

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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From Week to Week

President Roosevelt is reported to have said "The principal object of every Government all over the world seems to be to impose the ideas of the last generation upon the new one." Come over here.

The political gyrations of Mr. Emanuel (God with us) Shinwell make us a little dizzy. Elbowing the Scottish Labour Party rather roughly aside, he spent some years in telling Linlithgow miners how to make more money out of political activity than out of coal-mining. Subsequently transferring his affections to the slightly bewildered constituency of Seaham Harbour. World-wide horizons, internationalism, and no patriotic nonsense, with drenches of "Workers of the world, unite" (preferably with international finance) made up a not unusual symposium. But the new note of "the British Empire, touch it who dare!" accompanied by adjurations to Uncle Sam to get back where he belongs definitely catches us on the wrong foot. What's the advance information?

Let the P.B.I. and the Canucks wash around in Flanders mud fightin' the Heinies. Me for the Riviera. Guess our Ike knows his stuff—central control's a neat little trick.

"Our declared aim is a high level of income and a high level of employment, to be achieved by a policy of planned economy." *The Times's* correspondent, September 6.

'Hardly seems worth while having elections, does it?'

The announcement on September 7, by "the Government" that black-out restrictions would be relaxed on September 17, to coincide with the equally arbitrary alteration of the clock is an interesting if not important example of the working of the bureaucratic mind. It recalls to us an old friend much addicted to camping. When under canvas, he only shaved on Fridays. When asked why Fridays, he replied that he only cleaned his boots on Fridays, and one brush did for both purposes.

The latest aspirant for the throne of the leading British newspaper, vacated by *felo de se*, appears to represent the Society of Individualists. Its standard of journalism may perhaps be estimated by the comment in its issue of September 9 that "In Alberta, the Social Credit Government was returned once more. This Government retains its popularity by refusing to bring in Social Credit measures." If the Society of Individualists will swallow that kind of drivel, we can understand how it is that its newspaper claims to

have been in existence for seventy-four years but few individuals have been aware of it.

In one statement on Canadian politics, it is probably correct. "Most experts [sic] believe that Dominion Premier King... will spring an election before Christmas. It is whispered that if his majority disappears, he might form a Government with the support of the Socialists. (C.C.F.)"

Remarking in parenthesis that the Canadian Prime Minister is never referred to either by experts or the general public as *Premier*, a title reserved for Provincial Government Leaders, the suggestion that there are only two political forces in Canada, Social Credit and the others, is becoming recognised in many quarters. Mr. Mackenzie King, as the *Washington Post*, has faithfully transmitted the changing shades of Wall Street opinion, and, as our controlled Press and Broadcasting Monopoly is at pains to insist, all the best Liberals (not to mention Progressive Conservatives) are now Planners and Socialists. "Nationalisation?—we welcome it," is equally a password to a peerage suitably endowed or the spare bedroom at the White House, as well as covering a multitude of sins. So Mr. Mackenzie King, the People's Planner, would be just as sure of pleasant week-ends across the Border, as Mr. King, the Wilfrid Laurier Liberal.

The situation, however, is changing rapidly in one respect at least. In 1940, if not before, a considerable body of New York and Washington opinion was comfortably convinced that "Britain" was moribund, and that the reversion to the not inconsiderable estate could be bought with a few over-age destroyers and doubtful rifles. In 1944, doubts are beginning to creep in. The effete islanders have managed to fight and manoeuvre themselves, and their offspring of the Dominions, into a bargaining position which is beginning to evoke sharp cries of pain and grief from the frustrated mourners. The repercussions of this situation are widespread and all of them are not easy to assess, but one of them is fairly clear. Mr. Mackenzie King is on the wrong 'bus.

We have received from Mr. C. Barclay Smith, the Editor of the Sydney, N.S.W., *New Era*, a small book he has written entitled *The Answer to Socialism* (2/6, Leisure Age Publishing Co., Ltd., 209, Castlereagh Street, Sydney). The title is not altogether happy, as by far the greater and more important part of the book is that devoted to an objective examination of Russia under the Soviets, and might well be described as the exposure of Socialism.

Mr. Barclay Smith writes from the hypothesis, which we think is sound, that Socialism stands or falls by its success or failure in Russia. It is hardly necessary to elaborate this proposition. Population, material resources, and complete

insulation from outside interference have been unique. The result is devastating. Russia has accomplished nothing which has not been better accomplished elsewhere, and what she has accomplished has been achieved at so terrible a price that the remainder of the world has little to derive from it but warning.

