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Planning the Earth

By C. G. DOBBS

(XI)

In contrast to the control of human purpose by finance—*i.e.* the manipulating of statistics representing a measure of human *choice*, an expression of purpose, in such a way as to limit that choice—we have the statistics of *probability*, or *chance*, which excludes consideration of choice, purpose, or design altogether. The application of this to human behaviour or events which have in fact been influenced or brought about by purpose, design, or Planning (*e.g.* by the manipulation of finance) provides the Planners with an immense psychological power in the suggestion of the inevitability of their Plans, and the attribution of the course of events to a multiplicity of unspecified causes beyond human control, thus enabling the Planners to evade all responsibility.

At the present time practically the whole of the so-called 'Social Sciences' and a good deal of biological 'science' is based upon this psychological trick, which hypnotises the 'educated' even more than the uneducated. The exclusion of purpose or design from the premises is, of course, occult to most people (not the least to those who spend their time planning elaborately 'randomised' experiments!) but the blind faith of the average scientist in the reality of the quite recently invented, mathematical concept of *probability* is one of the most powerful of modern superstitions.¹ As a senior Government Research Officer said recently to the writer in the course of a discussion on this subject: "If we do not know the probability we know nothing." The absence of all knowledge before, say, Karl Pearson (or should it be Laplace's *Théorie analytique des probabilités*, 1814?) is a little staggering to contemplate.

One of the main uses to which probability statistics is put is the *prediction* of the course of events, which is, however, more often implicit than explicit. The power of mass-suggestion exerted by this means is quite incalculable; there is a peculiar hypnosis about it which is very difficult to resist, for it restores the ancient belief in Fate, incongruously enough, under the name of Chance—the fall of the dice, the way things happen—undesigned, unforeseen, unforeseeable—so it is made the basis of prediction. In passing, it should

be noticed that dice are very carefully designed instruments, and there is nothing like them in nature.

G. K. Chesterton has written some true words on the subject in his essay on Archæology (in *Generally Speaking*, Methuen's third Edn. 1937):—

The future is dead, because all futurism must be a sort of fatalism. It cannot foresee the free part of human action; it can only foresee the servile part. . . . The point of all these lines is that they must all be mathematical lines; none of them can be free lines, like the lines of a draughtsman. It is only in the past that we find the finished picture; for it is only in the past that we find the free line. In other words, when we look at what men did, we are looking at what they freely chose to do. But when we consider what men will do, we cannot consider what they will choose to do. We can only consider what they must do. Unless it be something they cannot avoid, it is something we cannot predict.

The only qualification one would add to this is that, wherever in the past, Planning, whether financial or statutory, has been in operation, the only 'free lines' discernible are those drawn by the Planners; the rest have had to toe them; except those few who have refused, and changed the course of history.

The concept of probability is of negligible value in relation to the actual events of which the real Universe is composed; they are all one-in-infinity chances. Consider, for instance, the probability of occurrence of the fusion of two particular sex-cells, giving rise to a particular individual. It is only when the real Universe is replaced by 'the universe of discourse,' a pseudo-universe which may be purely ideal, or in part materially arranged, but is circumscribed deliberately by human Planning, that probabilities begin to be calculable. It is only with dice that there is a one-in-six chance of a given result. It is only in the even narrower pseudo-universe used, for instance, in the controlled scientific experiment, that even higher probabilities may be reckoned with. And the converse is also true: the higher the probability, the fewer the degrees of freedom, and the narrower the Planned limitations of 'the universe' which may be deduced. It is extraordinary how many scientists, who well understand the necessity of careful planning and strict control to ensure significant probabilities, cannot understand that significant probabilities imply the existence of careful planning and strict control, on a scale commensurate with 'the universe of discourse.'

All this may seem very theoretical until it is remembered that statistics is a major instrument of 'scientific' Planning, and that, so long as Planned probabilities are supposed to arise from the nature of the real Universe, the will to resist is inhibited.

