

**Epitaph
to
the
League**
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SOCIAL CREDIT

WE live in the Power Age, with ability to produce wealth enough for all. This paper exists to champion The People's right to proper distribution of this wealth; to declare the subservience of all financial and other institutions to The People's will; and to demand the National Dividends our country can well afford, so that all may enjoy the Plenty that is now possible.

Douglas
Cables
Saskatchewan

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FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1938

Weekly Twopence

Dictatorship Or Democracy ?

WHILE the Governments of Europe were trembling at the sudden crisis that had focussed itself on the frontier of Czechoslovakia and Germany last week-end, two other Governments, namely, that of Canada and that of the Money Monopoly, were faced with what has been referred to in the press as a "delicate problem" and "an awkward situation" as a consequence of events unrolling in the Western Provinces of Canada.

In Europe the threatening cloud of war looms ever darker, and no one questions now whether the storm will break, or whether its threat is present. The only question is "How long will it be before it breaks?" Meanwhile the people everywhere are being encouraged to think in terms of opposing factions, with false labels of "Dictatorship" to represent one side and "Democracy" the other.

There are newspapers in London openly advocating that pressure should be brought to bear to obstruct the will of the people in Canada, and yet this is done under the false label of "Democracy." The same campaign, designed to confuse, is pursued in Europe, and if the people fail to clarify for themselves something quite different from either of these false labels, a violent war of destruction will be the fruit of their failure.

True democracy is not a failure. It has never been tried. In a true democracy the people declare unitedly and determinedly on the policy they want. No general election has ever occurred in Great Britain on this true democratic principle. The people have always had to vote on agendas framed by politicians. That is not democracy. The politicians ignore policy, and put artfully before the people conflicting methods, as if they were different policies, and so confusion is produced, and disaster approaches.

The same can be said about dictatorships. What there is to be said for dictatorships (authority, order and planning) is never said

in the "popular"—controlled—press. The public are not told that "authority," such as dictators claim on the grounds of order, planning, and technical necessity, is in its proper place only when it is subservient to the policy declared freely and unitedly by the common people.

It is quite in order, and it is genuinely democratic, for ratepayers to demand from their representatives the declared result (or declared policy) of Lower Rates, but it is not correct democratic practice for the electorate to start voting over this or that method of administering local public services. That is not the job of the councillors, but of the technicians, the paid experts. It is for those experts to produce the results demanded by the representatives of the people, and if something obstructs those results, it is the business of the experts to explain to the representatives of the people who and what it is obstructing the declared will of the people, and for the people to be informed as to who and what is obstructing their democratic

policy. All true democrats should propagate this by word and example and make it perfectly clear to as many people as can be reached.

The best way is to demonstrate this in action. Demand, and press for, Lower Rates.

It is the greatest contribution they can give towards making this country free of dictatorship of the tyrannical kind. It is the best thing they can do to abolish the poverty, tyranny, and nine-tenths of the evil they see about them, and, constructively, it is the best thing that can be done to bring about conditions of peace, prosperity and freedom.

MORE TAX TYRANNY

THE Finance Act of 1935 resulted in the imposition of 8d. a gallon duty on all oils used as fuel for road vehicles. In the taxation year just ended, the yield from duty (taxes) on all oil was £50,143,000.

British motorists now pay six times as much in petrol taxes as do Americans.

The President of the Board of Trade will announce on Tuesday the Government's scheme for paying compensation to owners of houses and other property damaged in air raids. As forecast in the *Sunday Chronicle*, the scheme is to add 3d. in the pound to all Schedule A income tax.—Extract from the "*Sunday Chronicle*."

THE FULNESS OF THE EARTH

ON the Atlantic Coast of the United States is a chemical works which obtains bromine from the sea-water, for use as an anti-knock dope for motor-car engines.

In four years of operation one square mile of water 354 feet deep has been treated, and in this volume of water were other chemicals turned back, yet which would have a market value at current prices of £79,000,000. Among these were 7,600,000 tons of common salt; 1,930,000 tons of Epsom salts; 10½ tons of iodine; 495 tons of aluminium; 520 tons of iron; 33 tons of copper; 420,000 tons of calcium chloride; 5½ tons of silver; 174,000 tons of magnesium; and 3½ cwt. of gold.

This is just a small part of the world's real wealth. And think of the profusion of the vegetable and animal life which a piece of land of the same dimensions could support. Is there the slightest reason why a single member of the earth's community should go in want of food, clothes, shelter and security?

WHY GIVE THIS PUBLICITY ?

RICHMOND (Surrey) Ratepayers' Association refused to co-operate in the drive for lower rates without lowering the social services, as organised by the local Lower Rates Demand Association. Instead, it passed a piffing resolution "requesting" the Minister of Health to take immediate steps to allay the alarm and apprehension caused to ratepayers throughout the country by generally increasing rates, and for him to cause a full investigation to be made, etc., etc., on the old, old lines.

Mass meetings of indignant citizens throughout the country, DEMANDING lower rates without cutting the social services, and thus attacking the financial racket at its root, were passed unnoticed by what is called the "national" press. But at least three of what are called "national" dailies gave full publicity to this ordinary little meeting of an ordinary ratepayers' association.

Why?

A Bishop, A Bishop !

TO complain about paying rates is unchristianly, said a certain Bishop recently.

"But as Christian citizens," he added, "we ought to rejoice and pay our share of the common burden."

SPREADING DISEASE NEW METHODS OF WAR

MAJOR DOUGLAS, in his famous B.B.C. radio talk in November, 1934, gave the technical definition of warfare as follows: "Any action taken to impose your will upon an enemy, or to prevent him from imposing his will upon you."

He also asked listeners to recognise that this definition of war makes the motive rather than the method the important matter to consider.

It is quite evident from past experience that every possible diabolical means will be employed to break down resistance during the next major conflict.

In a recent issue of *The Week* (No. 262) it was stated that there is a growing anxiety regarding the plans made by a great Continental nation for bacteriological warfare:

"The third type of bacteriological war, that is to say, the production of diseases in cattle with the object of endangering the enemy food situation and of decimating horses available for the army, has . . . in view of the swiftness with which foot-and-mouth disease spreads, the biggest possibilities, especially as in this method, the direct dissemination of bacteria cultures by means of aeroplanes might well prove successful.

"In this case, too, only a carefully prepared veterinary organisation, equipped to deal with all conceivable emergencies, is suitable—and it must be one which does not wait for the actual outbreak of war to provide itself with the necessary means of defence."

Against all this, there is the constructive suggestion made by Major Douglas in the same radio address as above, which would have the effect of eventually banishing all forms of warfare from civilised nations:

"Strength, unaccompanied by a motive for aggression, is a factor making for peace. A radical modification of the existing financial system will make it possible to build up a strong and united nation free from economic dissension, which would, by its strength, offer a powerful deterrent to aggressive war."

The State In The Role Of Robber W.E.A. Gets The Truth

"OUR present system of taxation stands condemned in principle, and it is thanks to the practice of not charging State services to the common product—the national wealth—but to the other contributory party spectacle in every nation of the State and its—the individual members—that we have the individual members at cross purposes, the State in the rôle of robber, and the individual in the rôle of victim."

Thus Mr. D. R. Guttery, speaking before the Workers' Educational Association in Worcestershire recently on "Taxation and its Effects." It must be seldom that the W.E.A. has heard such trenchant criticism of the present monetary system, and it will be

interesting to see if it is ever allowed to have it again.

Mr. Guttery insisted that taxes were the compulsory contribution levied on persons, property, or business, to repay loans contracted by the Government with the Bank of England.

It was usually said that taxation was for the purpose of providing warships, making roads, etc., but the original underlying truth was that taxation was to provide Government servants with goods and services in return for their services.

Was it not absurd to destroy goods and restrict production, and then demand taxation out of the restricted supply? And as taxes could now be paid only in money, did this not give immense power to the money monopoly which had the sole right of creating and destroying at will all money other than coin?

The tax-money which individuals had to pay came from incomes, and was a very obvious loss of purchasing power to the individual. All Government debt to the bank [created out of nothing—Ed.] which was not repaid out of taxation, was capitalised in the form of a loan, and became a burden upon the present and coming generations, and was paid perhaps thrice over out of taxation.

The fallacy of trying to borrow ourselves out of debt, and the legalised practice of crushing taxation in an era of abundance needs no exposure to readers of this paper.

It remains only to emphasise once again that taxation is not primarily a means of getting money. It is a means of keeping the population of this country—and those of other countries—in subjection, and restricting their rightful individual liberties. This purpose it will fulfil only just as long as the people refuse to act towards its removal.

Debtors And Creditors

The Host

FORTY years ago, British Consols, then regarded as the safest investment in the world, stood at well over 100. Since then they have been as low as 48, and unfortunate holders who had to realise at that figure had lost more than half their nominal capital. But their real loss was much greater than this, for during the period the purchasing power of money had also declined substantially, and what was left to them was possibly not worth more than one-third of the sum they had originally invested.

The Parasite

£100 SPREAD some forty years ago over a number of what are considered to-day the best British Insurance Bank and Investment Trust Stocks, would have increased in value to not far short of £500 at the present time, and the dividends on them would have increased about fourfold.

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THIS WEEK A YEAR AGO

"TWO colleagues of Major Douglas are going to Alberta to report on the situation there following a conference between Major Douglas and Mr. McLachlan, M.L.A., chairman of the new Social Credit Branch in Alberta."

So much has happened in Alberta and elsewhere since this unassuming announcement appeared that it is perhaps not out of place to remind readers of SOCIAL CREDIT that the day on which they read it was just a year ago—May 28, 1937.

Until then, we all knew Social Credit, the faith. To-day we, together with our financial opponents, have had practical experience of Social Credit, the power.

The difference is as profound as that between the proof on paper that a steel ship will float and the actual launching of the first steel ship.

An entire community has learned that Social Credit dynamics work, and now the rest of the world is busy taking that lesson to heart.

Antagonists may say that our steel ship is poorly designed. They may point out that it hasn't yet taken a voyage. They may bribe engineers to monkey with the engines. But no longer can they put forward a case that the ship will not float because, there it is, floating.

Of course, there are diehards who will not believe their eyes. I have, for instance, met one or two people who, after hearing the details of the Lower Rates Campaign, have taken great pains to explain to me just why the scheme will not work. When I point out that the scheme is working, and has produced concrete results in four towns, these people have a way of changing the subject.