We can recommend this little book, which is well documented, to those who wish to explore the Russian myth. It reinforces the object lesson which is to be learnt by anyone not blinded by prejudice—that the chief handicap of Russia is Socialism, which “battens on the technological advance to which it has contributed nothing, preventing this advance from achieving its objective, the emancipation of humanity from bondage.”

It would be difficult to find a more astonishing example of the tyranny of words as well as methods than is furnished by the U.S.S.R. If Stalin were called Czar of Russia, which is what he is, our Leftists would cry to high heaven of the brutal aristocrats. If a Managing Director in England or America employed the methods of a Soviet Industrial Commissar, he would be hanged. If an Employer paid an average wage of 17/6 per week, which is what Sir Walter Citrine found the average wage of the Soviet citizen to be, the whole country would be on strike. If the private employer charged the prices and made the profits the Soviet Government charges, he would go out of business in three months. And on top of this, forced labour, daily risk from the OGPU, and permanent deprivation of the right to travel or to communicate, unsupervised, with foreigners.

But because this is labelled, and is, Socialism, a very numerous body of hypnotised dupes believe that Russian organisation spells the Golden Age.

The unanswerable criticism of Socialism is that if it is so superior as a mode of life to our admittedly faulty democracy, why doesn't the Russian Government give every possible facility to its happy citizens to travel free and return thankfully? And why does it threaten any Soviet citizen whom circumstances require to travel on strictly Soviet business (the only excuse for travel which is valid) that if he doesn't return, his family will suffer for him?

To which the local Communist, who says he abhors militarism, replies “Look what a wonderful army the Russians have.”

SOCIAL CREDIT LIBRARY

A Library for the use of annual subscribers to *The Social Crediter* has been formed with assistance from the Social Credit Expansion Fund, and is now in regular use. The Library will contain, as far as possible, every responsible book and pamphlet which has been published on Social Credit together with a number of volumes of an historical and political character which bear upon social science.

A deposit of 15/- is required for the cost of postage which should be renewed on notification of its approaching exhaustion.

For further particulars apply Librarian, 21, Milton Road, Highgate, London, N.6.

The Electricity Ramp

A correspondent communicates the following letter he has received from a doctor, a lady, practising in Inverness-shire:—

“Dear Sir,

“Many thanks for sending the copy of *The Social Crediter* to me. I shall read Major Douglas's book with interest. From the comments quoted it is obvious that he has a clear view of the situation. I could have added much to my original letter as I live in the midst of a street of crofts and understand their problems; for example, a man working a single-handed farm eagerly believed in the promise of cheap electricity. He got an estimate—£20 per annum (actually more than the rent) apart from expenses of installation—and regretfully said ‘It's paraffin and candles for the rest of my life.’ This man has also seen his telephone snatched from him; twenty years ago he could afford a party line with a certain number of free calls, now £4 and individual charges puts it just out of reach and so he loses more markets. The water-supply to his croft and all others on the district pipes is so full of unfiltered dirt that the labour of washing milk vessels and filtering water for butter-making is more than doubled. One does not wonder that the heart is taken out of a farmer when the great pylons, carrying electricity made from local water are erected in his fields without benefit to himself.

“I am neither a Socialist nor a Scottish Nationalist and the claims of these parties that the ‘vested interests’ of the landlords are opposed to these schemes rather surprises me. Most of the schemes are of great financial benefit to the landlords and their opposition seems most disinterested. It was rather a blow to my belief in either their intelligence or integrity when I knew of landlords taking the chair at Council meetings which were voting on the Hydro-electric plans calculated to put £50,000 to £100,000 into the pockets of the chairman. Taking the more charitable view one must at least question the soundness of their judgment.

“It is made as difficult as possible by official evasion for an individual to get at the truth about any subject.

“The town of Inverness manufactured electricity from the destruction of its own refuse—a most excellent double scheme. Permission to enlarge the plant was refused lest it should hamper the grid which wished the excuse of supplying the town to justify its boast of satisfying local interest.”

“SETTLERS”

Time: the future. Place: Government ‘Advice’ Office (‘separate’ from the Labour Exchange):

One P.B.I. to another P.B.I.:—

“Dyer notice what we are, Bill?—*Settlers*, Bill; that's what we are. *Settlers!* In England!”

Speaking at a meeting on September 2, Mr. Butler, Minister of Education said that: “After studying experiments made with the Forces, it would be a mistake to attempt to shape the future of adult education. We are dealing with a living thing, and we want a period of experiment and adventure in many directions before we shall discern clearly the main roads along which it may march forward.”

—*Regional Industrial Bulletin.*

RECONSTRUCTION

(From a Tasmanian Broadcast by Mr. James Guthrie)

In this, the fifth year of the war, there is tremendous activity in the political world. High Speed planes are flitting backwards and forwards across the country carrying with them the political chiefs, their secretaries and their deputies to conference after conference.