There is also a direct relationship between the use of statistics and Bigness, in the sense of large numbers, which are essential to significance in the use of statistics in pro-

¹See H. C. Wyld's *Universal Dictionary*: "superstition, irrational dread of the supernatural; excessive credulity with regard to what is mysterious and unexplained;" See also "probability, n 3 (math.) The chance of occurrence of any one of a number of possible events, some one of which is bound to occur;" and under "chance (I), n fr. L. Lat. *cadentia*, 'falling, esp. of dice' 1. Events as they happen, course of events, way things occur: 'the changes and chances of this mortal life.' 2. Various senses implying happening of events without any cause which can be ascertained, foreseen, or controlled; a undesigned, unforeseen, unforeseeable occurrence, accidental circumstance, fortune, luck: *to be present by the merest chance; to leave things to chance; a game of chance*, reverse of one of skill. Phr. *by chance*, casually, by accident; *b* probability, likelihood, of something happening:"

portion to the complexity and variability of the material. Even inorganic particles such as atoms or molecules, which are individually uncontrollable, change their characteristics when considered and handled in the mass. Their individual characters, such as valencies, are absorbed and cancelled out within the mass, which takes on quite other (though related) characters, and becomes liable to control and use by those understanding them. With inorganic materials the complexity of the mass is greater than that of the individual particles, but when entities such as human beings, or the soil, of a complexity far beyond the comprehension of any Planner, are handled in the mass (or mob, or region), the characteristics of the mass, approaching as they do those of inorganic materials in their simplicity and malleability, represent an appalling degradation of the quality of the individual.

The 'science' of population provides the most impudent and blatant example of this sort of treatment of human beings, particularly that aspect of it which treats men and women as functional reproductive units. The whole thing is meaningless except against the background of the assumption that we were all born and came into the World to serve the purposes of Planners, *i.e.* of those who control us as a collectivity. The increasing aggregation of people into larger masses (*e.g.* multilateral schools of 2,000) speaks of the same assumption. It is sad to see those who were brought up in a different belief lending themselves to this policy.

An important example of statistical Planning, which combines the characteristics of population statistics on the one hand, with those of finance (the control of units of choice) on the other, is the *majority vote*.

Potentially the vote, an indication of choice backed by the will and sanctions, moral and physical, of an individual, is an effective means towards the decentralisation of power. In the days when the long-bow was a cheap and formidable weapon in the hands of every able-bodied man and boy the Ruling Powers found it advisable to yield to such indications of will, and even to institute a mechanism for their expression. It is important to remember that the primary function of the representatives elected by the political vote was to control the finance—*i.e.* the economic choice—available to the central Government.

Limited as was the parliamentary franchise, it was but the expression and end-term of something far deeper and more direct and decentralised, the personal influence and pressure of man upon master in the feudal system which was sufficient, acting over the centuries and against the background of Christian thought, to liberate the villein from serfdom and to establish him in that degree of economic choice which arose from common, and later from individual rights in the land. Those were the days when the foundations of English freedom were laid, so well that some vestiges of them remain to-day, despite the fact that the task of the last few centuries has been to undermine them, rather than, as is commonly supposed, to build upon them.

The idea has been assiduously spread that those products of the nineteenth century, the universal adult suffrage of vast populations, hundreds of times the size of the original electorates, and the secret ballot, constitute between them the sole safeguard and basis of true democracy, instead of being, as they manifestly are, the direct and necessary precursors of the modern totalitarian state. Many people seem to be under the impression that the secret ballot dates back to Magna Carta, rather than to the Ballot Act of 1872.

An anonymous vote is, of course, a meaningless symbol backed by no sanction, except the conventions that it shall be counted, and that a majority of quite arbitrary, and manipulable, proportions shall elect. Since no one will accept responsibility for the vote there is no way of ensuring that these conventions are observed, and as a means of coercing the Power which controls the ballot it is quite fatuous. Equally, as a protection against intimidation by the Power which controls the ballot, it is more than useless. If that Power can be trusted to 'play the game' according to the conventions then there is no need for secrecy; it can be trusted to hold the ring and to protect the voters from intimidation. But if not, then it is provided with information about the voter's attitude while he is deprived of the protection of publicity.

The degree of choice offered to the voter can be limited to any extent desired, even to a single official list, as in the so-called 'Eastern democracies.' There is not the slightest reason to suppose that in such cases the number of votes published bears any necessary relation to the number cast; the whole thing is merely a piece of statistical mass-suggestion involving a kind of ritual submission to the will of the Government on the part of the individual.

In the 'Western democracies' the concentration of financial power has long ago ensured that no fundamental choice of policy is available to the electors, but there remains a choice of Parties with some differences of bias and method. The separation of powers between these probably ensures that, up to the present, the Party votes are in general, more or less correctly counted and published, but there are already signs that the real opposition vote—the spoiled ballot paper—is manipulated at will, sometimes being redistributed among the parties so as to obscure the total.