Well, the good ship Alberta is launched, and we need no longer bother ourselves about the "can a ship float?" argument. What we have to do now is build and launch bigger, better and more seaworthy ships of steel.

May 28, 1939. What news will SOCIAL CREDIT contain on that day? It can be the quality of news that finds its way into the history books. It depends upon you, and upon all of us. Our effort. Our money. Please do not neglect the Secretariat Funds.

W. WILSON
Asst. Director of Revenue

Every Man Is Worth Two— In Association

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FORM B I enclose the sum of £ : : as a special donation to the Social Credit Expansion Fund, to be expended by the Administrators at the sole discretion of MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS or his nominee.

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★ COMMENTARY

Perhaps you've read these items in your newspapers—our comment will give them a new significance

Two Miles Down For Gold

INTENSE research is being lavished on methods of getting gold up out of the bowels of the earth. Two South African engineers have recently stated, in a paper to the Institution of Chemical Engineers, that the value of gold recoverable in South African goldfields increased by £100,000,000 for every extra 1,000 feet of depth mined below 6,000 feet. On this basis there would be something like £600,000,000 worth of gold between 6,000 feet and 12,000 feet vertical depth.

Precious metal, this gold! What is done with it when it is dug up from these tremendous depths? Why, it is put underground again; not so deep, but almost as safe from human touch or sight or use as it was where nature stored it in the earth.

Gold mining must be one of the nearest approaches to complete futility yet devised by ants or men.

The Hungry Thirties

TERRIBLE tales of hunger and privation in the "Hungry England" of 1938 were told by the delegates to the Council of the Women's Liberal Federation at Bath. Working women described how babies were being fed on watered condensed milk, how children were going hungry and cold to school, how old age pensioners had to count every piece of coal they put on the fire, and how homes were being broken up under the economic strain.

Mrs. Fred Waterhouse (Keighley) spoke of the "nightmarish arithmetic that is the daily and weekly task of too many of our people." She said that at present there were something like 4,000,000 people in this country who suffered actual hunger every week and another 10,000,000 whose diet was deficient.

In Bed To Keep Warm

MRS. NICHOLLS (Stratford-on-Avon) said the average wage of a working man in Stratford was about 50s. One old couple had to go to bed at six o'clock in the evening to keep warm. They each had a pension of 10s. and their rent was 8s. 6d.

Mrs. Morgan (Porth) said that husbands and wives were being estranged, and the home atmosphere was often unfit for bringing up the children because of poverty. Miss Belzer (Whitechapel) said she had seen many happy couples who had separated because of the strain of making both ends meet.

Mrs. Foxton (Manchester) said she had been talking to a woman with four children who took one pint of milk a day and gave them tinned milk and water for breakfast and supper.

Despair

"WHY trouble to give a crock the best treatment science can offer, turn him out a new man, then leave him to crime or the river?" said an ex-scholar of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, when he was sent back to gaol.

The psychologists thought they had "cured" him of his weakness for stealing suitcases at London railway stations. They spent nine months on his reformation because they thought his excellent "background" was exceptionally favourable to treatment.

But just as old tuberculosis will flame up

REVIEW

THE PUBLIC SERVICES

"THE PUBLIC SERVICES" is the first book to offer the educated reader a non-partisan historical survey of some of the more monopolistic services on which the British public has become dependent in modern times. It endeavours to show how changes in public habits have been met by modifications in the organisation of public utility undertakings.

In its broad sweep, it makes no attempt to give dull and detailed descriptions of each and every administrative machine. But it does aim at presenting an estimate of present tendencies, against a background of past developments. And the trend of social evolution is illustrated with some novel diagrams.

Unfortunately, the bearing of the power of financial institutions to create money has had on the monopolistic control; the direction of such control, including the location of its source and the technique of its application, is not made very clear. J.C.

* "The Public Services: A Historical Survey," by W. Hardy Wickwar (Cobden-Sanderson, 10s. 6d.).

again when the convalescent returns to the slums, so this man relapsed to his life of crime when he found he could not get a job, which was his only means of obtaining the "licences to live," the "money tickets."

The "cure" had failed, but National Dividends would have saved him.

It CAN Be Done

MR. L. D. BYRNE, speaking over the wireless in Alberta, said:

"... In Alberta THE PEOPLE of the Province have demanded \$25 a month dividend and a lower cost of living. These are the RESULTS they have asked for. Let us consider whether this is reasonable—for there still appears to be some doubt in this respect. It is recognised that the resources of Alberta are great—but perhaps it is not generally appreciated how great these are. They have been valued on a conservative basis at the startling figure of some \$300,000 per head of the population.

If these huge resources were exploited at the very modest rate of one-half of one per cent. per annum, the standard of living of the people of Alberta would be increased to about eight times that which exists now.

So you can judge for yourself how reasonable a demand the people have made in asking for \$25 a month dividend with a lower living cost. . . ."

Taxes Mean Prosperity!

"THE Annual Report of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue, which was recently tabled in the Union Parliament, besides bearing further witness to the abounding prosperity of South Africa . . ."

Thus the *African World*. Well, it isn't the first time we've all been referred to the figures of legalised robbery to show how well off we all are.

But, perhaps humorously, the very next news item in the *African World* is headed "Fruit Industry's Plight," and a South African Member of Parliament, Mr. Du Toit, is reported to have said that the industry was facing disaster.

South Africa's inland revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1937, was £25,104,000, and of this total 64 per cent. came from income tax. In Johannesburg in the previous year, 14,887 assessments brought in £482,235. In Durban, 4,770 taxpayers were legally robbed of £114,955 by income tax.

Item

THE *Daily Telegraph* reports that Mr. George F. Powell, when asked if he expected to return to Canada, said: "That is a matter for the Alberta Government and the Canadian Government to decide."

WHY GOLD IS SAFE

SOUND gold-mining shares are a safe investment, because all over the world money debts are being increased at a rate which will build up again an insupportable burden, just as happened through the war-time expenditure of twenty years ago.

Then the nations, ourselves included, were forced to reduce the burden of such debts by a reduction of the gold value of their currencies. That process will be repeated some time or other, or default on the debts will be inevitable.—By Moorgate (A. W. Wright) in the *Sunday Referee*.

This is the sound financial way of getting out of debt. In reality it means making everybody's £ buy less, and is regarded as essentially honest. It is much better that millions should suffer rather than a few financial institutions alter their system of entering figures in their ledgers. The Albertan attempt at debt reduction is branded as "dishonest" by Financial Medicine Men because the Institutions suffer without expense to the individuals.

LORD WEIR OUT OF WORK

Regains Personal Freedom

IN resigning from his job at the Air Ministry and the Committee of Imperial Defence, Lord Weir said to the Prime Minister:

"To regain my personal freedom will be very welcome to me."

Fortunate Lord Weir! Evidently the "no work, no pay" moral does not apply to him. Quite right, too. It should not apply to anyone else who gives up his job when there are others eager to do it.

Lord Weir has an independent income, which enables him to enjoy his leisure. That is as it should be. We could all be in the same position if we all drew our National Dividends.

But we have not asked—"Ask and it shall be given unto you."


Bank Gets £600,000,000 Of Gold For Nothing

IF, by mining from 6,000 feet to 12,000 feet deep in the South African gold mines, £600,000,000 worth of gold can be brought to the surface, how do THE PEOPLE benefit?

To extract this yellow metal costs immense labour. Who gets the result?

The Bank of England buys gold by writing a draft on itself—that is, the Bank gets it for nothing!

But banks and other financial concerns get far more than mere gold for nothing. As Major Douglas pointed out in SOCIAL CREDIT for May 6, securities probably amounting to nearly £10,000,000,000, were acquired by banks and financial houses, at the expense of the British Taxpayer during and after the war.



THE FIG TREE

A Quarterly Edited by Major C. H. Douglas

Containing articles by

Major Douglas Norman Webb
Elizabeth Edwards T. V. Holmes
A. R. Reade and others

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of the second volume of THE FIG TREE from June, 1937, to March, 1938, will be available at 15s. each to readers who apply for them before June 1. Separate binding cases 3s. 6d. each, post free.

Mrs. Palmer's Page OF FALSE VALUES

HOW much is your baby worth to you?

Lord Justice Greer says that £90 is too little compensation for a three-year-old boy killed in a road accident.

Mr. Justice Charles assesses a girl of the same age at £150, and condemns as excessive the jury's award to the father of £1,000.

This judge complains that there is no guidance, and says Parliament has put upon the jury the duty of looking into the unknown. He refers to the uncertainty of life, and says the child of three may die when it is four; or it may live until it is seventy.

Over and over again I read of street accidents in which children have been killed, reported melodramatically or not, according to the newspaper I happen to see, but there is one moment which is never described, and before which imagination quails.

I mean the moment when the mother learns the child is dead.

To be drawn down into those depths of horror, fighting desperately against great waves of realisation and despair, this is only part of what it is to bear such a grief.

Mothers know that there is no compensation.

This week a motion will be brought forward in the House of Commons, criticising the judge's action in directing the jury in this way.

When such a glaring example of false values comes and the public notice, great indignation is expressed. People do not realise that modern money philosophy takes as fundamental that everything has its price, from the rarest work of art to a pet dog, and even attempts to assess in such terms the value of human life, without whose mere existence the universe would seem to have no meaning.

Beverley Nichols wrote the other day: "Our lives are largely ruled by the price of things. And nearly always it is the wrong price. Nearly always it is based on scarcity."

To make his statement correct he should have omitted the two adverbs "largely" and "nearly." For our worldly condition is entirely ruled by price. And it is always the wrong price.

How can it be anything else when the more plentiful a thing is the more difficult it is to make a living by selling it, and when the only remedy orthodox economists have is to produce an artificial scarcity by destruction or restriction.

For all practical purposes to-day the price of an article is what it will fetch. This means that rare antiques can be priced in thousands, while the life of a little child is assessed at £150. At present he is not a rarity. Perhaps his price will go up one day.

It is not even certain whether he is a liability or an asset; as one judge pointed out, the father was clearly entitled to compensation, although in future his expenses would be reduced!

If we can be led to an utterly absurd conclusion such as this, does it not mean that there is some fundamental error in the chain of reasoning?

Of course there is—we are basing our conclusions on something entirely unreal, that only exists because we believe in it.