Whatever the ordinary man and woman may be planning for their families after the war, the political world is working day and night making plans for their future.

The most important part of the international situation to-day is the political situation, and the political situation resolves itself into a battle for power.

It is pretty obvious now that the military war did not go according to schedule; all sorts of unexpected things happened, and happened in a most amazing manner. And I think, too, that many of the great schemes being planned for post-war reconstruction are going to be upset in a manner which is going to surprise many people.

It is absurd to suggest, and criminal madness to perpetuate the idea, that the large capital structure of this country, added to the cost of reconstruction should come as a debt to the people of this country. Have we got no national assets? Are we to have no dividends from these assets? Must we keep on paying, paying, paying, as a bankrupt people with nothing but liabilities?

The Federal Government no longer hopes to get its way by means of a referendum, and it will try again to get the State Parliament to sign its own death warrant, and grant the additional powers demanded.

According to the Constitution, the State Government has power to give away its own powers to the Federal Government. Naturally those who framed the Constitution of Australia never anticipated that any State Government would volunteer to commit suicide, but these people could not foresee that a Federal Government would grow and acquire the tremendous powers it has to-day.

These powers can be used, and are used, to coerce the States into obedience. Because of its disabilities under Federation, Tasmania has to go cap in hand each year to obtain grants to carry on its essential services. At present it is negotiating with the Federal Government over ship building, the aluminium industry, the apple industry and the milk industry. All these the Federal Government has, unfortunately, the power to destroy.

The result is that as soon as you build up a strong central Government all other Government is destroyed, power of initiative and control is removed from every town and village and centred in the one capital city, Canberra. And those who have had any dealings with Canberra know what that means.

This modern process of centralisation of Government power in the hands of a few planners is naturally very attractive to the planners; they have a glorious time pushing people about. They feel quite exhilarated; the power goes to their heads and they become resentful of all opposition. You then reach the stage which every totalitarian State passes through. And don't forget, these States were built up on the slogan: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

The ordinary man may be slow to learn, but he is

HOW SOCIAL CREDIT SWEPT ALBERTA

Complete accounts of the sweeping Social Credit victory in Alberta are now available in the issues of the *Edmonton Bulletin* which have reached England. The Hon. E. C. Manning, the Premier was re-elected outright for Edmonton with more than double the quota number of votes (proportional representation). The second of five members for the constituency was not elected until the twelfth count. The final figures for the Province were:—

Social Credit	51
Independent	3
C.C.F.	2
Veteran	1
	—
Total	57
	—

Before the election, the representation was:—

Social Credit	35
Independent	15
Liberal	3
C.C.F.	1
Labour	1
Independent Social Credit	1
Vacant seat	1
	—
Total	57
	—

The whole Cabinet was re-elected. The massed opposition to Social Credit failed to win a single seat on the first returns.

learning the hollow mockery that lies behind these political catch phrases which have been bandied about so freely by those who have so thoroughly destroyed individual freedom.

The ordinary man has learned the mockery of political catch phrases so well that he has hardly any belief left in the word Progress. But progress, if it is to come at all in the real things of life, in the character and quality of men and women, it will have to come from the men and women themselves; they will have to take a part in the panning of their own affairs. Democracy and freedom is not built by the Government, but by the people; passing laws won't give you your freedom, it must grow out of the will of the people, out of individual effort and desire. You can't make a man free if he doesn't want to be free. Democracy grows up from the home and the village and the town; its local and fundamental political organisation is in the Municipal Councils.

The place of a central Government is to co-ordinate the work of local Government, not to destroy it and try to take its place. The State Government has no right to give away any of its powers to the central Government without consulting the people; it has no mandate to do so; it is wrong to do so, and I advise you to write to your Member in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council telling him your wishes in this matter. The people have a right to be consulted before they are stripped of their few remaining powers and I suggest that each one of you demand this right.

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

This journal expresses and supports the policy of the Social Credit Secretariat, which is a non-party, non-class organisation neither connected with nor supporting any political party, Social Credit or otherwise.

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BRETTON WOODS

We have already stated the reasons why we have not devoted extensive space to the analysis of the Bretton Woods Report. The locus of its importance is not in its technical provisions but in the sanctions which will be brought to bear to secure the ratification of it, and it is to the locus of those sanctions that we are steadily directing the attention of our readers. Neither do we imagine that the intention of the conclusions arrived at is hidden from those concerned. The standard of general information on financial technique, not wholly but quite largely as a result of Social Credit activity, is far higher than it was in 1918.

