

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### From Week to Week

"Now, the policy favoured by the revolutionaries of whom Pym had come to be the leader had tended more and more to the extreme Protestant, or to take the word which was coming into fashion, Puritan, solution. For the enormous *nouveau riche* interest that had sprung up as the result of the share-out of Church property at the Reformation could not fail to perceive that its bread was thickly buttered on the Protestant side. Though . . . few of them, however austere their principles, were markedly disposed to cramp their own style of living.

"No, the real Protestant fanaticism that produced the austerities and crudities which we are apt to associate with the name of Puritan was of altogether humbler origin, and the result of an ideological ferment that was rising among the populace where it was most thickly congregated, and which the upper-class Pluto-puritans were engaged in playing up for all it was worth, because it provided them with the mob violence which was the winning card in their game against the Crown.

". . . (The Church) had begun to acquire a life and purpose of its own, that were invincibly opposed to those which Pym and his Pluto-puritans sought to impose on it. As with the Crown, so with the Church; it stood right across their path, blocking the way, and leaving them no choice but to attempt its complete demolition.

"It was a merry and kindly England that the [Anglican] Church strove to keep in being. Even when she was on the defensive against malignant aggression, her yoke was easy and her burden light beyond all comparison with the crushing imperialism of Rome and the sombre totalitarianism of Geneva."—*Charles, King of England*, Esme Wingfield-Stratford.

It is not necessary to agree with everything written by Mr. James Burnham to be able to recognise that he performs a valuable service in bringing political economy into the plane of consciousness. Most, if not all, of the facts and organisational developments with which he built up his picture of "The Managerial Revolution" must have been commonplace knowledge to thousands, but they did not synthesise them into a picture: they could not see the wood for the trees.

In his latest book *The Coming Defeat of Communism*, to which reference was made in our issue of March 11, Mr. Burnham is evidently concerned to translate the famous dictum of Clausewitz, that war is the pursuit of policy by other means, into contemporary expression so that, mayhap, the ordinary reader will derive some sense of continuity in the enmity to his peaceful existence which he thinks, and is persuaded to think, "just happens."

We have long felt that this dullness of consciousness, far more than lack of intelligence, is fundamental to our

troubles, and that it is an hypnotic phenomenon. How far dehypnotisation is possible through the media of books, is not clear. The Enemy of Mankind is more obviously in control of the world than He has ever been.

### SELECTED EXPORTS.

"I was born an Englishwoman—in London—. . . At the age of thirteen I was sent 'home' to boarding school in England. I found that England and I disliked each other at sight. I hated the English climate, and found the gentle scenery dull. . . I am an American. . . At last, I am an American."—"My Love Affair with the U.S.A.", Royle Dulhunty in *Saturday Evening Post* (U.S.A.).

We should leave dear Royle to her passport eroticism, if her article were not obviously published with the intention of denigrating this country, and, as such, an indication of the policy of the *Saturday Evening Post*, which is now a powerful organ of Jewish propaganda. We cannot imagine anything more cheering; it is an indication that, with that peculiar vulgarity of the American Jew, they are cat-calling their resentment at signs of a non-Judaic British policy.

We have often insisted on the integral connection between Socialism, Communism, Social decadence and social entropy with their materialistic outlook, and it is quite in keeping with the nature of current "British" politics that, not merely has our prestige sunk to vanishing point, but our 'statesmen' are positively pleased about it.

Prestige is one component of credit, and credit is nearly everything ("the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen"). It is fairly evident that we are nearly impotent; and none is so mean as to do us reverence. No wonder G. B. Shaw ridiculed the importance of "a kind of hot air called credit", and that any little Balkan State can arrest, imprison, try and imprison any British subject with impunity.

Consider the prestige of these islands in the Victorian Era, whatever defects that Era may have had; and compare the world to-day with that dominated by British prestige.

Imagine Tsekedi Kama talking-back to Lord Salisbury!

### Telephone?—This Summer for Malaya

The Earl of Lucan, replying for the Government in the House of Lords, told Lord Mancroft that "the resumption of the radio-telephone service between the United Kingdom and Malaya has necessitated the provision of radio-telephone equipment at the relay point in Nairobi and at the terminal at Singapore. The installations are completed except for a small amount of work which is outstanding at Nairobi. Subject to satisfactory tests it is hoped to reopen service by the middle of this year."