Secrecy is, of course, not the resort of the honest man but of the underhand, and it provides the ideal cover for the 'rigging' of the results in any way desired. Some confusion of thought has been caused by the fact that the Communists, *e.g.* in France, have attempted to upset the secret ballot, especially in trades unions, from which it is deduced that it provides some protection against them. In fact, they attempt to upset it only when they fear that it may be used against them by a rival power Group. Once they have got rid of rivals they restore it, as in the Stalin Constitution of 1936.

The essence of the whole business is the relieving of Government of the responsibility for its actions. With the disappearance of the open ballot the vote changed from at least potentially a responsible expression of personal will, to an irresponsible expression of anonymous opinion; and this irresponsibility underlies and corrupts the whole of modern Society from top to bottom. Every form of human weakness, laziness, bad workmanship, breach of contract, breach of faith, even fraud and dishonesty is excused and condoned by reference to the fact that the circumstances were beyond the control of the person concerned, and there is so much truth in this that the temptation is more than human nature can ordinarily withstand. In so far as individuals are, in fact, powerless, the responsibility rests with those who actually hold the power—those whom we call the Planners, whose decisions are enforced by all the powers of the State or the Super-State; but these, hitherto, have been allowed to lay their burden upon the perfect scapegoat, that anonymous impersonal, unidentifiable, statistical abstraction, the majority voter. It is easy to

understand why a Key Planner such as Mr. Lilienthal is so strong in the defence of the present-day 'institution of politics.'

The convention of propaganda is that we all, individually, must accept the responsibility for anything the Planners choose to impose in the name of the statistical majority. But anonymous responsibility is an impossibility. A response is a returning or giving back that which is due, or if we go back further to the sense found in the word 'sponsor,' it is a pledging in return. A statistical unit cannot respond; a living individual can. If the voter is ever to accept responsibility for his vote (which is the last thing the Planners want) he must make his choice openly, and the results arising from it must return to, and be accepted by, him as an individual. Practical proposals for such a responsible ballot, which would be complementary to the responsible economic vote (the 'social' dividend), have been put forward by Major C. H. Douglas² and form a vital part of what Sydney Webb called 'the suppressed alternative' to the prevailing policy of centralisation and Planning.

In the special sense in which responsibility is due to the land—that of giving back that which is due—not only is actual association of man and land essential, but time also, if the development of a balanced response between the two is to occur. This means security of tenure and complete lack of interference. Proposals to this effect have also been made by Major Douglas,³ and it is unnecessary to elaborate them.

Ownership, or tenure, of the land, however, does not confer the right to destroy it. Doubtless there is a point in criminal mismanagement at which a man's neighbours, or the law acting on their behalf, have a right to step in, just as there is a point where interference with a man's treatment of his own family becomes justifiable. But that has nothing whatever to do with centralised Planning and Management; it is the negative Law, the opposite.

As for the penalising and dispossession of farmers (but never Government Departments) for alleged, or even proven, bad farming, it should be an absolute defence if it can be proved that a part of their responsibility has been taken from them. The *Estate Book and Diary* lists forty-one Government Departments with powers of interference in some aspect of agriculture and land ownership. (From *The Social Crediter*, October 29, 1949). If all the persons who have power, and therefore responsibility, were to appear in court as defendants, there should be quite a crowd! This may be merely a rather jolly day-dream, but we can always work in that direction.

We are so far from any sane proposals with regard to the land being put into effect that it is easy to suppose that there is nothing to do about it; but there is *always* something to do about it; we can always start from where we are and apply integrity and responsibility to the situation as it is. It is true that we shall not then be popular with the Planners, or in a good position for obtaining the rewards in pay, promotion, and privilege which they are able to dispense; but with the devaluation not only of money but of practically everything they control they are now beginning to suffer from diminishing returns; and there is no satisfaction to be

²*Realistic Constitutionalism*, K.R.P. Publications Ltd., a reprint of an address to the Constitutional Research Association. See also *A Light Horse*, Part III in *The Social Crediter*, March 16, 1946

³In "The 'Land for the (Chosen) People' Racket", K.R.P. Publications Ltd., 1943.

found in a life devoted to the pursuit of a policy which is known to be evil. There is a great adventure, as well as satisfaction, in opposing it.

(Concluded)

Planning the Earth—(Addendum)

The following is quoted from *The Manchester Guardian* for October 26, 1949:—

£107,000,000 MORE FOR ATOM BOMB MAKING

Oak Ridge (Tennessee), October 25.

The United States Atomic Energy Commission today confirmed plans for a £107,000,000 expansion of its atomic bomb-making facilities.