In his article, Beverley Nichols goes on

to say that one day the world will regard us as completely mad for attaching so much value to things just because they are scarce; and will rack their brains to try to find some reason, other than simple craziness, which impelled the National Gallery to pay the fantastic sum of £14,000 for two inferior little pictures which a few people thought were by Giorgione.

Can you see the break in the reasoning? The first part of his statement is, of course, perfectly correct. Scarcity alone, coupled with no other attribute, has no real value. But in the second part of his statement he is plainly of opinion that there is some intrinsic value in the pieces of paper which represent £14,000, almost as if the tickets which entitled one to a journey were more valuable than the train itself, or the skill of the engine-driver.

Money is in reality nothing but a ticket which entitles us to claim certain goods and services, and it is our habit of believing it to have value in itself, and of attempting to assess the worth of everything in these terms which has led us to such wrong conclusions about life and art.

In the eighteen eighties a book was written by one Edward Bellamy, an American, who realised clearly that the productive power of the nation was even then enough to provide every citizen with the highest possible standard of living, and that the only thing preventing its realisation was our faith in an out-of-date money system. He showed how this could be altered by a system of credit tickets to be given to everyone. The book is called "Looking Backwards," and as a mere story is quite good entertainment. It throws a bright light on these ridiculous "scarcity" values complained of by Beverley Nichols. Though it is several years since I read it, I remember well how he explains that a correct money system would in time dispose of the insane scramble for antiques and art treasures.

When the National Dividend is enough to supply everyone with as much food, clothing and shelter as he can possibly require, when everyone has leisure and his fair share of the luxuries of life, the possession of valuable works of art will no longer be considered as an "investment" (horrible word).

When everyone has security there will be

no purpose in hoarding, whether it be curios or money, and gradually the major works of art may find their way to the National Galleries—too many would only be an embarrassment to the private citizen, who after all could only use a certain number for his own edification.

And in those days the whole system of insurance with its farce of compensation will be entirely swept away.

For lives will then be the most valuable assets the State can have; so valuable that the very best of everything will not be too much to offer the humblest of them all.

WASTE and GLUT

The orthodox economists' struggle to maintain scarcity values has led to one of the absurdest situations in Orangetown, New York.

There is in U.S.A. a "Surplus Commodities Corporation," a Government organisation which buys up food in order to maintain prices. This food is then distributed to the unemployed.

The Orangetown Relieving Officer says he has only 221 families on his list for free food, yet he received from the Corporation during three weeks:—

- 17,520 lbs. of oranges.
- 9,400 lbs. of kidney beans.
- 3,900 lbs. of butter.
- 2,310 dozen eggs.

He had previously received apples, potatoes and prunes in similar astronomical numbers.

This food must not be sold, because "price" must be maintained; the unemployed cannot possibly eat it all, so much of it is wasted, and the boys play baseball with the oranges in the parks.

While this scandalous waste to bolster up a false financial system is going on in New York, there are 87,000 relief applicants in Cleveland, Ohio. Here the local exchequer is drained by unemployment payments, and only the neediest cases in the breadline can receive adequate food.

Is this the result Americans want from their financial experts? B.M. PALMER.

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Epitaph To The League

THE funeral oration of the League having been mumbled by the unhappy Lord Halifax after what seemed an all-night struggle with his conscience, we may ask ourselves what is likely to happen next.

The League, as I see it, has always been a confidence trick, although no doubt unintentionally so. It is like a pact for mutual protection made between a party of shipwrecked passengers marooned on an island, each with his small personal store of food and belongings.

On the face of it, this sounds practical and sensible; but the pangs of unsatisfied hunger and the strain of primitive conditions of life soon produce their effects, making some of the passengers desperate, others thin and debilitated, so that when one of the stronger ones makes a sudden unprovoked attack on one of the weaker, nobody dared to interfere. Once this is realised, the agreement is not worth the paper it is written on.

To complete the parallel, we must imagine the island abounding with every sort of material requirement, a fact which the local witch doctors are careful to deny and conceal.

This is the position in which the world finds itself to-day. The intense strain of living a "shipwrecked" existence in a land of cornucopian plenty is beginning to tell on us. Our gentlemen's agreements are broken so frequently without anything unpleasant happening to the culprit that we can scarcely keep up the pretence of security any longer and are rapidly degenerating to the level of territorial cannibalism.

What next, then? A babel of voices shouts in reply. Some urge reconstituting the League; others demand a policy of isolation; others again want a return to the pre-War policy of military alliances; and yet others propose that we should have a share-out of the colonies.

By G.W.L. DAY

Let us take the last suggestion. Dr. M. J. Bonn answers the question of how much good it would do in a book which has just been published.*

Colonies, he shows, are of psychological, not of economic, importance. To what extent, for instance, does Great Britain control the gold supply of South Africa, the wheat supply of Canada, or the mineral resources of Australia, either for peace or war? Obviously we don't control them.

He shows conclusively that the real value of colonies is grossly over-rated. He proves that no amount of re-shuffling of colonies could possibly give the self-sufficiency which the Totalitarian States are seeking, and that nothing short of "large-scale territorial rearrangements of the map of the world—not merely of colonial possessions," would come anywhere near doing it.

He thinks the possibilities for the future are either economic co-operation and some sort of federation, or violent campaigns of military conquest resulting in the break-up of old empires and the forming of new ones.

A gloomy prospect! And what useful purpose will the acquired territory serve when it is grabbed, by fair means or foul? It is safe to predict that it will benefit the people little if at all.

Dr. Bonn speaks of possible "economic co-operation," by which he means, no doubt, the fostering of international trade. But this international trade, as at present conducted, is purely financial and has little to do with satisfying people's needs. At best it only benefits a favoured few at the expense of many.

The most appalling confusion of thought * "The Crumbling of Empire: The Disintegration of World Economy" (Allen & Unwin).

arises by speaking in terms of nations instead of individuals. Great Britain will benefit by economic co-operation, perhaps Dr. Bonn would say. What does he mean by "Great Britain"? A nation is nothing apart from its individual population. Does he mean that Strube's Little Man will benefit?

Obviously he can only gain materially if he finds himself able to get more of the things he wants; and only when he begins to get what he wants, together with all the other Little Men in the world, will the tension begin to relax; only then will the danger of war begin to recede.

But this will come about not through any military conquests, redistribution of colonies, economic co-operation along the old Liberal lines, or reconstitution of well-meant confidence tricks, but only through the removal of the barbed wire fences which separate us from our national dumps and food stores.

This and only this is worth bothering about, and if the resuscitation of the League's corpse diverts our attention from this vital question, it will be a curse in disguise.

WASTED WEALTH

REPORTS on the world's coal industry prepared by the International Labour Office at Geneva show that since 1930 almost a million fewer miners have been employed in the fourteen principal coal-producing countries.

In Great Britain, says British United Press, there are now 800,000 miners compared with 1,200,000 in 1930.

What has happened to those 400,000 British miners?

And what has happened regarding their wages?

Does everybody in Britain consume all the coal they want, and have we got the money required to buy all the coal we want without having to "economise" on something else?

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Canada's Freedom In Sight

SOCIAL CREDIT in Alberta, having "burst" in the pages of the *Daily Telegraph* and been "discredited" in the *News Chronicle*, is now revived in this week's *Financial Times* editorial under the heading "Social Credit Again." It seems a clear case of "She's dead but she won't lie down."

The editorial in question requires little comment. Protesting that banks and mortgage and insurance companies are only associations of capitalists, "many of them of quite limited means," it proclaims Alberta's new laws as a "thrust at investors" in Canada and in Great Britain. This is the old game of trying to frighten the genuine individual who has invested savings in Alberta, a bogey that has no foundation in fact. We have Major Douglas's assurance that if the Douglas policy of Demanding Results succeeds in Alberta or anywhere else, no individual will lose by it.

But arguments of this or any other nature are all quite beside the point. Albertans are not interested in argument. They are asking for a RESULT.

It is impossible to counter this demand for a result by argument, cajolery, trickery, lies or play-acting. Results are concrete things that you eat, live in or otherwise use. When Albertans can see those things all around them but are not allowed to touch them, they are not going to be fooled by any word-spilling.

THE editorial says the situation is "awkward." *The Times* of May 20 calls it "delicate." And so it is. The Ottawa Ministers are faced with a choice of two dirty games which can neither of them be hidden from the public. Are they to come down heavily on Alberta for refusing to believe in Father Christmas, as an example to Saskatchewan before the elections in that Province? Or shall they wait to see whether Saskatchewan still believes in him? The trouble is that wrong action now may cause Manitoba and British Columbia also to stop hanging up their stockings. The financial papers are all for immediate disallowance, even if, as is insinuated, it is necessary to over-ride constitutional law. But poor Mackenzie King is in the position of the P.B.I. in the war, and it's all very well for these City of London warriors to be brave and ruthless in their comfortable offices at home.

ACTUALLY the position is more than "delicate"; it is impossible. By demanding a RESULT, you explode once and for all the money-fraud and all its political and institutional supports. They can explain and explain and explain—but if the RESULTS are not what you specify and you see that they could be so in the real world of goods and services, all the nonsense goes in at one ear and out of the other. It is all beside the point, like saying that you cannot have the dinner you can see before you on the table because Santa Claus can't get down the chimney.

Great events are coming. Saskatchewan polls in a week. All Western Canada is thinking in terms of one word—RESULTS. It is the keyword of political science, the word which will make it impossible for any of the people to be fooled at any time. Demand RESULTS and Finance is thereby bereft of the power to deceive, to betray, to enslave you.

Saskatchewan Next!

By Miles Hyatt

Director of Overseas Relations

ONCE again Mackenzie King stands on the brink of a decision fateful for all time to come. Perhaps, before these words are printed, he will have made up his mind. Like the old Roman Senator, he holds in his hands peace or war for mankind—never-ending struggle, misery, poverty and death; or world-wide happiness and life more and more abundant, for individuals everywhere.

Which will he choose?—this man who said in his own pre-election address at Saskatoon on September 21, 1935:

"Canada is faced with a great battle between the money power and the power of the people, battle which will be waged in the new Parliament.

"I plead for a sweeping Liberal victory to carry out my policy of public control of currency and credit.

"Until the control of currency and credit is restored to the Government, all talk of Sovereignty of Parliament and Democracy is idle and futile."

It is not enough that he should just refrain from "disallowing" Alberta's laws. His plighted credit as a statesman, his personal honour as a man, demand that he should give them wholehearted support.