## PARLIAMENT

*House of Commons: March 6, 1950.*

### Debate on the Address

*Mr. Eden* (Warwick and Leamington): . . . Now let me turn to the domestic scene, in respect of which it seems to us that the Gracious Speech is more remarkable for what it does not say than for what it does say. Nobody, I suppose, is going to dispute the seriousness of the economic problems which now confront the nation—mentioned in only a little tiny paragraph. Those problems, in their turn, depend upon the financial policy of the Government. We have been given singularly little indication of that for a long time past, so perhaps I may try to contribute our view of the situation, even though I may be held to be anticipating the Budget Statement, or even may seem to some to prove contentious—that would be quite dreadful—in discussing the terms of the Gracious Speech I hope I may be forgiven if I do.

It seems to us that our first task is to do battle with the growing threat of inflation. That threat has grown no less in the weeks since the election began. It penetrates into every corner of our economic life—like the London sunshine today or the London fog more often. It is expressed in rising prices.

*Mr. John Hynd* (Sheffield, Attercliffe): Rising dividends.

*Mr. Eden*: I am not defending high dividends. If the hon. Gentleman wants to know our attitude to dividend limitation, I am in favour of it being continued. We do not escape from these real issues by hurling party jibes.

I say that inflation expresses itself in terms of high prices. No one in the world can deny that. That, of course, creates for everyone a consequent wages problem. There also enters into it a lamentable falling off in private savings. Seen from abroad, how does it look? It looks as if the standing of the pound sterling, our dependence on foreign aid, and our balance of payments—all these difficulties in the dollar area—are aggravated by inflation. I do not think there can be any dispute about these things. They will all be influenced, and some will be determined, by the financial policy which the Government decide to pursue. I say to the House on this first day that in our judgment our first duty is to do all that we can to prevent a further rise in prices at home. But things being as they are today, who can doubt, unfortunately, that the cost of living will go up further?

There are a number of problems, about which we hope for enlightenment in this Debate, which are only too likely to affect the cost of living. There are new discussions on agricultural prices which have only just begun—[*Interruption.*] I am not criticising that. We do not know what the results will be. I do not know, and I do not suppose the Minister does yet. We can at least be sure that they are not going to reduce prices to the consumer.

Then there is the position of the railways, which have applied to the Transport Tribunal to be allowed to raise their freight charges. No one can blame the railways on that account. It is not in the least surprising in view of the losses which they have to carry now, running into something like £500,000 a week. Of course, they will have to ask for increased freight charges. If they get them, we have been warned that the result will be an increase in the cost of coal and other materials, and, of course, increased costs for all

who use the railways. These are all conditions which are quite futile to ignore, and they have their effect on this inflationary spiral. I do not know what the Tribunal's findings will be, but one result will be that we shall not see cheaper freights.

On top of all this, we have still to feel the full effect of devaluation. Import prices have risen by more than 10 per cent. since last December. Wholesale prices are also higher than they were, and they are still rising. Retail prices have only gone up one point. I do not suppose that there is anyone who takes any permanent comfort from that. The general tendency is that a rise in wholesale prices and import prices is followed, unhappily, by a similar trend in retail prices. There rising prices seem to emphasise the two main problems with which this Parliament will have to deal. With rising prices, the wages dilemma, the cost-of-living dilemma, becomes every month more serious. There are claims by many of the unions—the N.U.R., the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and others—who have put in demands for increased wages. If the cost of living continues to rise, some at least of these claims are going to be very hard to resist.

If we look beyond these shores—and this I want to emphasise to the House—is it not beginning to be true that while prices are still rising here, in other countries they are beginning to fall? [*Interruption.*] No, not in France. [*Interruption.*] No, not Germany; the hon. Gentleman is wrong. The most important is the United States. If the House would like to have these figures which I looked up this morning very carefully—[*Interruption.*] This is a serious argument—the position is this: In 1947—these are the figures of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations, so they are about as respectable as we can get—the basic figure in the United States was 176. So was ours; exactly the same. Since 1947, the American figure continued to rise a little, and then dropped. The American figure for the last available month, November, was still 176. Ours is 221. [*Interruption.*] I am only drawing attention to a tendency in the situation which this House must consider. I am not blaming or criticising anyone. For heaven's sake, cannot we consider these matters, realising that they are of some importance?