Of the total, £89,000,000 would be used directly for bombs, and £17,800,000 would go to the Tennessee Valley Authority to supply power for future atomic plant requirements here.—*Reuter*.

Social Credit Secretariat

The comprehensive statement concerning the Social Secretariat drawn up for public information and published in *The Social Crediter* for July 2 last has been prepared in pamphlet form and is awaiting distribution to supporters by post.

The pamphlet contains a revised list of affiliated groups and the following list of Secretariat personnel, which was not included in the previous publication:—

Personnel

Advisory Chairman: MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS.

Deputy Chairman: DR. TUDOR JONES.

Secretary: E. J. PANKHURST.

Treasurer and Director of Revenue: R. G. ELLIS.

DIRECTORS

Organisation; Overseas Relations: HEWLETT EDWARDS.

Ad hoc: MRS. GEOFFREY DOBBS, R. B. GAUDIN and H. R. PURCHASE.

Registrar (Department of Lectures and Studies):

MRS. J. HYATT, B.A.

A letter from the Treasurer to subscribers to which are attached Bank Order and Subscription forms accompanies the pamphlet. Readers of *The Social Crediter* who at present obtain their copies from newsagents are invited to apply to the business address of the Secretariat at 7, Victoria Street, Liverpool, 2, for a copy of Mr. Ellis's letter and the accompanying forms.

It is again emphasised that there has been no alteration in the subscription rates to *The Social Crediter*, details of which are given at the head of page 4.

"Out of the Mouths . . ."

"Even if the streets of London were paved with gold, we should still have to borrow dollars for a pick."—A "B".B.C. comedian, October 26.

The reader who sends us this wonders whether the wit will be punished by banishment or promoted as the successful experimenter testing the patient's eye to see whether he is sufficiently unconscious for the operation to proceed. Frankly, we don't know the answer.

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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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Saturday, November 5, 1949.

From Week to Week

In all seriousness, we think that the British people are now mentally unfit to manage their own or any other country. Whether this is congenital, educational, or the result of skilful food poisoning made possible by centralised food controls, is not clear. But to allow "the Cabinet" under the pretext of another faked crisis, to discuss more austerity as a smoke screen for a capital levy, and other attacks on potential enemies of the Jews, without touching the inflated salaries of the Stracheys, Shinwells, Silkins, Strausses and other members of the Yiddish community, or its lackeys, is only explicable on the grounds of collective lunacy, whether temporary or otherwise. That it is all done under the rubber stamp of Sir Stafford Cripps ("There, but for the Grace of God, goes God") is of no consequence. Everyone in the present Administration who has, or has had, anything to do with financial policy comes almost directly from the London School of Economics, which is neither more nor less than a Jewish Staff College, for economic warfare on the *goyim* and would probably not trouble to deny it. All its graduates are doing well for their Fatherland, but not for "Britain."

"Sacrifice" is the Staff College word for taxation. Before one penny further of tribute is exacted by its nominees from the conquered *goyim*, three times the percentage by which the incomes of the British middle class have been reduced should be deducted from the incomes of Messrs. Bevan, Strachey, Shinwell, Silkin and Co. Their petrol should be limited to one quarter of the least allowance granted to the private motorist, their expense accounts should be scrutinised by a Housewives Committee and a Cabinet Minister out of the dozens available should be fetched wherever a queue forms, and made to stand at the tail of it. For God's sake, pull yourselves together gentlemen. Do you really suppose these *canaille* are going to let up until their knuckles are rapped, when they are living a life of luxury and importance beyond their wildest dreams?

"We must abolish all the forms of private ownership which give an individual power over the life of another, and put them into the hands of a democratic State."—Sir Stafford Cripps.

And of course if at the same time we take care to abolish all control by an individual over his own life, that'll be fun, won't it?

It is denied that Sir Stafford Cripps is also suffering from some bodily infirmity.

"So firmly has the conviction rooted itself [?] in the

minds of the German workers during the last decade (1883-1893, concurrently with the growth of the Social-Democratic Party) that the liberation of Labour . . . is only possible when Capital is taken out of the hands of the individual by way of forcible expropriation, and handed over to communal ownership, and so unshakeable does this faith seem to have become, that I do not see what can rescue them from this error but experience. How bitter this experience and how great the disappointment will be, only he can anticipate who . . . realises that every limitation of freedom of movement in an economic sense [initiative—*Ed.*, T.S.C.] involves a simultaneous accentuation of our deplorable condition."
 —John Henry Mackay, 1893.