Last session, the Alberta Government, undeterred by the two previous disallowances, passed a set of laws designed to secure for the people by one method the Results they had been prevented from getting by another. These laws, the Securities Tax Act, the Home Owners' Security Act, the Act amending the Limitations of Actions Act, and two measures on Debt Redemption, "undermined," said *The Times* of May 18, "the security on which thousands of mortgages are based."

Who are the holders of these mortgages?

Are they individuals who will suffer severe loss by reason of these Acts? Let us see what *The Times* has to say about them. Estimating the number of mortgages affected as 40,000 (which comes to about one in every 18, men, women and children, of the population!) it considers that: "Mortgage companies and other financial interests naturally regard these laws . . . as outrageous . . . they . . . threaten losses running into millions of dollars for insurance, trust and mortgage companies, and endanger the invested savings of many individuals." You see! The old Post Office Savings Bank dodge. Newspaper reporters know very well that no individual holding bonds or mortgages or shares of any nature in Alberta will lose a penny when Social Credit is established, provided he or she registers the holdings with the Government as requested. So they dare not say anything which can be so quickly shown to be untrue. Instead they trot out the old scare about "invested savings" losing their value.

It cannot be too often repeated that, provided the Albertan People and Government follow the Douglas policy of demanding Results, they must succeed; and if they succeed, no individual will suffer. All will benefit. The dividends of savings will appreciate at once because the whole people will be enjoying unheard-of prosperity. Those who have lent money from their savings to the Albertan people will be well rewarded.

This applies even to some institutions. It often happens that an organisation such as a church, for instance, has funds subscribed by its members which it invests in bonds. Provided it can clearly show that real money given by real people, or acquired in some other genuine way, is tied up in these bonds, it will lose nothing.

Some individuals may suffer loss, it is true, but only the loss of that to which they never have been entitled. Such individuals live in New York or London. They are directors of financial institutions and they borrow, perhaps, a thousand pounds from you and me, and then lend ten thousand pounds to the Albertans. They never had the extra nine thousand pounds—just pretended to have it by manipulating pen and paper, and made simple, unsuspecting people believe that it was "savings." But the secret is out now. No one will be taken in any more, and fooled into borrowing his own credit from someone else.

To return to the present situation, unless Mackenzie King gives positive support to Mr. Aberhart, even *The Times* will not be able to ascribe a worthy motive to his simply refraining from disallowance. "The Dominion Cabinet . . . is being strongly pressed to exercise the Federal power (?) of disallowance . . . and must consider the political consequences of such a step in the light of the impending provincial election in Saskatchewan. Saskat-

chewan will poll on June 8, and the Liberal Premier, Mr. Patterson, has hurried on the election to give as little time as possible . . . etc., etc. All very shady and unworthy of British institutions, you would think. There are men who believe in "fair play" only when it means that 99 per cent. of the people can be treated as unfairly as possible in the interests of the bankers.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce is urging Ottawa to disallow the Acts at once, and also "vigorous pressure is being exerted from other quarters." (We know these "other quarters"!)" "The Government probably would not hesitate . . ." but in Saskatchewan, "if disallowance is now enforced, they will denounce the Liberal Party as the servile tool of financial interests and will depict their aspirations to free the farmers from their burdens as being frustrated by an unjust Federal tyranny declared by the money powers." And so say all of us. We have to thank *The Times* for putting a point of view which all intelligent persons will perceive to be correct.

"Other quarters" think that prompt disallowance will show the People of Saskatchewan that Mr. Aberhart's measures are "completely ineffective." The Dominion Cabinet hesitates—it awaits advice. It may wait until after the elections—and after that it may go on waiting for ever and ever. It rests with Saskatchewan.

For over the border into Saskatchewan are pouring Albertan Members of Parliament,

speakers of all sorts, farmers and business men, to urge their neighbours to join them in the fight against financial tyranny and to help them win independence in abundance for the individual.

They know they are fighting not only against starvation, misery, disease and slavery, but war in all its forms, economic and military.

Besides, they are all men of the West—that is their strength. The best blood in Canada, the pioneer peoples of the Western Provinces who only a long lifetime ago were contending with all the dangers of Indian warfare and outlaw bands, and winning their lands at a cost in courage, life and endurance which can never be assessed, have everything in common to link them together; and against them is arrayed those unclean things, the oily, soft-handed, cheating financiers of foreign cities. Men of Eastern Canada may be deceived, or bought. But men of the West are proof against either. They face realities. And what a difference there is in the general situation!

Six months ago Ottawa was prepared to plunge gaily in and disallow anything the bankers ordered it to disallow. Now . . .! Social Crediters contesting every seat in Saskatchewan; other provinces restless and in open revolt against the Rowell Commission's plans for centralisation of authority; the People of Alberta solidly behind their Government as never before, electing a Results candidate in the very stronghold of the financiers, repeating all the legislation which was "disallowed"—they cannot lose! And they know it.

Saskatchewan Social Crediters, too, will carry the fort by storm on June 8 and triumphantly mark one more milestone towards peace in freedom for the individual.

THE GOLDEN KEY

WRITING in these columns a few weeks ago, G. W. L. Day said: "The notion that we can get more of the good things of life by letting everyone have more, instead of forcing large numbers to do with less, is quite foreign to our way of thinking. Yet this is, in fact, the golden key which fits the lock of our prison door."

In effect, what Mr. Day was telling us was that we must have faith, faith in our fellow-men, and faith in our ability, in association with them, to produce sufficient of the good things of life to permit all, rich and poor alike, to have more of them. To the extent that this idea "is quite foreign to our way of thinking," we are uncivilised. Though living in the twentieth century, in the age of power, we are being controlled by instincts originating in past ages of scarcity, the same instinct which makes the pet squirrel, fed daily, hide his food, or the dog bury his

bone. We, the heirs of the ages, lacking this faith, are no better than the beasts, if indeed we are not worse. We have the power of reason, which we are told the beasts lack, and we are surrounded on every side by evidence that such faith is based on realities. As St. Paul said, we are "surrounded by a cloud of witnesses."

Not a day passes but the press and the radio bear witness of our ever-growing ability to provide more abundant life for all. Not a day passes but witnesses deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice, proving man's innate goodness. Not a day passes but that very plenty which should be a blessing is made a curse, and man's goodness is distorted and perverted for that very reason.

We are "surrounded by a cloud of witnesses"; we ignore them at our peril. If wittingly or unwittingly, blinded by our lack of faith in our fellow-men, we refuse to admit that they, too, are ready for freedom, because of the distortions or perversions of their goodness, due to their present lack of it, we cannot escape. We, too, shall remain prisoners; we, too, quite inevitably, shall share their fate.

We still have the power to choose and the power to act. We can become, each one of us, a force in the world, if we have the faith—the "golden key" of which Mr. Day writes—and act upon it.

On every hand are to be seen signs of approaching chaos. The prisoners of penury and starvation are preparing to fight each other for a larger share of the existing artificially maintained insufficiency. We, who are inspired by this faith, and call ourselves Social Crediters, hold the golden key to freedom and plenty. There may still be time to get others to join with us in turning it in the lock. We are—most of us—only ordinary people, but in the action we take now is the hope of the world.

M. JACKLIN

Sealed Lips Corner

"I WAS brought up in a household where we were taught the importance of telling the truth, even though we got into trouble in doing so."—Mr. Neville Chamberlain.

International affairs being what they are, he would get into more trouble if he told the truth now.—Nathaniel Gubbins in the "Sunday Express," May 22.

The U.S.A. is the richest country in the world, but, unlike the people of Alberta, the people of the U.S. have not, as yet, united in demanding that their money system be made to reflect the fact of their riches.

Space reserved
by—

THE UNITED RATEPAYERS' ADVISORY ASSOCIATION

SPOOF ORGANISATIONS

Secretary:
John Mitchell

ONE of the marked features of the Rates Campaign has been, not merely the reluctance to participate, but the deliberate obstreperousness of the officials of many ratepayers' associations.

Not the least service rendered to the general body of ratepayers by the various Lower Rates Demand Associations in organising this Campaign has been that they have revealed to ratepayers the futility and insincerity of the management of these associations.

Many reports are to hand of attempts made to wreck meetings by committee members of ratepayers' associations.

The following extract from a report in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* is typical of the attitude of these officials of institutions, whose sole justification for existence can be that they assist ratepayers to get what they want:

"A New Organisation, the Richmond Lower Rates Demand Association, urged a drastic reduction in rates and assessments with no decrease in social services.

"A resolution on these lines was carried, one of those voting against it being Mr. R. G. Wells, secretary of Richmond Ratepayers' Association.

"Five hands were raised against the resolution, and the chairman remarked, 'Are you citizens of Richmond really voting against that.' Four of the five were recognised as members of the Committee of Richmond Ratepayers' Association."

From a northern town come reports of wholesale resignations from the Citizens' League, who have refused to co-operate in the Lower Rates Campaign. One report said that 500 have resigned.

It does indeed seem an extraordinary

thing that a movement to secure lower rates and assessments for ratepayers should be boycotted and deliberately opposed by executives of institutions, whose first object, one would have supposed, would have been to secure these self-same results.

There are a few exceptions, but do not be fooled into thinking that you can do much with ordinary ratepayers' associations. It is an illusion to think that you can, and already much valuable time has been wasted in trying. Whereas, where this fact was faced and separate organisations were formed on sound organisation lines, quite astonishing results have been achieved in a short time. We hear of instances where only two people have created live organisations in under six weeks.

A correspondent from Birmingham says: "The surprising fact has come to light that most of these Associations are rigged with

Bank representatives or their close associates, and councillors. In two or three instances, such associations as at present exist have a Bank Manager acting as Secretary, and you will understand that in these Associations every effort is made to suppress information of vital interest to the members of any first-class issues, such as rates and assessments."

This country is full of spoof organisations, out to collect members and subscriptions from the public. They are in the nature of shock absorbers to discontent. People are getting wise to them. When side by side with such spoof organisations a real, genuine, live organisation is set up, the public, as we have evidence, is not slow to recognise the true merit of each of them.

Good-bye to the dud ratepayers' association!
J.M.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION AT CLECKHEATON

IT was clear from the large attendance at the Rate Protest Meeting in the Temperance Hall, Cleckheaton, that the present Spensborough rate of 16s. in the £ is considered to be excessive.