I am drawing the attention of the House to the fact that, be it for good or ill, there is in the United States now, compared with 1947, a level of prices about the same as in 1947, whereas ours has continued sharply to rise. These are the figures. If they can be challenged, let them be challenged. Canada, Sweden, Switzerland—all these countries are beginning to show—I do not put it higher than that—a similar tendency for prices to fall. I have been careful not to mention countries such as France, Italy and Germany, which for our purpose are not comparable. If what I am saying is broadly correct, as it is, it has the most serious consequences for the future of our export trade. . . .

. . . No doubt some hon. Members will say, "What would you do about it?" I will tell the House briefly one or two of the things we would wish to do about it. We have many times urged the Government to keep a tighter rein on the release of sterling balances. These balances present, in a Parliamentary sense, a most anomalous position. Is it not true that if the Government wish to raise an extra penny a week for the Navy or for any formal business of Government, they have to come to the House for Parliamentary sanction, but the payment of these hundreds of millions of pounds is

sanctioned by the Bank of England and the Treasury and, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible, Parliament appears to have no control over the situation? I ask the Prime Minister, or whoever is to reply, if the American Loan Agreement did not foreshadow a release of the sterling balances at a rate not exceeding about £43,750,000 a year? In fact, I think that is the figure mentioned as one of the conditions in what is called the waiver of interest clause in the Agreement—Clause 5. Yet over the last two years these balances have been released at a steadily rising rate. In 1947, £156 million were released; in 1948, £265 million were released; and in the first nine months of this year they were released at a rate of £276 million—so those figures go on mounting. Now, even these giant figures do not include the interest which is being paid by the Government on the remaining balances.

Let us look at that picture from another angle. It means that each worker—I think I am right in this calculation—engaged on production for export today is working one day in six on the production of goods for which no corresponding imports at all are received. Can we really continue indefinitely to carry that burden? It cannot be denied that these releases are weakening the position of the £ abroad. . . .

. . . Last September these matters were discussed at Washington at the time of devaluation; a committee was set up, and some arrangement was supposed to be arrived at as to what was to be done about the sterling balances. We have never heard another word. Has that committee finished its work? Has it agreed what has to be done? Is a report now, or soon, to be expected? . . . .

*The Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee)*: . . . I now turn to the Gracious Speech. I have pointed out that the time available this Session, owing to the time of the meeting of the House, restricts the amount of business to be done. The Leader of the Opposition anticipated me in what I was going to say. I was also going to say that there is the Parliamentary situation. At any time, the King's Speech necessarily reflects that situation, and its contents in the legislative field are conditioned by it. The Government, although they have secured a greater number of electoral votes than have ever been obtained before by any party, have obtained only a very small majority. It is not my intention to deal with those interesting mathematical calculations with which the newspapers are filled, but merely with the facts.

Our electoral system has never been designed to give an exact mathematical representation to the various trends of opinion. On the contrary, it has usually given an exaggerated majority to one party or the other, and it is quite obvious that a certain alteration of votes might have done that on this occasion. Although offensive to the theoretician, this has, I think, worked in practice in favour of stability of administration, which, after all, is the essential thing in the Government of the country.

On this occasion it has resulted in a position which makes the carrying on of government not free from difficulties, but I entirely agree with the right hon. Gentleman in what he said about frustration. Just as he says there is no frustration on his side of the House, so there is no frustration on this. . . .

. . . I want to say one word about a matter which has caused a good deal of writing in the Press, and that is the Fuchs case. It is a most deplorable and unfortunate

incident. Here we had a refugee from Nazi tyranny, hospitably entertained, who was secretly working against the safety of this country. I say "secretly" because there is a great deal of loose talk in the Press suggesting inefficiency on the part of the security services. I entirely deny that. Not long after this man came into this country—that was in 1933—it was said that he was a Communist. The source of that information was the Gestapo. At that time the Gestapo accused everybody of being a Communist. When the matter was looked into there was no support for it whatever. And from that time onwards there was no support. A proper watch was kept at intervals. He was a brilliant scientist. He was taken on in 1941 for special work by the Ministry of Aircraft Production. He was transferred to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He went to America. He came back to Harwell. On all those occasions all the proper inquiries were made and there was nothing to be brought against him. His intimate friends never had any suspicion. The universities for which he worked had the highest opinion of his work and of his character.