Those intentions are the primary intentions of the war, and for reference, they may be summarised. The Monetary Centre of the World is to be Washington: British currency is to be a local variant of the dollar, which is the supreme standard of monetary value, ranking with, and alternative to, gold, thus placing us with everyone else except the U.S.A. on the most rigid gold standard: the "sterling area" is automatically handed over to Wall Street and the world at large is irrevocably rivetted to a debt economy.

We have spent twenty-six years, steadily and without deviation, explaining that the abolition of this country and its culture as a world power was the next objective of those powers which transferred their activities from Germany to America with the Schiffs and the Warburgs. Imperial Russia was the first objective; it was reached, although the end of the story is not yet; we shall see, and that soon, whether "Hitler" did not win the war when he was enabled by loans from Wall Street and the Bank "of England," to ensure that it occurred.

We don't know, nor do we very much care, whether any responsible body of opinion outside the circles we have indicated, realises that the U.S.A., in its present form, is the next on the list. But that it is, any German General could confirm.

With some reservations, history is religion—the binding back of fancy to fact. That is why all religions begin with a book of Genesis. Religion is real as its history is real.

It is a fact of history that no nation has long survived "adoption" by the Jews. When the tempo of life was slower, as in the case of Spain, the period was longer. The German period was shorter. Unless all signs are deceptive, the period of the U.S.A. will be shorter still.

B for Big and B for Bevin

A circumstantial story appeared in one of the Sunday newspapers at the beginning of the week by Maurice Webb, presumably the ex-Indian Civil Servant who is Secretary to the Senate of the University of London. It concerned the future of Mr. Bevin, whose mind is said to be set upon entering the newspaper business in "a very big way."

"What about the money? It takes quite a lot to start a national paper in these days but I can tell you there is ample money available for this project of Mr. Bevin's."

It is better than selling ginger beer, which is not mentioned in a discussion of the other courses open to the engineer of direction into employment. Mr. Bevin has, it is stated, now no desire for the leadership of the Labour Party, which is perhaps just as well; but "he is not without interest in who will ultimately get it." He is too old to return to the trade union movement. Quite a good excuse. He has his eye upon "the millions who are coming back from the war with fresh challenging ideas about the future of the country for which they have fought." Before them he will spread a prospect which is independent, progressive and daring.

On his retirement from the more humdrum walks of political life, the Minister of Labour expects either to be free from the attentions of any zealous imitator, anxious to direct into other employment than Mr. Bevin's the future challengers of public opinion (backed by ample money), or to prove worthy of his confidence and deserving of every assistance which "the bureaucracy of the future Socialist State" can provide. The Society of Individualists can take their choice. From the fact that the *Sunday Express* published Mr. Webb's story, they can also draw either (and perhaps both) of two conclusions: either that a partnership with Lord Beaverbrook is contemplated—or that it isn't. The suggestion that Mr. Bevin is to be chairman and managing director, is inconclusive on this point, since, as is widely stated, the friend of the Prime Minister gives every encouragement to his subordinates to express themselves freely in print in the interest of circulation figures.

Anyhow, there are to be (big) newspapers after the war—for a time. But now that plans are so far forward for the next war, what is to happen 'tween times is daily engaging less attention. Unless our ears deceived us, the "B."B.C. referred to the "winding-up" of the present incident. Is it possible that, like another kind of mechanical toy, even a war might get wound up once too often? These 'big' boys are very much like little boys.

These "Local" Issues

How "local" the issue was in Alberta is shown by an eve-of-the-poll page advertisement in which the prominent words are:—

TELL CANADA: TELL THE WORLD: TELL THE MONEY POWERS: THAT THE PEOPLE OF ALBERTA NEVER QUIT: THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE WITH RENEWED VIGOUR THEIR HISTORIC BATTLE FOR FREEDOM: THAT IN THIS THEY ARE SOLIDLY BEHIND THEIR SOCIAL CREDIT GOVERNMENT.

PLANNING THE EARTH (IV)

By GEOFFREY DOBBS

Despite the immense efforts openly being made to bring it about, the establishment of a World Empire is commonly represented as 'inevitable' and due to the 'trend' of evolution, or the operation of mechanical or other impersonal forces. This, of course, is no more than the propagandist use of suggestion calculated to destroy the will to act.

The attainment of this goal is regarded as so far from inevitable by well-informed persons deeply committed to its pursuit, that among themselves they often frankly reveal their despair of reaching it in the face of the incorrigible natural instincts of ordinary people. Thus they also admit that they are engaged in a battle in which their wills are pitted against the will of the majority of mankind.