Unlike many "protest" meetings, that on Friday definitely achieved something—the formation of a Ratepayers' Association in Spensborough, and the adoption of the following resolution to be forwarded to the Councillors and County Councillors in the district, and also the two Parliamentary candidates:

"That this meeting records its dissatisfaction at the recent increase in rates, and calls upon all Councillors and County Councillors to reduce the rate to a figure commensurate with the means to pay, having regard to the bad state of trade and consequent unemployment."

Mr. C. Child (of Cleckheaton), who presided, made several very forthright comments in this direction.

During his analysis of the Council's expenditure he said:

"The loan charges and bank commission are altogether too much . . . and one notices that whatever the state of trade, the banks can manage to pay 18 per cent. and no Councillor says a word."

A Woman's Appeal

Miss Robson, who is associated with the United Ratepayers' Association in London, spoke of the national movement for the reduction of rates.

"As you are aware, a campaign has been started in London, and is being taken up very enthusiastically in all parts of the country, with the object of lowering rates, and, at the same time, increasing social services," she said.

"This may seem to some people an impossibility, but it is not so. I should not be so foolish as to stand up here and demand the impossible, or ask you to join us in demanding the impossible," she added.

If those demands were not made, the position in the country would be truly desperate. It might be argued that if the councillors knew that fact, why had they not done something about it.

However, they could not blame the councillors, because the position had arisen through their own inaction. They were themselves the sovereign people, and in the past they had not known what action to take effectively.

Some people had urged support of one party in order to get something done, and other people had urged support of the other party, and so they argued among themselves about their respective parties until they forgot all about what was really wanted.

"Don't let us flatter ourselves that because we don't live in Italy or Germany we have not got a dictator—we have dozens of them," she remarked. "Remember we are rated and taxed three times as heavily in this country as in any other country in the world."

We had various boards in the form of pig, potato, and finally undertakers' boards.

Regarding air raid precautions, we were told that the cost of them must come out of the local rates. In Bradford, for instance, the cost of shelters was estimated at £80,000 for a start, and as a 1d. rate in Bradford

yielded £8,000, a 10d. rate would be needed for this.

If the Government succeeded in passing on that taxation, they would pass on still more to the local rates.

She spoke of the effect of rates on the family budget, and concluded specially to the women:

"We women have, as a rule, to plan the household budget, most of us on £2 or £3 a week. We are in the majority, and what we say goes. Make up your minds, ladies, that you will demand this thing, and nothing can stop you getting it."

Right Action

Another speaker, Mr. G. Baxter, said that on every side, in every Council, every County Council, and every U.D.C., they had seen the rates shoot up by 6d., 1s., 1s. 2d. and 1s. 10d., and they would agree that there did not seem much chance at the moment of any decrease if they were to rely upon their councillors, who seemed to be quite ineffective in stopping the rise.

This rate increase was happening, not only in Yorkshire, but all over the country.

He himself belonged to an organisation in London which had employed a similar kind of experiment to that of scientists—the practice of trial and error. The organisation had set itself the task of enabling ratepayers to get what they wanted, and by experimenting little by little they had derived a method which had proved successful, not only once, but on many occasions.

He reviewed the successes gained by this method in Sheffield, Belfast, Poole and other towns, and throughout the country.

"Democratic action is wanted," he said, "and wanted on right lines."

"Far too long had they been listening to various theories which purported to produce a Utopia, but all they got was poverty, unemployment, higher taxation and higher rates. Now the time had come when they must assert themselves and realise that they were the sovereign people, and as such they had the power to impose their will on their councillors. They could discharge them if they did not carry out their wishes."

"In practically every city council throughout the country, and in the case of practically every U.D.C., the position was that one-third of the rates went in payment of interest on

loans—money borrowed by the council—purely interest, one-third in the redemption of debt, and one-third in social services. Therefore, the ratepayers were only getting one-third of what they were paying.

"It might be argued that money borrowed should be paid back with interest on it. Most people imagined that those loans were supplied by individuals, out of their hard-earned savings, who invested their money in the municipal council.

"That was not the case. In Bradford, for instance, the money had not been invested by individuals out of their earnings, but was financed by financial institutions, banks and insurance companies, and it could be proved, moreover, that those institutions had created that money. Most people had not realised that 85 per cent. of all the loans issued to city and municipal councils in the country was supplied by financial concerns at practically no cost whatever, and yet they were claiming 3½ per cent. interest.

"There was a tremendous margin for lower rates which could be achieved without any reduction in social services.

"Our organisation in London has put before all municipal authorities this information, and it is for them to act upon it in your interest," he remarked.

"It is for you in your turn to express your strength,—your demand,—which, I should suggest, should be in very clear-cut language, and demanding lower rates and assessments with no reduction in social services. See that this demand is directed to your Councillor, and let him pass it on to the rating authorities, who already have the information which I have just given you, and can act upon it in your interest.

"That is the line of action which has proved successful time and time again, and there is no doubt about it that such action can operate successfully in Cleckheaton."

IN A NUTSHELL

WHAT we want is service with solvency; what we are getting is service with insolvency, and what we are promised is insolvency without service.

—Dr. Tudor Jones.

POWER !

MANY people have remarked that the present issue of *Lower Rates*—May-June issue—is the finest and most formidable educative and propaganda statement on money published by any organisation.

Not many people who read it seriously can fail to be impressed. The point is that the concentration of interest and attention upon the money problem, which the pressure induced by the Rates Campaign is causing, will compel many people, including councillors and Members of Parliament, to study this problem.

THEREFORE, MAKE SURE THAT EVERY COUNCILLOR AND EVERY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HAS A COPY.

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IMPORTANT CONFERENCES

- May 31, Tuesday. Birmingham, Great Western Hotel, 6.30 p.m. onwards.
- June 1, Wednesday. Bradford, Mechanics' Institute, 7.30 p.m.
- June 2, Thursday. Newcastle.
- June 3, Friday. Stranraer.
- June 4 and 5, Saturday and Sunday. Belfast.
- June 7, Tuesday. Stockton-on-Tees.
- June 8, Wednesday. Manchester.
- June 9, Thursday. Liverpool, Recces' Bank Café, 8 p.m.
- June 10, Friday. Hereford.
- June 11, Saturday. Cardiff.

The Directing Adviser and the Secretary of U.R.A.A. will address each of these conferences. All those interested should send a postcard enquiring for particulars to U.R.A.A., 163A, Strand, W.C.2.

RATEPAYERS' WILL PREVAILS IN CUMBERLAND

IN one of the longest County Council meetings for some years at Carlisle the objectors to the proposal to widen the Buttermere Road at a cost of £15,000 won the first round by having the committee minute authorising the scheme referred back for further consideration. Hundreds of ratepayers had signed a protest against this scheme and so instructed their representatives to oppose it.

Coun. Donald opened the attack for the opposition. He moved the reference back in order that the committee might consider widening those parts which had not a 16ft. carriageway to that width.

At the outset he said the inhabitants were in favour of having the road improved. They wanted the road widened in parts of the seven miles length, corners straightened out and walls set back; but they never thought of a scheme to cost £17,000 for widening just one mile. . . .

They were told that the Ministry would bear half the cost of this road, and it looked as if this automatic custom of giving 50 per cent. grants by the Ministry was a direct incentive to extravagance, because so much of the expense was hidden from the ratepayers. On the revised scheme to cost £15,000 instead of £17,000, half the cost would come from the Ministry, and the other half was not to be taken out of current expenses, but on a loan from the Ministry of Health, another way of financing a scheme by piling up debts.

Alderman R. Jefferson seconded the reference back.

Alderman Ballantyne Dykes said he had never heard a ratepayer support the scheme, and they were the servants of the ratepayers, not their masters.

Alderman Flynn: This is a road leading to nowhere: it is not worth anything from the ratepayers' point of view . . . there is nobody up there besides seagulls. Two or three men go up there examining fossils, but what use are they?

Councillor Senhouse: Why not act on the decision and wishes of the ratepayers?

The proposal was referred back by 50 votes to 18.

The First "Salvo" Goes Over

IN spite of the time which has been wasted by many determined workers on the Lower Rates Campaign in endeavouring to persuade the officials of ratepayers' associations to engage in the campaign; in spite of the short time which these workers have had to organise meetings, and in spite of the deluge of rain which kept many thousands of ratepayers away from meetings from all over the country, come reports of highly successful meetings held to demand lower rates and assessments without a reduction in social services.

At all these meetings the speakers devoted most of their time to putting over FACTS about money, debt and loan charges, and at only one of them was a resolution rejected. In fact, at most of them the resolutions were passed unanimously, and the others with only one or two dissentients. This is a clear indication that any opposition that exists among the general body of ratepayers to the objective of the Lower Rates Campaign is purely nominal and is represented by a tiny minority.

One other fact stands out clearly! It is that for every one who attended these meetings there are, at least, ten who, when they see that this is a widespread and successful movement, when the "temperature" of their interest and sympathy has been raised by just a few degrees, will pack halls all over the kingdom.

Here is a short report:—

NORTHERN IRELAND

Six meetings were held. The largest meeting was held under the auspices of the Belfast Rate and Taxpayers' Association, addressed by Mr. Goodwin Pratt, Mr. W. J. Gibson and Mr. W. H. Leech. The resolutions were passed unanimously.

"A member of the audience said they were being robbed right, left and centre, and they did not know who was responsible for it. Let them, he said, walk down any street in the city and they would see shops and business places closing galore because they were crushed down by rates."—*The Irish News*.

CARDIFF

Three meetings were held. At Penarth the population is 17,000 and 450 packed a meeting hall and passed unanimous resolutions.

LIVERPOOL

Half a dozen Lower Rates Demand Associations pooled their efforts to organise a central meeting in the Picton Hall. A full report of the meeting is not yet to hand. But we hear that it was a "great success." Speaker, Dr. Tudor Jones.

BRADFORD

The Bradford Lower Rates Demand Association, under the guidance of its extremely able and energetic campaign manager, Mr. Gordon Baxter, held a public meeting which Lord Tankerville addressed. "Resolutions carried unanimously amidst enthusiasm." Probably three times as many would have been present if it had not poured with rain.

GATESHEAD

Five hundred crowded the Town Hall. Telegram: "Col. Creagh Scott scored a

Direct Hit." He received round after round of applause. There were two dissentients to the resolutions.