In the autumn of last year information came from the United States suggesting there had been some leakage while the British Mission, of which Fuchs was a member, was in the United States. This information did not point to any individual. The Security Services got to work with great energy and were, as the House knows, successful. I take full responsibility for the efficiency of the Security Services and I am satisfied that, unless we had here the kind of secret police they have in totalitarian countries, and employed their methods, which are reprobated rightly by everyone in this country, there was no means by which we could have found out about this man. . . . .

*Professor Savory (Antrim, South)*: There are a few points arising out of this Election which it would be appropriate to discuss this evening. Everywhere I went in my enormous constituency of South Antrim the one question put to me was this: what will be the result of this Election? My reply was always the same: "This Election is a pure gamble. No one can possibly prophesy what the result will be." And the cause of this Election being a pure gamble is the three-cornered fight. I have discussed this matter with many hon. Members on both sides of the House, and they have said to me exactly the same thing. "We could not possibly say whether the intervention of a third candidate was helpful or disadvantageous to us."

When one thinks that in the last House 177 Members were elected on a minority vote, one can realise how undemocratic is the constitution of this House. I have not had time to make the calculation for this Parliament, but in the last one 177 Members came to this House saying that they represented a constituency where the overwhelming majority of the electors had voted against them. If we had such a system as they have in France, where in a constituency in which no Member has obtained the absolute majority there must be a second ballot a fortnight later, we could be sure that after the second ballot the Member really represented his constituency.

The present system is absolutely hopeless. It came into existence at a time when, because there were only two parties, a man was either a Tory or a Whig. The intervention of

(Continued on page 7.)

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### Breaking Loose?

As some of our readers well know, we do not habitually ascribe events which first make themselves apparent through human consciousness of them, events foreseen sometimes long before, which human being aim consciously to secure, wholly to unconscious causes. However irrational it may seem to that bugbear, the majority, it does seem to us that, when things happen which most people would prefer not to happen but which some people very ardently desire to happen and have the means available to make them happen, they happen because rather than in spite of human agency. This, of course, verges very closely on "antisemitism", whatever that may be; but there it is.

It is in line with this prejudice of ours that we view with a speculative eye not only the reputed resurrection (in popularity, not in the flesh) of Samuel Butler but also the method of dealing with it adopted by certain reviewers. Among the many interesting if unacceptable ideas originated by Samuel Butler was that "the present machines are to the future as the early Saurians to man". He really did see clearly the possibility that men would (or should) come at some time to the conviction that the childlike worship of machinery common among those of his generation was mistaken and might enter upon a general campaign of "frame-breaking" to escape from an ignominious and dangerous tyranny. He even foresaw that perfection of the art of sitting on the fence which is now familiar to the world through the reputedly mental operations of economists, etc., although he did fail to see the possibility of any advance in this respect upon the practice of his own Erewhonian Colleges of Unreason. Says he, "Even when, wriggle as they may, they find themselves pinned down to some expression of definite opinion, as often as not they will argue in support of what they perfectly well know to be untrue. I repeatedly met with reviews and articles even in their best journals, between the lines of which I had little difficulty in detecting a sense exactly contrary to the one ostensibly put forward. So well is this understood, that a man must be a mere tyro in the arts of Erewhonian polite society unless he instinctively suspects a hidden 'yea' in every 'nay' that meets him."

This touches our present time very nearly, for we remark, with increasing frequency, a certain surreptitious quality which marks the exhibition of any truth, however well known it may be to common understanding.

Yet we are not satisfied that the wave of Butlerism which even now seems to be waved and wafted, nay steam-paddled towards us is such a timorous advertisement of truths known to many others besides ourselves. The world may yet return to an underpopulated but Elysian simplicity, respecting the divine right of Electrical Energy from a safe

distance, but not invoking its aid (though what there is that may be *inherently* sinful in a *small* dynamo we cannot see, although reverently we remember that the nature of Energy, electrical or otherwise, is not known to us). In the meantime we may, perhaps, assist in the care of the souls afflicted with "the fear-of-giving-themselves-away disease", which is so "fatal to the intelligence of those infected by it", while bearing with fortitude the rebuke of that "more dead than alive" expression which characterised most of the occupants of the Colleges of Unreason.