The acute danger arises from the widespread ignorance of the power already obtained by these plan-imposers to create, through their control of monetary and governmental mechanisms, a state of affairs compared to which a surrender to their will seems preferable, and to consolidate the ground so gained for their policy by a massive reconstruction of our material environment. In every case the alternative presented has been a false one. Preparation for war was not the only way out of the Slump, and a New World Order is not the only possible outcome of a war against Hitler's New Order in Europe.

It might be supposed that in the face of the War danger, no other emergency could be of comparative gravity. But for all the death, misery and destruction which they bring in their train, the great wars do not, as advertised in advance, destroy the human race, or even the material basis of our livelihood, which, so far as technical resources go, is usually on balance greatly increased by wars. They seem to be carefully controlled emergencies, the chief function of which is to enforce the surrender of rights and liberties by the use of fear on a large scale.

The world-wide emergency brought about by the impoverishment and destruction of the soil is of a different nature, and menaces the very means of our existence on the planet. At the very least we are threatened with a return to that state of scarcity which the economists, who have a vested interest in it, were forced grudgingly to admit we had escaped from in the Poverty-in-Plenty days of the 1930s. As usual, we are being told that the surrender of further freedom of action to centralised control is the only cure, and the situation is so grave that the correct measures must be taken, whatever the cost, even if it should include a return to serfdom—a probability clearly envisaged, at least for the African native, by Jacks and Whyte in their book *The Rape of the Earth*.

The affair is being represented as another War Crisis: Mankind is waging and losing a desperate battle against Nature, and is in dire need of an efficient General Staff if disaster is to be avoided. This picture is, of course, entirely false, except in so far as we have been forced into the position of waging war on Nature, and particularly on the soil, by the operations of this same would-be General Staff. We are faced with poverty and starvation only to the extent that we persist in this course.

The destruction of the soil has not been brought about

by the innate errors of free individuals, who naturally tend to co-operate with their environment, but by bad farming enforced by the dictates of the remote holders of agricultural debt, and more recently, by Government Departments. The worst effects have been caused by extensive farming with low yields, e.g., yields of the order of 12 bushels of wheat to the acre have destroyed the prairies of North America, whereas 32 bushels is a fair average for this country, and is quite compatible with the maintenance of a high level of fertility. It is worth noting, in passing, that "the average terms of farm tenancy in the United States is under two years." (Jacks and Whyte: *The Rape of the Earth*, p. 232).

It is now being said and realised that a large part of the 'glut' of the pre-war period was due to the exploitations of soil capital, but those who go on to conclude that there was, and can be, no plenty from the soil except at the cost of its fertility, lose sight of the fact that the 'glut' was produced, not by good farming with high yields, but by bad farming with low yields, and also, that the product was not consumed, but destroyed and wasted. The squandering of the world's capital resources on destruction, whether of coal, petroleum or soil, is the hall-mark of that unnatural power which alone can coerce men into such suicidal behaviour.

Debt, insecurity of tenure, extensive farming, low yields, and the destruction of soil capital all go together, bringing in their train the reduction of the land worker to the status of a serf. The examples are not only to be found in all the new countries of the world in which soil erosion is now a dominant factor, but very strikingly in the history of the decline of Imperial Rome, in which the concentration of the money power was accompanied by the replacement of small owner-farming by the *latifundia*, large slave-worked estates, and the creation of the Libyan desert by extensive overcropping to provide bread doles for the city proletariat.

On the other hand, a free flow of credit, security of tenure, high yields, intensive farming with an adequate return to the soil and the maintenance or even increase of soil fertility also go together. The examples are Lombardy in the tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the Netherlands in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and England in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

It can be no accident that all these countries are small and densely populated, and that at the height of its agricultural prosperity each in turn was the financial centre of the world. It is not to the credit of the modern financial system that in its earlier stages only one country at a time was enabled to till its soil properly, and in its later stages, none; but the fact provides some evidence that before the accumulation of irredeemable debt had counterbalanced it, easy access to money had something to do with the maintenance of soil fertility.

The destruction of English agriculture by the Debt System during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century is indeed amply portrayed by William Cobbett, who despite his astonishing foresight, can scarcely have foreseen the lengths to which the process would be carried in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, not only in England but throughout the world, reaching its culmination in the dust bowls of North America and the giant tractor-farms of the U.S.S.R.

Much as our land has suffered, and is suffering under the attacks of city creditors, monopolies and Government Departments, we are not so far down the slope of infertility as these countries. The 'future,' so widely advertised as being the exclusive property of the 'new' countries whose seething populations are rapidly transforming them into deserts, actually lies with those people who have learnt, and retained, the arts of intensive, and conservative, agriculture, and have succeeded in incorporating in them, without damage to their primary purpose of maintaining soil fertility, those modern discoveries in engineering and biology which have been found to be useful.