BIDEFORD

"Bideford Arises," headline to report in the *Western Morning News and Daily Gazette*. Organised at short notice by two persons. The audience listened "spell bound" to Mr. Stanley Burton.

NOTTINGHAM

The newly-formed Nottingham Citizens' Association packed over 400 angry ratepayers in the Albert Hall. The audience shouted their approval at Capt. T. H. Story, the speaker, and unanimously passed a resolution demanding that the Council call a special meeting to cancel the increased rate.

KENSINGTON

Conservative stronghold. "The meeting was larger than the Conservative Party could muster."

CLACTON

Speaker, Mr. Herbert Dixon; 200 present. "It was a great success; the ratepayers' association is completely rejuvenated."

PORTSMOUTH

The Central Portsmouth Ratepayers' Association, supported by the Portsmouth Lower Rates Demand Association, organised a "highly successful" meeting which Col. Creagh Scott addressed. One dissentient to resolutions.

HEREFORD

Organised at week's notice. Between 350 and 400 present in Town Hall. "Many standing at back of hall." "Nearly all the audience signed as supporters."

THE COLONEL AGAIN!

The Richmond and District Electors' Association ran special coaches from various parts of the North Riding and packed the Market Hall. "Possibly one or two more could have been squeezed in." "The resolutions were passed with a united roar of approval." Over 600 present.

OLDHAM

"Very successful meeting"; 300 present. Organised by the Oldham P.S.A. Brotherhood, and addressed by Mr. Colin Presswood.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Reports have not yet come in from many places. But one or more meetings were also held in Watford, Orpington, Stony Stratford, Newcastle, Southampton, Worcester Park, Cheam, Banstead, Eastbourne, Poole, Richmond (Surrey), Wanstead, Petersfield and Colchester.

Many more are being organised. Those for which dates are fixed will be at Sutton Coldfield, Blackburn, Erdington (Birmingham), Chelmsford, Birkenhead, Congleton, Atherton, Stockton-on-Tees, Lytham St. Annes, Newport, Gosport, and Wharfedale.

The Lower Rates Campaign has also been started in scores of other places.

J.M.

SURREY RATES

MEETINGS at Banstead and Worcester Park which took place last week show the ratepayers' reaction to higher local and county rates. Resolutions were passed demanding lower rates with no decrease in social services and, at Worcester Park, enquiring as to the ownership of the loans contracted by the Councils. A meeting was also held at Cheam.

By raiding the general rate fund balance to the extent of £14,000, Sutton and Cheam Borough Council pass on to local ratepayers only fourpence of the fivepenny increase in the county rate.

At the special meeting at which the rate for 1938-39 was fixed at 10s. 2d., this method of minimising the present increase was strongly deplored on the ground that it would pave the way for a bombshell in the future. An "immoral rate" was how Ald. J. G. Kipling described the figure. There were enormous projects in front of the Council, he said, and this expenditure would have to be met at some time or another.

In his speech, Alderman Colman pointed out that for many years Surrey County Council had paid for a large part of its capital expenditure out of current rates, and had not resorted to the policy of borrowing on loan to as great an extent as some counties. The present loan debt is 5½ millions, but projects in hand would add two

millions to this debt during the coming year. Obligations to provide further hospitals and homes, and to reorganise schools, technical institutes and colleges, would cost about another four millions. In five years' time the county capital debt will stand at ten millions, and it is likely that the county rate will be a shilling higher than it is to-day.

"The county rate is made up of expenditure demanded by various parts of the county. It is up to us to remember that when we keep pressing for various things they have got to be paid for out of the county rate."

The Borough Council's general fund debt a year ago stood at £422,000. When they added to this their debt on housing, small dwellings acquisition and private street works, the total debt was £823,000. Of this total £61,000 had been paid off during the past twelve months. During the same period new loans amounting to £117,000 had been raised, which meant a net increase in the debt of £55,000. General Fund debt to-day stood at £513,357, while the total debt amounted to £878,634. They expected to have to pay during the coming year on impending and prospective loan charges, £7,557. For a full year this cost would be £15,986, representing an increase of 2½d. in the rate. So far as he could forecast, the ultimate capital expenditure on new works indicated would be in the neighbourhood of £268,000. Full loan charges would amount to £20,828.

More than £20,000 paid out yearly. To whom? Ratepayers of Sutton and Cheam, and of Surrey generally, are eagerly waiting information.

CROYDON POLL

THE fact that the total vote already cast in the post-card poll of Croydon ratepayers on the question of the spending policy of the Corporation, is larger than the entire vote at the last municipal election, shows the urgency of feeling behind it.

So far the votes counted show 7,200 against the spendthrift policy of the Corporation and 145 in favour of it.

Such a vote, however, is only in the nature of a comment. For the desired results to follow public opinion must be directed on to those responsible for the situation, and backed by sanctions.

Rates By Instalments

THE increase in rates that is going on all over the country is causing many local authorities to invite ratepayers to pay on the instalment system.

The Wembley Borough Council is the latest to come forward with such a plan. That borough has recently increased its rate from 10s. 2d. to 11s. 2d.

The proposal to pay by instalments is a confession of a fear that the rates may not be forthcoming.

In some areas the rates levied on property are rapidly approaching the level of the total amount paid in rent. High rates are themselves an important influence in reducing property values.—*Evening Standard* (May 17, 1938).

THOUGHTS AND AFTER-THOUGHTS

By W.A.B.M.

Fin de Siècle!

FOREIGN news nowadays is a godsend to politicians, and in this country the distracting powers of the French situation are proving very helpful.

Gracefully draped over the awkward home news, like a magician's scarf, the artificial shot-silk of the Gallic crisis was something our representatives were thankful for.

But, strange to say, the French politicians didn't seem half so concerned—in fact, it would seem that to them French news is a matter for very perfunctory, though on the whole acid, comment, and the matters requiring really urgent notice and public clamour are over the hills and far away—as far away, at least, as the other side of the Black Forest.

Still, it is another puzzle to find that on the other side of the Black Forest the urgent matters engaging the attention of the French politicians are nowhere in evidence, and the German Government struts and talks very loudly of what is supposed to be going on somewhere else—Czechoslovakia and Russia.

In Russia, apart from the homicidal orgies lately indulged in, the Government does not seem to have too great an interest in anything *à la Russe*, but points with very engaging enthusiasm to something it deems of vital importance in Japan.

The Japanese, however, instead of giving their undivided attention to this very important internal matter that can be clearly seen from the steppes, appear to be completely unaware of its existence. For to tell the truth, most Japanese of authority are busy directing the attention of their people to the affairs of Britain, Russia, France and China.

In such a situation it is obvious that no Government on earth considers itself to have home problems at all worth attending to, and that they are all in a position to give long and concentrated study, as well as unlimited advice, on whatever is imagined to be happening in realms beyond their control.

This is a very useful state of affairs, for besides being quite an exciting excuse for doing nothing in regard to home problems, it also helps to give the average citizen of any nation a correct notion of his insignificance.

It also proves to him, if he thinks about it,

FACT

OUT of 61 county councils 44 have increased their rates this year, 11 have made no change and only 6 have reduced them.

Out of 93 boroughs 72 have increased their rates, 19 have remained the same and only 2 reduced them.—*Evening Standard* (May 9, 1938).

how foolish and mistaken he is to imagine that he elects Members of Parliament for any other purpose except bulldozing. For though he may suffer every infliction from rank starvation to super-assessments, the politicians are sublimely preoccupied and fix their gaze, like Balboa, upon a distant peak in Darien—or Paris, Rome, Berlin. The farther the better!

A New Dawn

Of course, this state of affairs has existed in the past and the British People have always found it necessary to rouse themselves in an unmistakable manner whenever any reform became a little too glaringly indispensable to be delayed.

The reform of the Financial system is shrieking aloud for action. In every phase of public affairs, in every consideration of individual problems, the dead hand of orthodox finance reveals its paralysing presence.

Happily, the British People are beginning to see, and to understand that financial poverty is in the highest degree artificial. That it is a lunatic cruelty imposed on a nation possessing an abundance of real wealth, and that individuals need not suffer the slightest personal privation at all.

That item of knowledge is rousing an increasingly large section of the British public to bitter indignation and the determination to end such a blasphemous state of affairs.

No politician in the past has ever been able to withstand the expressed will of the people, or do anything but yield, gracefully or otherwise, to the pressure of public demand—and no politician ever will be able to disregard the wishes of his constituents and survive. Consequently there is every sign that in the near future our politicians will have their wandering gaze rather forcibly attracted to matters of vital importance to the people of this island. Nor will any telescopic trick of international star-gazing be allowed to distract their attention or retard their understanding of their position in the scheme of things.

They will be given the opportunity of becoming for the first time in history the full-time genuine representatives of the people who elect them—or else!

The time is fast drawing to a close when men will be elected on their own suggestions or with *carte blanche* for party plans unrelated to the individual needs of electors. And we see the day, not far distant now, when candidates will not be expected to harangue their electors but to listen to them and pledge obedience to their demands.

When that time comes we will be tolerably close to real Democracy and the defeat of those Financial powers whose operations have brought misery, fear and death to countless multitudes.

SOCIAL CREDIT SUPPLEMENT MONTHLY

This well printed house organ is privately circulated monthly or oftener as occasion demands, and contains technical and internal matters of special interest to "Douglas Cadets." Speeches by Major Douglas are usually first printed in the Supplement.

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By Miles Hyatt
Director of Overseas Relations

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

Announcements & Meetings

All London Residents and Visitors are welcome at the Social Credit Rendezvous, 163A, Strand, W.C.2 (entrance in Strand Lane, close to Aldwych Station). Open meeting: Thursdays, at 8 p.m. June 2: Mrs. Palmer, "Then and Now."

Bangor (Co. Down) Social Credit Group, 65b, Main Street, Bangor, open from 3 till 10 p.m. every day. Public Meetings: Every Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. Reading Room: Social Credit literature available. Whist Drives: Every Thursday at 7.45 p.m. Tickets 1s. Meetings in the afternoons. Refreshments. Bring your friends.

Belfast D.S.C. Group. The public meetings on Thursday evenings will be discontinued from June 23 until September 22. Monthly group meetings will be held as usual on the first Tuesday of each month. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., Belfast D.S.C. Group, 72, Ann Street, Belfast. S.C. holiday makers are warmly invited to look us up.