The newly revived Liberal Party is so blatantly a Jewish construction that its activities suggest a certain nervousness in regard to "Labour". On paper, Jewish control of every party, "Labour," so-called Conservative, and Liberal, is absolute, but it is probably not so solidly based, because of its obviousness, than has been the case for many years past.

While there is no political party free from Jewish control, the Liberals, as the lineal descendants of the Whigs, have always been the special favourites of Israel.

There is some deep and organic cause which links internationalism, banking and money-lending, the town versus the country, derision of patriotism (except Jewish patriotism) and "trade" versus agriculture, with Judaism. Perhaps it is the Diaspora; but we are inclined to think that once again, *corruptio optimi pessima* applies. No one who has had anything to do with political Liberalism can have failed to notice the immense plausibility of its arguments; but even less experience of its performances is necessary to demonstrate that they are the outcome of a fraudulent prospectus.

Nevertheless, in the course but expressive phrase of our dear American cousins, there is a sucker born every minute; and after the performances of the Lloyd Georges, Mondes, Cassels *et al*, it would be ungrateful not to give the old horse another run.

"Full Employment" in Disgrace

"Full Employment" got into the display headlines last Sunday for the first time, so far as we remember, in a connection and with an implication that it may not, after all, be the end and aim of social enterprise and individual aspiration. The newspaper was Lord Beaverbrook's, and no direct suggestion was made questioning the desirability of Full Employment. There was, however, the indirect suggestion that the pursuit is illusory, being (1) obtainable only by the introduction of forced labour camps ("there can be no certainty of that employment for all short of introducing Stalin's forced labour camps); and (2) other methods merely hide the effects of "technological advance."

The inference is drawn that "The plain truth is this. A new theory of life has been tried and has failed lamentably." It certainly cannot be ascertained from Mr. Gordon's article what the "New Theory" is, unless it is the theory of Full Employment as a social objective. Some of his data are interesting; but among these we are not at the moment disposed to include his estimate of technological advancement as merely a fifty *per cent.* increase on 1938-9. It may, of course, be somewhere near the actual and yet far below the possible.

PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: October 20, 1949.

County Committees

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Agriculture to state, by counties, the number of acres under the control of county agricultural committees at the latest available date.

Mr. T. Williams: Following are the figures:

ACREAGE COUNTIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES UNDER THE CONTROL OF OR BEING FARMED BY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES ON 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1949.

ENGLAND		Acreage
County		
Bedford	...	3,498
Berks.	...	2,780
Bucks.	...	5,182
Cambridge	...	10,160
Cheshire	...	6,100
Cornwall	...	5,581
Cumberland	...	5,098
Derby	...	2,376
Devon	...	7,062
Dorset	...	4,022
Durham	...	3,161
Essex	...	35,144
Glos.	...	9,872
Hants.	...	9,982
Hereford	...	4,002
Herts.	...	7,152
Hunts. & Soke of Peterborough	...	7,333
Isle of Ely	...	1,942
Isle of Wight	...	317
Kent	...	16,590
Lancs.	...	2,833
Leics.	...	5,786
Lincs.—Holland	...	366
" Kesteven	...	2,977
" Lindsey	...	8,318
Middlesex	...	3,511
Norfolk	...	13,327
Northants.	...	6,013
Northumberland	...	25,520
Notts.	...	8,092
Oxford	...	2,282
Rutland	...	5,148
Salop	...	4,004
Somerset	...	9,133
Staffs.	...	3,693
Suffolk (East)	...	9,952
" (West)	...	10,380
Surrey	...	11,015
Sussex (East)	...	8,357
" (West)	...	10,504
Warwick	...	10,607
Westmorland	...	2,992
Wilts.	...	6,323
Worcs.	...	4,483
Yorks. (E. Riding)	...	6,069
" (N. Riding)	...	6,271
" (W. Riding)	...	5,479
WALES		
Anglesey	...	661
Brecon	...	295
Caernarvon	...	1,663
Cardigan	...	4,012
Carmarthen	...	8,611
Denbigh	...	3,587
Flint	...	611
Glamorgan	...	1,215
Merioneth	...	1,554
Monmouth	...	2,045
Montgomery	...	3,884
Pembroke	...	4,639
Radnor	...	1,574
TOTAL ACREAGE	...	375,140

University Entrants

Mr. Piratin asked the Minister of Education what is the percentage of young people leaving school and going to university from secondary modern schools, secondary technical schools, local education authority maintained grammar schools and independent schools, respectively.