Far from corresponding to the prevailing picture of a worn-out old country, supported by her young, vigorous offspring, the Dominions, and unable to keep pace with her two huge and virile neighbours, the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., Great Britain compares favourably with the others in the retention of a fair proportion of her pristine strength in the soil. In the whole world there is not another piece of land to compare in climate, soil, and intrinsic fertility with North Western Europe, the cradle, and the home, of modern rotational agriculture. In the huge but semi-arid 'new' countries there are still, especially in the U.S.S.R., large reserves of soil fertility to be tapped; but after that nothing but the thriftiest conservation agriculture can keep back the desert.

In addition, it would seem that both these vast countries are ripe for an imperialistic phase, and the clash between them which is confidently expected by our socialists as well as by Wall Street, is not only likely to weaken them further, but will prevent the adoption of the small scale, intensive, individual farming methods which alone can build up the land. It is not denied, of course, that 'Planning' methods, vast engineering works, dictated conservation farming, etc., a sort of imperialism of the land, may delay the process of erosion for a long period provided there is no change of policy in the controllers—but at best it is a defensive fight, all the measures are negative, only the individual who is secure in his tenure of the land can find the interest and the will and the energy to keep up, let alone build up, its fertility. You cannot enforce good farming by laws, restrictions and penalties. Such an idea can arise only from a childish misconception of the complexity of the links between men, animals, plants, micro-organisms, and the soil. It is idiotic to suppose that you can bring about balanced biological relationships by law; yet it is this idiotic idea which is being 'put over' by our planners and scientists.

Our soil, in the British Isles, is now in very great danger. Its fertility, maintained, and even built up, over centuries, and buffered in recent years to some extent by the large imports of food from abroad, must by now have suffered serious inroads. The demands on it during two Great Wars have been great, and will be likely to remain permanently greater than before this War, as the eroded countries may soon not have the surpluses to export. Several decades of chemical 'manuring' have now begun to produce their effects in impoverished soil, diseased crops and stock, and poor quality products, a fact which seems to be denied only by those associated with the Chemical Industry and the Laws Agricultural Trust, which latter first made its reputation by demonstrating the increase in yields to be obtained with artificials. Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture has, during the war, forced the application of heavy dressings of

artificials throughout the country.

At the same time, though it is still not considered 'respectable' for a scientist or agricultural specialist to criticise chemical farming, and any who venture to do so immediately 'lose caste' as cranks (the muck-and-magic school!), there are signs that the Planners—as evidenced, for instance, by the space devoted to the subject in the *New Statesman*—have their eye on the possibility that the criticisms may be true after all. When the disastrous effects of the present policy have become too blatant to be denied any longer, it will be quite according to plan for them to raise a loud shout for even greater centralised control to save the soil. It is also not surprising that when so many people have been influenced by H. G. Wells, Wellsian fantasies have a way of coming true, and the chance of restricting 'Grade A' (properly grown) food to selected classes, leaving the usual denatured rubbish to the rest of us, is too good to be missed by them. It is said to have been noticed already in some places that the chief clamourers for compulsory pasteurisation of milk are also the first to get on the special list for natural milk.

If we allow our soil to be destroyed we shall, with our dense population, inevitably become a vassal nation; but, on the other hand, if there is any hope, anywhere, for the soil, and for the people who live on it, it is in North Western Europe, the cradle of good farming, and of that development towards democracy which may some day reach its goal. In these Islands we have recently suffered some heavy defeats in the long-term war for the freedom and security of the individual. We have had our Dunkirk; the assault on the central bastion, the land itself, the real Battle of Britain, has now begun.

(Concluded)

Epitome

The present seems to be a convenient time to summarise the development of Social Credit thought during the war.

A recent letter to a friend of the Secretariat from Fiji divided the Social Credit newspapers to which the writer of the letter subscribed into those he gave away and *The Social Crediter*, which, he said, he kept carefully for reference: "It is so full of valuable knowledge." We quote his words as nearly as we can remember them quite dispassionately, though with approval. He said something additionally suggesting that English Social Crediters had had a harder time of it than their friends elsewhere in the world, and, so it appeared to him, had had to exercise particular care. That is as it may be; while their behaviour has been in all probability correct, their immunity from molestation, up to the present, has probably been due to reasons far removed from outward forms. And quite certainly it has not been due to due respect for standards of thought and presentation. 18B, though doubtless a terrible and a loathsome weapon, seems better adapted to deal with people who have nothing very particularly to say and contemplate action which does not lead them anywhere particularly than with people who have something so particular to say that the less widely it is heard the better—for the 18B-minded. The most considerable opposition to Social Credit, if not the only real opposition, is realistic, and it has demonstrated how realistic, on this matter at least, as the plan of the war

has unfolded. It is their policy which is wrong; there is nothing the matter with their intelligence, though there is no knowing when they might slip there too. If it is not more certainly apprehended, this fact is more generally understood now than when the war started, and it explains in part at least the growth of ideas within the Social Credit movement in Great Britain during the past five years.