Birmingham and District. Social Crediters will find friends over tea and light refreshments at Princes Café, Temple Street, on Friday evenings, from 6 p.m. in the King's Room.

Blackburn Social Credit Study Group meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., Limbrick. All welcome. Enquiries to Hon. Sec. 47, Whalley New Road, Blackburn.

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

Cardiff Social Credit Association. Business meeting at 7.30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, at 82, Bridge Street. Hon. Sec.: R. W. Hannagen, The Grove, Groveland Road, Birchgrove, Cardiff.

Liverpool Social Credit Association. Hon. Secretary: Miss D. M. Roberts, "Greengates," Hillside, Drive, Woolton.

Newcastle-on-Tyne D.S.C. Group. Fortnightly meetings will be held at Lockhart's Café, Nun Street, commencing June 1, at 7.45 p.m. New members welcomed. Enquiries to above address.

North Kensington Social-Credit Association. Will all those willing to help in a Local Objective Campaign, please communicate with Hon. Sec., E. Liddell Armitage, 43, Blenheim Crescent, N. Kensington, W.11?

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Friday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome. SOCIAL CREDIT on Sale at W. H. Smith & Son, The Square, Bournemouth; Walker & Witterat, Post Office, Parade, Parkstone; and C. T. Snook & Son, Poole.

Portsmouth D.S.C. Group. Weekly meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m., 16, Ursula Grove, Elm Grove, Southsea.

Southampton Group. Public meetings every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. for lectures and discussion. Advisory Council Meetings (open to all members) 7.30 p.m. first Friday of each month.—2, London Road.

Tyneside Social Credit Society invite co-operation to establish a local centre for Social Credit action in all its aspects. Apply, W. L. Page, 74-6, High West Street, Gateshead.

United Ratepayers' Advisory Association. District Agent for S. Wales and Monmouthshire, Mr. P. Langmaid, 199, Heathwood Road, Cardiff.

Wallasey Social Credit Association. Enquiries welcomed by Hon. Sec., 2, Empress Road, Wallasey.

Wolverhampton D.S.C. Group. Fortnightly meetings in the Ante-Room, Central Library. Next meeting, Tuesday, June 7, at 8 p.m.

Miscellaneous Notices

Rate 1s. a line. Support our advertisers.

Derby.—To Social Crediters residing in Derby and District. S.C. interested in the "Lower Rates Movement" should get in touch with C. H. Bosworth on THURSDAY EVENINGS at the Unity Hall, Derby, Room 7, Ground Floor, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Farnborough Social Credit. All interested please meet at XL Café, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Monday May 30, 8 p.m., to form Group. Enquiries welcomed.

Southampton. Mr. M. C. Bond, Secretary, Douglas Social Credit Association, 2, London Road, Southampton, appeals for offer of voluntary services of Shorthand Typist to assist one evening per week to cope with growth of urgent and interesting work. Also, the gift of a Typewriter would be very greatly appreciated.

Twickenham Borough (including Teddington, Hampton, Fulwell, Whitton and Hampton Wick). Mr. Arthur Hall, Hon. Sec. Lower Rates Demand Association, 59, Twickenham Road, Teddington, appeals to Social Crediters for assistance in distributing "L.T.R." forms, and collecting subscriptions to "Fighting Fund." Also, the loan of a Typewriter would be greatly appreciated. URGENT NOTICE!

West Wickham. Would Social Crediters living in this district communicate with D.M.N., c/o SOCIAL CREDIT?

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OVERSEAS SURVEY

DOUGLAS CABLES SASKATCHEWAN

A PROMINENT Saskatchewan citizen has by now received the following cable sent by Major C. H. Douglas:

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS ALARMED PROBABILITY SASKATCHEWAN REPEATING ABERHART TRIUMPH PLEASE PUBLISH BEST WISHES AND ASSURANCE EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE

DOUGLAS

Saskatchewan provincial elections are now fixed for June 8, and Social Crediters will place candidates in the field to contest each of the 55 seats in the legislature. This province is considered one of the Liberal strongholds in the Dominion and it is interesting to note the predicament in which the Federal Government finds itself on account of the ever-increasing support accorded to Social Credit. According to *The Times* of May 18, the Cabinet is being urged to disallow five Acts lately passed by the Alberta Government, which are designed to enhance the security of home-owners and farmers by a drastic reduction of loan charges and by debt cancellation. "Vigorous pressure is being exerted from other quarters. Several Cabinet meetings have been held lately to study the problem, and the Government probably would not hesitate to apply disallowance for the third time against Alberta if they had not to consider its political implications. Mr. Aberhart and his lieutenants are moving with horse, foot and artillery to invade Saskatchewan, one of the chief Liberal strongholds.

"The Dominion Cabinet is awaiting further advice from its allies in Saskatchewan about the best course to take, but the impression here [Ottawa] is that disallowance will be delayed until after the poll in Saskatchewan."

The attitude of the Federal Government as here reported indicates two outstanding points: that the possibility of a sweeping Social Credit victory in this province is considered extremely likely and that political expediency rather than justice is to determine the course the government will take in upholding the legislation or otherwise.

The effect of Major Douglas's offer of assistance to Saskatchewan should be great. Inspired by this opportunity and aided by Mr. Aberhart and the entire electioneering

resources at his disposal, Social Credit candidates must succeed in winning another salient in the battle for the economic freedom of Canada.

Pressure Politics For Results

From reports received it is evident that no ordinary election will take place in Saskatchewan next month. Against the mumbajumbo of party political programmes and promises will be ranged candidates willing only to serve their electors and prepared to carry out their instructions. The people of the province are now being instructed in the principles of true democracy, and they are fast learning the responsibility which rests upon them in securing RESULTS from their next legislature.

The recent by-election at East Edmonton demonstrated the understanding which Albertan electors possess in the technique of making their will prevail. Will Saskatchewan awake now to the possibilities latent in voting for RESULTS rather than for uncomprehensible party programmes?

S.C. Association For Western Canada

Social Credit groups of representatives from the four Western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia attended a two-day conference at Edmonton on April 28 and 29 with the encouraging result that a new organisation has been formed to further the interests of Social Credit throughout the West. According to the *Edmonton Bulletin* of April 30:

The conference prepared a draft constitution governing the Social Credit forces in the Western Provinces, setting out the principles, policy and objectives of the Western Association and designed to gather and focus the will of the people most effectively upon all sources of government authority for the ultimate purpose of enabling the people to enjoy the benefits of association now denied them by the present financial system."

NEW ZEALAND

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us the first number of a new printed Social Credit *Monthly News Letter*, and we wish it the best of luck. From its appearance, it will soon be a regular newspaper and that, no doubt, is the ultimate intention of Mrs. Graham and the members at Wellington who are producing it.

Among other interesting items it contains a report from Alberta, accounts of Mr. Bradley's magnificent tour, to which we referred recently, and a scheme for reviving certain local branches of the movement which suffered during the apathy produced by the broken promises of the Labour Government. Amid so much that is good, perhaps the promoters will not mind criticism of the correspondent who wants "a Social Credit Plan." Also in England we are not impressed by the methods of the Petition group or the Prosperity Campaign Society.

If New Zealanders require a touchstone for the revival of flagging enthusiasm, let them have a shot at local objectives—and more particularly a campaign for lower rates. They will be surprised at the result. All those "extinct" groups will come to life as if contacted by a high tension wire.

NEWFOUNDLAND

One In Ten Tubercular

UNDER the heading "Newfoundland Progress," *The Times* of May 14 reports:

"Health surveys suggest that, out of a total population of 288,000 in Newfoundland, there are 20,000 cases of tuberculosis needing treatment and 5,000 cases which should be isolated."

The "Oldest Dominion" was deprived of its Constitution and taken over by a financial commission some three years ago. The reason given was its hopeless debt-situation. Surveys "suggest" that, for ten per cent. of the people, "progress" under bankers' fascism means living death.

CANADA

O, Times!

REFERRING to Senator Meighen of Ottawa as "speaking with quite exceptional authority on Canadian affairs. He is not usually given to rash and exaggerated statements; and this makes his outspoken warning the more remarkable," *The Times'* leading article of May 20 goes on to report him as advocating that Provincial legislation should be disallowed in certain circumstances "even if not technically unconstitutional."

This grossly subversive opinion comes from a Senator who has sworn to uphold the six-centuries-old Constitution which the Canadian Provinces and Dominion inherited from England.

But the matter is even more serious. "The Dominion Government have an unquestioned right under the British North America Act," says the Editor of *The Times*. To do what? It is incredible, but—"to disallow Provincial legislation which they regard as contrary to public interest, even if in constitutional law it is *intra vires* of the Provincial Parliament."

Are we to take it that *The Times* is suggesting the overturning of constitutional law, something we do not see advocated even by its contemporary the *Daily Worker*?

THE POT IS BOILING IN THE WEST

Bankers' Henchmen 'Exceedingly Uneasy'

THE *Observer* reports that "Canadian Liberals and Conservatives are exceedingly uneasy at the injection of Mr. Aberhart and his Social Credit cohorts into the Saskatchewan provincial election on June 8.

"It is admitted that if Mr. Aberhart is successful in winning Saskatchewan, then Manitoba and British Columbia will go Social Credit. The Social Crediters have adopted an 'On to Ottawa' slogan, and have organised a fight à outrance in Saskatchewan.

"Mr. Aberhart, speaking in Saskatchewan, declared that he has pegged Alberta's debt and Saskatchewan's debt is mounting."

A "SPECIAL" PRIZE

A SPECIAL prize has been awarded to the *Edmonton Journal* in this year's Pulitzer awards "for its leadership in defence of the freedom of the Press" during the controversy with the Aberhart Government. This is the first time any Pulitzer award has been made to a newspaper outside the United States.—*Canada's Weekly*, May 20.

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WARNING SHADOWS

"COMING events," says the old adage, "cast their shadows before them." This is generally true, but, unfortunately, we are usually so preoccupied with the shadow-boxing of the politicians, and the endeavour to make head or tail of the disjointed flicker of the news film that is devised for our mis-information, that these warning shadows remain unseen until too late. Sometimes, on looking back, we can say: "Here this thing began," or "Here was our warning to act if we wished to prevent what has now come upon us," often, however, we find that, so preoccupied were we, that we not only failed to act on the warning, we never even saw it!