Mr. Tomlinson: The proportion of pupils leaving main- tained and assisted secondary grammar schools who proceeded to universities in 1947-48 was 6 per cent.: the proportion of those leaving direct grant schools was 9.5 per cent. As might be expected in view of the normal school leaving age, the percentage from secondary modern and technical schools was negligible. I have no comparable figures for independent schools.

Mr. Piratin: Is it not important that the Minister should try to get information about the percentage of children who leave independent schools and go to universities?

Mr. Tomlinson: The proportion is still roughly what it used to be, but we hope to see changes.

Mrs. Manning: Does the Minister think that the figures indicate the number of children who are capable of bene- fitting by a university education?

Mr. Tomlinson: No, the figures do not relate to the number of children who actually go to universities; they are the number of children who go direct from school. It is fairly obvious that in those circumstances very few would go direct from the secondary modern schools, but many will probably go later on.

NATIONAL FINANCE

American Loan (Repayment)

Mr. Platts-Mills asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer in view of the devaluation of the pound, what additional amount of sterling will be required to repay the American loan granted in 1946.

Mr. Jay: £475 millions if the present rate of exchange remains unaltered.

Sir F. Sanderson asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the payment will be made of principal and interest on the loan given to Britain in 1946 by the United States of America, the first repayment of which falls due in 1952, the same year as Marshall Aid ends, which amounts to approx- imately £40 million at the pre-valuation rate of exchange, and is in excess of the indicated exports to the United States of America in 1949.

Mr. Jay: This, like other payments, can be made only by increasing our dollar earnings and reducing our dollar expenditure.

SCOTLAND

Farms (Bad Husbandry)

Mr. Hurd asked the Secretary of State for Scotland the acreage of farm land of which possession was taken by his Department on grounds of bad husbandry; and the num- bers of farmers dispossessed in each year from 1939 onwards.

Mr. Woodburn: The acreage of land of which possession was taken under Defence Regulations in the years 1939 to

1948, on the grounds of bad husbandry, was as follows:

Year	Arable and grass	Deer forests and sheep farms	Total
	Acres	Acres	Acres
1939	—	—	—
1940	5,164	134,678	139,842
1941	3,754	19,015	22,769
1942	1,659	8,000	9,659
1943	2,213	89,100	91,313
1944	11,188	—	11,188
1945	250	—	250
1946	38	—	38
1947	270	—	270
1948	—	—	—
	24,536	250,793	275,329

The number of farmers dispossessed is given below. Dispossession took the form of requisition in the case of owner-occupiers, and termination of tenancy in the case of tenant farmers. (Figures for both groups are shown separately.)

Year	Dispossession by requisition	Dispossession by termination of tenancy	Total
	No.	No.	No.
1939	—	1	1
1940	19	20	39
1941	31	24	55
1942	15	14	29
1943	14	7	21
1944	10	6	16
1945	4	2	6
1946	1	4	5
1947	1	2	3
1948	—	1	1
	95	81	176

Central Africa (Federation)

Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what arrangements have been made for the African population to vote in the plebiscite to be held in the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland on the question of a Central African Federation.

Mr. Creech Jones: No proposals arising out of the unofficial conference at Victoria Falls have been submitted to His Majesty's Government in regard to the federation of the Central African territories: in particular, no proposals have been received for an official referendum on the matter to be held. The question does not therefore arise, but I may repeat that, as I stated in the House on 23rd February, His Majesty's Government have a special responsibility to the African communities and full account would have to be taken of African opinion before any constitutional change affecting African interests could be considered.

House of Commons: October 24, 1949.

Licensing Administration

Lady Tweedsmuir asked the Minister of Works what is the number of full-time officers of his Department of all kinds engaged on licensing administration in England and Wales and Scotland, respectively.

Mr. Key: The number of full-time officers in the Ministry of Works engaged on licensing administration is, England and Wales, 454; Scotland, 35.

Lady Tweedsmuir asked the Minister of Works (1) what is the estimated cost of his Department's administration of licensing in Scotland, including salaries of officers, office rents and expenses, overhead charges and all incidental outlays for the periods between 1st July, 1948, and 30th June, 1949, and 1st July, 1949, and 30th September, 1949;

(2) what is the estimated cost of his Department's administration of licensing in England and Wales, including salaries of officers, office rents and expenses, overhead charges and all incidental outlays for the periods between 1st July, 1948, and 30th June, 1949, and 1st July, 1949, and 30th September, 1949.

