correspondent's summing-up of the situation seems to be correct:

"For the Social Crediter it is immaterial whether we have a perverted democracy (dominated by the banks) or corporatism (also dominated by the banks). We have seen in Italy and in Germany what this 'change' amounted to. It is certainly not for the better. So one would finally wish the financier, Van Zeeland, good luck."

M.W.

PULL DEVIL PULL BAKER IN ALBERTA

APRIL First found the daily papers pulling each other's legs about Alberta.

The resignation of Mr. William Aberhart, Social Credit Premier of Alberta, now seems inevitable, said one.

Displaying generalship in extracting himself from a difficult position, Mr. Aberhart, the Social Credit Premier of Alberta, whose immediate resignation observers thought inevitable, has postponed it by adjourning the Budget debate for two months, said another.

"It is plain now that we shall have to get rid of the Premier as soon as possible if the Social Credit Party is to survive," declared one of the rebel leaders, according to a third.

Some say Major Douglas will be invited back to Alberta, others that he will not, others that he will be asked to lead a committee of five—or perhaps three—to produce a Social Credit plan.

PSEUDO SOCIAL CREDIT

Meanwhile in Alberta the new Minister for Lands and Mines, the Hon. N. E. Tanner, has been speaking in the Legislature.

No one in Alberta, he said, was more determined to carry out Social Credit pledges than Premier Aberhart.

He himself was glad to have been called in to assist in administering government policies.

The budget had been criticised, he said, for its wider taxation scope, but surely everyone realised that with the public demanding wider services, the only way to provide them was to ask larger collections.

He said that, as a "Social Credit" Minister in a "Social Credit" government.

He had better read the anti-taxation number of SOCIAL CREDIT next week.

PRESS VIEWS VARY

Congratulations to the *Sunday Times* for the neatest and most accurate summary of the situation, which ended with these words:

"The experiment has thus been tried under conditions fatal from the first to its full development, and Major Douglas, the English inventor of the scheme, has dissociated himself from this Albertan perversion of it."

It was a pleasing contrast to the exhibitions of inaccuracy, false emphasis, and special pleading indulged in by others.

They could at least look it up in Whitaker's Almanack, if they really do not know.

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Below is the form Parliamentary electors are being asked to sign. Please read it carefully, sign (if you have not done so already) and send it to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Will you volunteer to help in the Campaign?

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 if I can for a 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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