We began the war with a perfectly clear idea of our relationship to it. In a sense which is strangely parallel (parallel lines never meet) to what the Jews mean when they say that the war was 'their' war, the war was ours; and, as the scale became slowly accessible to experience, as distinct from imagination, an expansion occurred to comprise it. So, for most of us, there has been a sensible increase of individual capacity. Over and over again this has been remarked upon by observers; but those immediately concerned have been personally aware of it as well. The relation of Major Douglas to this process is, so far as I am aware, that of someone who watches the process from outside, encourages it and guides it. We are at war, and tactics are the whole action of war, contact with the enemy, so every tactical possibility has to be investigated, with due precaution. Foch lays great emphasis upon Bonaparte's insistence upon *battles*. It is in battle that the enemy is overcome; and battle means fighting in contact with the enemy. Strategy is directed to making him fight: forcing battle upon him: if it must be *forced*, the implication is that the conditions are disadvantageous to him, and therefore advantageous to you: the objective is to overcome him and to deprive him of initiative or the possibility of recovering initiative. In all this there is much more than mere weight of arms or brute force. Only *local* superiority is required to overcome a generally superior force. Materially, Social Credit at the outbreak of the war in 1939 was negligible; and it is still negligible. "We have no sanctions." It was necessary, therefore, to discover what we had got that was convertible and serviceable. The history of the war years is largely a record of trials and of measurements. The present phase is ending (if it is ending) without a decision; and by all the *material* rules there should have been a decision, not a confused rush to re-collect and reorganise the overwhelmingly powerful enemy reserves. It will scarcely escape the notice of the least attentive observer that all or practically all, the *stated* objectives are being discarded. The sinister scheme of complete social 'miscegenation' embodied in the early billeting and evacuation plans miscarried. Julian Huxley's notion of a perfectly mixed race, a muddled race, is so far from being achieved that, on the contrary, the whole *country*-side is conscious of its identity to a degree which would never have been the case had not the alien horde of the cities been literally forced upon its notice; and even the towns, by added, sudden, discomforts have been made aware of what use and habit had made almost imperceptible. The France whose Chamber Mr. Churchill wished to blend with the British House of Commons, seems to be almost in danger of liberating itself—from the Americans. The Canadian Prime Minister is questioned in his Parliament concerning his loyalty to the Crown; all the bottles have new labels as fast as the newspapers can familiarise their publics with the sound of their names. The drop-sheets designed to hide the hero's confusion stick; all the set political stages of the world are assailed with hail storms from the wings. This does not mean that the theatres

wouldn't burn if there were means to set them ablaze. With the whole of the intelligentsia let loose on a gagged public in uniform, the gaff has even been blown upon the powers of massed-produced 'adult' education, and after five years experiment which seemed to offer undreamed of opportunities to the planners, a Secretary of State confesses that the whole problem of adult education bristles with difficulties, and must be approached on tip toe, with an invisible net, like a mosquito on the wing; a long chase, over many years, ahead of him before he can hope to catch it.

Our skirmishes did us no harm. In the electoral campaign for the abolition of poverty, with all its imperfections, we demonstrated the complete soundness of conception of an important political technique. It has been used since without the taint of salesmanship and with a dignity appropriate to the notion of Social Credit, whether with full success is not yet known; but the campaign against the proletarianising of Medicine and for the freedom of the sick from exploitation by political gangsters may yet assume importance as a 'key' position held against heavy onslaughts.

A variant of the technique, the campaign for lower rates without reduction of service (or, of course, increased assessments), was developing rapidly and favourably when war broke out. Action was suspended. There were some who objected to the step; but they probably would now acknowledge its correctness. The war has adjusted their perspective. The Lower Rates Campaign was, in any case, a mask which did not reveal a trace of the features of a cultural movement. The Social Credit movement has grown to that. It has entered the life-blood of civilisation. It stands in the line of succession of the great movements of human history, of the greatest movements, hoping to escape the errors of execution which alone, possibly, have hindered their fruition.