Mr. Key: The estimated cost of my Department's administration of licensing during the periods in question was:

	1st July, 1948, to 30th June, 1949	1st July, 1949 to 30th September, 1949
England and Wales	£650,000	£150,000
Scotland	£45,000	£10,000

This includes the actual salaries and expenses of the Department's licensing staff, together with an assessed cost of accommodation and other overhead charges, and the amounts paid by the Department to Local Authorities in respect of the building licensing services carried out by their officers.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Family Food Survey

Brigadier Rayner asked the Minister of Food what was the total cost of the eight-year inquiry among the public by agents of his Department which has shown that we are eating less meat and cheese and more fish and vegetables than in 1942; and why this investigation was necessary.

Dr. Summerskill: I assume that the hon. and gallant Member is referring to the family food survey. This survey which was started in 1941 is carried out on behalf of the Ministry by a commercial agency at an annual cost of £34,000. It provides a continuous and detailed account of all foods consumed in the home and is essential for the administration of Food Policy.

Unsaleable Fruit

Mr. Peter Freeman asked the Minister of Food whether he is aware of the large quantities of fruit that are left to rot all over the country; and whether he will make the stores owned by his Department available for its preservation.

Dr. Summerskill: I assume that my hon. Friend has apples and pears in mind. This year the quantity of unsaleable fruit is rather more than usual because of the long drought. I am afraid that we cannot find cold storage space for fruit as we must give priority to meat and other rationed commodities.

Wheat (Extraction Rate)

Mr. Awbery asked the Minister of Food if, in view of the large stocks of grain in storage, he will now reconsider the percentage of extraction of flour from the grain in order to give a whiter loaf and increase the amount of provender

for cattle food.

Mr. Strachey: No. It is now more than ever necessary that we should economise on wheat usage to save dollars.

Palestine Bonds

Colonel Crosthwaite-Eyre asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies (1) whether interest on Palestine Bonds has been regularly paid by the Israeli Government since the termination of the Mandate; and how many bonds since that date have been redeemed by the Israeli Government;

(2) what undertakings were secured from the Israeli Government on the termination of the Mandate to secure the proper servicing and redemption of Palestine Bonds issued under the authority of His Majesty's Government as the mandatory Power.

Mr. Creech Jones: His Majesty's Government have no information whether interest has been paid by the Israeli Government on Palestine Bonds or whether or not the Israeli Government has redeemed any of these Bonds. The Israeli Government was proclaimed after the termination of the Mandate and was only given *de facto* recognition by His Majesty's Government in January, 1949. No undertaking, therefore, could be given by the Israeli Government on the termination of the Mandate to secure the proper servicing and redemption of Palestine Bonds nor has one been obtained since. The Palestine Bearer Bonds are included in the agenda of the negotiations at present proceeding in Tel Aviv between His Majesty's Government and the Israeli Government on matters connected with assets and liabilities of the former Palestine Government.

National Insurance (Contributions Arrears)

Mr. Chetwynd asked the Minister of National Insurance how many persons in excepted employment before July, 1948, and discharged from the Forces after 6th January, 1946, have been treated as in arrears for the whole of the 1947-48 contribution year, or half or more than half of the 1947-48 contribution year, respectively; how many such persons have refused or failed to pay the arrears; and whether all persons in this class have been identified and notified of their position.

Mr. Steele: I regret that the information asked for in the first part of the question is not available. It could only be obtained from a detailed examination of the insurance records of over 20 million insured persons. With regard to the last part of the Question, notices of arrears accrued during the 1947-48 contribution year have been sent to all insured persons who were in arrears during that year.

House of Commons: October 25, 1949.

Statistics

Major Tufton Beamish asked the Minister of National Insurance, how many people are insurable under the National Insurance Act; how many such persons were insured during each of the four weeks in August; what steps are being taken to trace those who are evading paying contributions; and in how many cases legal proceedings have been taken and with what result.

Mr. Steele: The total number of persons insurable under

the National Insurance Acts is estimated to be about 24½ million, but it is not possible to say how many are insured in a particular week. All practicable steps are taken through the Department's inspectorate and local office machinery to secure compliance by persons liable to pay contributions. Since July, 1948, legal proceedings for non-compliance have been taken in about 500 cases, and convictions have been secured in practically all cases.

Major Beamish: Is it not a most strange state of affairs that there is no machinery for checking on the large scale evasions which are taking place? Could the Parliamentary Secretary confirm that the loss to the Exchequer annually is well in the neighbourhood of £100,000?