We shall have no such excuse as this if open dictatorship comes upon us. The warning shadows have been too many and too black to be missed by any but the wilfully blind. One such was the case of Major Vernon, upon which the National Council for Civic Liberties has now issued a pamphlet,* with an introduction by that redoubtable champion, Mr. W. J. Brown, Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association.

Major Vernon was a Squadron Commander in the Royal Naval Air Service during the war, who joined the Inspection Department of the Air Ministry in 1924 and was subsequently transferred to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. After 1931, he joined a political "Study Circle" of members of the R.A.E., and subsequently became a member of the Labour Party.

While Major Vernon was on holiday last summer, his cottage was broken into by four men who claimed to be Fascists. These men stole various personal belongings, and a number of books and papers, some of which were the property of the Air Ministry, others, publications of left wing organisations. The men were brought to trial and posed as patriots, only concerned to expose Major Vernon's Communist activities. The trial was so conducted, that it was made to appear that Major Vernon was the defendant on charges of spreading sedition and the illegal

*"The Strange Case of Major Vernon." Published by the National Council of Civil Liberties, 320, Regent Street, London, W.1 Price 3d.

Bank President Becomes Premier

THE new Prime Minister of Hungary, Dr. Imredy, was Finance Minister in a previous administration, and was then responsible for the reorganisation of Hungarian finances, and the settlement of the foreign debt. Evidently he gave great satisfaction to financial interests by his reorganisation, for he was subsequently rewarded with the presidency of the National Bank, and now he has become Premier of Hungary.

This frank admission of financial dictatorship seems to us preferable to the system in this country, where bankers' dummies are made premiers. Such appointments of banker premiers and ministers are becoming quite common on the Continent. It is to be hoped that the practice will spread to Great Britain. This would force people to realise the real situation, at present hidden from them by the appointment of dummies.

If Mr. Montagu Norman became Prime Minister, he could get round the rule against ministers holding directorships, by taking on the job under one of his aliases—Skinner would seem the most suitable! Alternatively, the Bank of England could be nationalised as the Socialists desire, and then this difficulty would not arise.

possession of Air Ministry documents. The thieves were let off, being bound over for twelve months, but Major Vernon was subsequently prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act, fined £50, and later discharged the Service.

The case against Major Vernon was, to quote the editor of *The Aeroplane*, "terribly thin," for he had good reason for possession of the secret documents, all of which were directly connected with his work. At most, he was guilty of negligence in leaving them in his cottage.

To sum up, here is Mr. Brown's challenge, printed in *Red Tape*, the organ of the Civil Service Clerical Association:

"I assert that the basis on which the prosecution of Major Vernon rested were wrong; that Major Vernon possessed no information which could not be accounted for on grounds entirely creditable to him, and that I am prepared to prove before any independent tribunal—

- (a) That Major Vernon ought not to have been prosecuted; and
- (b) That he ought not to have been dismissed."

Since the publication of this pamphlet, reports have appeared in the press that the National Whitley Council has appointed a special committee to enquire into the case. Its findings should be of interest to every democrat, if they are published.

We are not concerned with Major Vernon's political views, mistaken though some of us may consider them. What does concern us is that he appears to have been victimised for them, this action being based on information secured by illegal means.

Major Vernon's experience may later be that of readers of this paper, if the warning

shadow it casts goes unheeded. As yet, to be a Social Creditor, or to advocate that people demand results of their servants, whether local councillors, Members of Parliament, or Cabinet Ministers, cannot be penalised legally. Our only hope of retaining this freedom to make democracy a reality is to use it to the uttermost. M.W.

How To Succeed As a Professional Economist

UNPLEASANTLY aware that the infusion of a little genuine scientific knowledge would compel them to undertake researches for which they lack both requisite training and social inclination, orthodox economists have adroitly entrenched themselves behind a barrage of paradox which, when stripped of rhetoric, reads like this:

- (i) Wealth is what you have and the man next door has not;
- (ii) if he had it, what you have would not be wealth;
- (iii) hence there can be no wealth without scarcity;
- (iv) since there cannot be scarcity if there is plenty, there cannot be plenty if there is wealth;
- (v) if there were no wealth, there would be no economics;
- (vi) but since there is economics, there cannot be plenty."

—*The Retreat from Reason*, by Lancelot Hogben. Watts & Co., London, 1s.

WHO GETS THE RATES?

EX-COUNCILLOR of P——: "When I was chairman of the Finance Committee we did not pay any bank charges. We ran an overdraft during the year, but saw to it that it was paid off by the end of the year, and the bank did not charge us any interest." What happens in a case like this?

Stage I.

A. Bank gives council "temporary accommodation," i.e., a short-term loan or overdraft. It may be for only six months, but the principle is the same as if it were for 60 years.

B. Council uses this money (credit) to meet its current expenditure on wages, etc. By means of it the social services are carried on.

Stage II.

C. Council knows what it will require to repay the loan by the end of the year and levies rates accordingly.

D. Council hands the whole of the rates levied over to the bank, although its services have already been paid for by the costless credit created by the bank.

Nett Result

Bank has acquired the hard-earned money of the ratepayers in return for a costless creation of credit (money).

The council has been collecting the rates solely for the bank.

We have been paying rate collectors to collect money from ourselves and hand it over to the banks, who destroy it.

Is the small matter of interest of any significance by comparison?

It is important to realise that because the council could get the men to carry out the social services the bank provided it with money on loan, and the granting of the loan

created a deposit of that amount in the council's account at the bank. This deposit therefore belonged to the council (i.e., to the ratepayers). Why then should the bank demand that the council collect the amount of the deposit (or loan) from the ratepayers and pay it into the bank? The repayment of the loan with ratepayers' money, according to Mr. Reginald McKenna, destroys the deposit (loan).

The banks thus get the whole of the rates nominally levied for the current expenditure of the council. The books of the council show only cash paid out for current expenditure and cash collected as rates. But by granting the overdraft or loan the bank has destroyed purchasing power to the extent of the rates collected.

What Could Be Done

Supposing the operation of this system were stopped at Stage I. above, and instead of going on to Stage II. we pay the banks for services rendered. . .

Is not this the simplest explanation of why we could get the money for carrying out social services for a single payment of ½ per cent.? Moreover, the transaction is in operation now, except as regards agreement for the payment of the services of the bank. BUT we have got to stop at Stage I.

C.H.J.

STAMP ON THE BUDGET

ONLY a few hours after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made his Budget Speech in the Commons, Sir Josiah Stamp was sitting in the studio before the television camera giving an eye-witness account of the speech which he had just heard. Read this from *The Listener*:

"There was simply Sir Josiah sitting at a desk talking to us and (without any reflection on Sir Josiah's personal charm, which is too well known to need any apology here) the mere fact of being able to see him did not add vastly to the interest of what he had to say. Where the vision part of television came in was in the illustrations to the analysis of the Budget figures, which preceded Sir Josiah's account."

So even the wonderful invention of television has to be used in the service of the present financial system. The Bankers' logic is taken as final and facts are inverted to serve their policy.

We can control realities just when we care to demand results from our representatives in Parliament. This policy would put an end to the Budget farce for good and no more would figures have dominion over us.

New Penalty For Suicide

IN the eyes of the law, suicide is a crime. In the eyes of insurance companies, following a recent decision in the House of Lords, it will be regarded as a very useful excuse for avoiding the payment of sums due on policies paid for by such "criminals."

The Lords' decision is that an insurance policy is not enforceable where the holder has committed suicide, for suicide is a crime, and no man, nor his estate, may profit by his crime. Well has it been said that "the law's an ass." By this decision the law enables wealthy corporations to evade financial responsibilities which they have been paid to accept.

Obviously, when the insurance companies issue life policies, they do not overlook the risk of suicide, for such policies are invalidated if suicide takes place within the first twelve or fifteen months. This risk is covered therefore by the premiums charged. Following the Lords' decision, of which no doubt all companies will take advantage in the future, all premiums for life insurance should be lowered.

In the past a chart has been published in these columns illustrating the way in which the number of suicides fluctuates in accordance with financial policy, rising in periods of deflation—when money is scarce—and falling in periods of inflation—when it is plentiful. As the insurance companies form a part of the money system, through which the ebb and flow of money is controlled with such results, it will be seen that they are, in part at least, responsible for the risks of suicide against which they will now be able to refuse to cover us.

"FASCISM WITHOUT A SHIRT"

SPEAKING at the Margate conference of the Civil Service Clerical Association last week, Mr. W. J. Brown, the general secretary, said:

"It is common knowledge that Government Departments have recently threatened journalists with the use of the Official Secrets Act in order to prevent them from publishing facts which the Government wanted to suppress. It is not commonly known, and I make it public for the first time, that at least one department of the Civil Service has sought to use the Official Secrets Act to prevent us tendering relevant evidence on a case affecting the conditions of civil servants whom we are representing. We received the letter threatening us with the invocation of the Official Secrets Act. We replied to that threatening letter that unless the letter were withdrawn and burnt immediately we should publish it to the world and challenge the department concerned publicly to put us in the dock.

"I will not give you the name of the department because the matter has been settled by the burning of the correspondence. But it is significant of the growth of this repressive tendency of Government that any department could ever have contemplated the sending of such a letter. I have warned them privately that next time they will be given no opportunity of withdrawal or the burning of the letter. It will be published as soon as received, and we shall insist on being prosecuted if for no other reason than to mobilise the public conscience on this sort of thing."

During a debate on civil liberties, Mr. Brown declared that there had been more political prosecutions during the past five years under the "National" Government than in the equivalent period of British history for 100 years.

He warned the conference of the dangers of "Fascism without the shirt."

"The threat to liberty," he said, "comes not from an open Fascist movement. It comes from the failure to defend established rights and the insidious growth of totalitarianism."

By uniting with others to demand the wages of the machine—national dividends to buy the goods now restricted, destroyed or dumped abroad for lack of markets at home—you can defeat this growing dictatorship. Our one hope is Unity for Results. The enemy will seek to divide the people over methods. Don't be misled; it's results that count.

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We Will Abolish Poverty

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

- 1 I know that there are goods in plenty and therefore that poverty is quite unnecessary
- 2 I want before anything else poverty abolished
- 3 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
- 4 These distributions must not deprive owners of their property nor decrease its relative value nor increase taxes or prices
- 5 In a democracy like Great Britain Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail

This is the form for Parliamentary electors to sign. It should be sent to United Democrats, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2. Signatures will be treated confidentially.

- 6 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
- 7 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