On September 6, 1939, there was issued Number 1, of a Bulletin which has been distributed at intervals ever since by the Secretariat among its intimates, with the object of preserving, in times of difficulty, a certain uniformity of information. It achieved its objective. Although marked 'private,' the information it contains passes 'along the line' and back again. False interpretations fade out; correct interpretations become reinforced. The thought in them is Douglas's; but he who communicates it takes the responsibility for its accuracy, and mistakes do not impede the work of the Secretariat, or misrepresent it. All that has been distributed has become common knowledge among those to whom it can be of use. The first Bulletin begins:—"During war, everything becomes a 'function' of war. The object of the constituted authority, in dealing with the great variety of actions of which members of the community are capable, is to direct every ounce of available energy into channels favourable to the attainment of its (the administration's) policy. In so far as the 'self-preservation of the group' is the administration's policy, the group's policy and the administration's tend to become identical. Where the administration's policy is not truly the common policy of the group, prosecution of a policy divergent from that of the administration becomes difficult if not impossible in practice..."

In the same document, we summarised the requirements of a stable order of society:—

"The establishment of an order of society in which

policy is decentralised depends ultimately upon two things, the correctness of this objective, or the stability naturally inherent in such a state of society, in the absence of which such a state of society would, if established, crumple-up again. Together with this goes a complex 'term,' compounded of the following factors:—

"(1) A correct understanding of the principles underlying a stable order among a sufficient number of people.

"(2) The real will of a sufficient number of people for the attainment of the results to be expected to be forthcoming from a correct order of society.

"(3) The direction of this will effectively into right channels by those who know how to do it."

We said: "Causes are not lost causes until they are fought out: the decision is at the end, not at the beginning. We are at the beginning."

It was in September of the same year that Sir Arnold Wilson made a considerable speech in the House of Commons, in which he said that thousands of retailers were being 'liquidated' to the profound satisfaction of the planners. He quoted from the P.E.P. journal *Planning*: 'Only in war or threat of war will the British Government embark on large scale planning.' No daily newspaper reported the speech. On the strength of this, the Secretariat asked Sir Arnold Wilson if he would assist in making the Ormskirk bye-Election, in which Commander King-Hall was a candidate the occasion for a 'show-down' with P.E.P. He replied: "Very sorry I cannot help. I don't know a soul in the Division, and am being called up. But I quite agree with you. . ."

The real forces of society were beginning to show themselves: at first the lesser representatives of them; progressively those more considerable, equipped by training and inheritance with insight into the truth which Douglas has cast in the words: "History is crystallised politics."

The war-time productions of Major Douglas record the vast labour in conjunction with exceptional power to synthesise expended in keeping up with the rapidly developing situation. No outstanding broadsheet, article or investigation has been initiated apart from his suggestion, and many significant and critical passages have been the untouched reproduction of his own work. We are tenders of the light: lighthouse-keepers. I find this, recorded in January, 1940:—

"Referring to the role of Social Crediters, he said our ideas were going over, and were being propagated very much more than most of us thought. The time would come when the Government would be faced with a 'super-crisis,' and would have to choose irretrievably between such intense centralisation as it would wish to escape and decentralisation of policy. The acceptance of the need for this policy would mark the beginning of the general application of Social Credit ideas. At that point our influence would be of tremendous importance."

The imminence of such a situation is apparent.

T. J.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

"In a recent speech the Archbishop of Canterbury predicted that the standard rate of income tax in the early post-war years will be about 7s. 6d. in the £."—*Taxes*, August, 1944.

HOUSES

"Houses have been in short supply for forty years, ever since the Government first took upon itself to have a housing policy, and these business men who get on to the platform and explain that they can do nothing till the Government has decided what sort of nothing it will do... sink with the rest of a pauper-minded nation into raw material for the totalitarian bureaucrat."—Sir Ernest Benn.

BOOKS TO READ

By C. H. Douglas:—

Economic Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
Social Credit.....	3/6
The Monopoly of Credit.....	(reprinting)
Credit Power and Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
Warning Democracy.....	(edition exhausted)
The Big Idea.....	2/6
Programme for the Third World War.....	2/-
The "Land for the (Chosen) People" Racket.....	2/-
The Tragedy of Human Effort.....	7d.
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Reconstruction.....	6d.
The Use of Money.....	6d.
Social Credit Principles.....	1½d.

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The Voters' Policy as applied to the Beveridge Report (Bristol Voters' Policy Association leaflet).....	2d.
World Review; The Jeffrey Professor of Political Economy, Etc., (containing Financing of a Long- Term Production Cycle, reprinted from <i>The Social Crediter</i> of November 28, 1942.).....	1d.
Cross-section of Bristol discusses Work (Bristol Voters' Policy Association leaflet).....	1d.
The Representative's Job.....	1d.

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