Mr. Steele: Of course, there is machinery for checking these matters. The machinery, I think, is working very well.

Major Beamish: No.

Mr. Steele: So far as the self-employed and non-employed people are concerned, and who are mostly concerned in this matter, they have been co-operating very well with the Department.

Mr. Bramall: Would my hon. Friend bear in mind as specially important in these cases, the point that where men are separated from their wives, the wives may find, on the death of their husbands, that they have lost their entitlement to widows' pensions because the duty to pay contributions has not been enforced?

Mr. Steele: Of course, that is an entirely different matter.

Sickness Benefit

Mr. Mott-Radclyffe asked the Minister of National Insurance whether he is aware that an official of his Department at Slough recently cross-questioned an applicant for sick benefit, whose name and address have been supplied to the Minister, as to why, in certain circumstances, he employed the services of a private doctor, and what fee had been paid; and whether he will issue instructions that this interference into the rights of the private citizen shall cease forthwith.

Mr. Steele: I am looking into this matter, and I will write to the hon. Member when my inquiries are complete.

Mr. Mott-Radclyffe: Yes, but would not the hon. Gentleman agree that this is highly reprehensible conduct, that one of the officials of his Department should cross-question an applicant as to whether he had employed the services of a private doctor, and should try to persuade him not to do so? Surely an individual should be left freely to choose a doctor from inside the scheme or outside, as he wishes?

Mr. Steele: Any practice of this kind contained in the allegation would, of course, be entirely unauthorised, but I should like to make further investigations before making any further comment.

Loans from America

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to state in tabular form the amounts of loans due to America;

the due dates, if any; and the rate of interest.

Sir S. Cripps: Following is the information:

LOANS DUE TO U.S.A.—POSITION AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1949

Loan	Amount outstanding	Dates of Maturity	Rates of Interest
1. United States Government Loan under Agreement of 6th December 1945 (Cmd. 6708).	\$m 4,359*	Repayable by 50 annual instalments. The first instalment is due on 31st December, 1951.	2 per cent. (a).
2. Economic Co-operation Administration Loan under Agreements of 26th October, 1948 (Cmd. 7550) and 16th February, 1949 (Cmd. 7606).	313	Repayable by 56 half-yearly instalments beginning in June, 1956 (b).	2½ per cent. (The first payment of interest is due on 31st December, 1952) (b).
3. Reconstruction Finance Corporation Loan under Agreement of 21st July, 1941 (Cmd. 6295).	107	Repayable by 1st July, 1956, from the income, etc., from the collateral pledged as security for the loan.	3 per cent.

NOTES:

(a) There is provision for waiver of interest in certain circumstances under paragraph 5 of the Agreement.

(b) Paragraph 4 of the Agreement of 26th October, 1948, provides that in the event of adverse economic conditions the terms of repayment may be modified by mutual agreement.

* This figure includes the amounts due to the U.S.A. under the Lend-Lease Settlement.

Pound Sterling (Purchasing Power)

Sir W. Smithers asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give the purchasing power of the pound sterling, taking the year 1900 as 100, for 1910, 1920, 1930, 1945 and at the latest available date; and the figures calculated over the whole field of public expenditure if the cost-of-living subsidies were disregarded.

Sir S. Cripps: Reckoned over the whole field of personal expenditure by the public, the purchasing power of the pound sterling was approximately as follows in the years in question:—

1900	...	...	...	100
1910	...	...	...	95
1920	...	...	...	37
1930	...	...	...	58
1945	...	...	...	38
1949	(13th September)	...	...	31

As has been explained on previous occasions, figures which ignore the cost-of-living subsidies would have no real meaning.

Exports and Imports

Mr. McAdam asked the President of the Board of Trade what was the total British exports and imports of commodities in 1928, 1929 and 1930; what was the total amount of those exports to the hard currency countries, and the total imports; and, following the suspension of gold payments by the Bank of England in 1931, what were the total exports and imports for 1932, 1933, 1934, 1938, and of these totals what were to and from hard currency countries.

Mr. H. Wilson: The following are the figures:

—	United Kingdom Exports		Imports	
	Total	To present hard currency markets	Total	From present hard currency markets
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
1928	723.6	155.8	1,195.6	423.9
1929	729.3	155.4	1,220.8	421.8
1930	570.8	118.2	1,044.0	333.7
1932	365.0	63.1	701.7	224.0
1933	367.9	72.5	675.0	206.5
1934	396.0	76.3	731.4	226.0
1938	470.8	88.3	919.5	289.2

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