### Mustard Seed

"Amongst German Liberals, Bernhard Guttman, who was the Berlin Editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* in its greatest days, has turned to Christianity in his old age. The recent work of the psychologist Weizsäcker (a brother of the diplomat) is characteristic of the ascendancy of a sceptical attitude in science, which is accompanied by a positive attitude in religion. Weizsäcker is not a member of a Christian Church, but this makes his assertion that 'amongst the ruins of our European civilisation, two pillars remain erect—the human heart and theology' only the more striking.

"In no country were the claims of science prouder than they were in Germany—and in none have they been so deeply humbled. Science has begun to lose its popular appeal. But theology is discussed by 'ordinary people,' and many German families say Grace before meals who did not do so before.

"What will be the outcome of this strange, unprecedented Germany?

"It is impossible to tell, for the Germans appear to be without a national purpose. . . . Amongst the *débris* of the broken Utopias, there are, of course, tags, phrases and slogans, of which some inevitably have a nationalist character and are used because they happen to be available. In any case, it was not possible to give the Germans 'democracy' without giving them the freedom of employing nationalist phrases. Neither nationalism nor 'democracy' has any appeal to the younger generation. Only amongst the refugees . . . is there explosive sentiment which might be characterised as 'nationalist,' and become the more dangerous because these refugees represent millions of votes to existing German parties and force which could be exploited by a foreign Power.

"It is hard to believe that Germany will ever again be a Great Power, and there is no sign that she wishes to be so—even amongst her 'nationalists.' It would seem that the political future of Germany will be determined by forces beyond her own control.

"On the other hand, it may be that she will exercise a great spiritual influence. It may be, that just as secular religions radiated from Germany—and long before Hitler was ever heard of—the cold breath of theological realism, blowing from Germany, will contribute powerfully towards the undoing of the Utopias everywhere and, therefore, towards the ending of the revolutionary era."—F. A. Voigt in *The Tablet*.

### The Qualification

We learn that the Supreme Court of Illinois has decided that parents who have the qualifications may teach their children at home. We still wonder that the qualifications are for teaching children (what?) anywhere.

## Notes on World Population

By C. M. MANNOCK

We have been ceaselessly "plugged" for several years with the news that the world is on the verge of, if it has not yet been completely overtaken by, food-shortage due to two factors: one an actual shortage through decreased fertility of the soil and erosion, with a consequent inability to grow enough food, and, two, to a tremendously rapid and continuous increase of the world's population.

The former threat is one that observant, and far-seeing people have foretold for many years, and, as in the last twenty years many of their predictions have, through wholesale exploitation, been fulfilled over large areas of the globe, it must be admitted that the threat from that side needs serious consideration. There has been so much written on this subject, so much evidence produced of an eminently substantial kind, such as the Dust-storms and Dust-Bowl Refugees in the United States of America, the destruction of soil in South Africa and Australia through over-cropping and over-grazing, the rapidly spreading desert lands in various parts of the world, and so on,—that one must take the threat seriously, although there may be in this as there is in so many other matters relating to social conditions in the world, evidence of deliberate utilization by subversive powers of the situation for purposes directly opposed to the general benefit of mankind. It is also probable that the danger has been overstressed by honest observers in order to get the point home to corrupt governments and an apathetic public, and that the real situation is not so immediately threatening as we are led to believe. The second statement, that we are in dire danger of starvation through over-population is in a different category. It is far from proved by the evidence available; and conditions may be quite the reverse of what we are told.

There is only one way in which the population of any country—and in summary—of the world—can be measured, and that is by means of a census. With us, and with most western countries, this is an easy matter owing to the populations being docile and sufficiently educated on the whole to read a little and to sign their names. Such conditions, however, are not found throughout the world and, indeed, whole continents present no evidence at all in their daily, or yearly, rounds, in regard to total population, much less of either increases or decreases. Most of the world is illiterate, and a great part is, with very sound, if only instinctive, reasons, desperately afraid of being numbered. Moreover, large areas are in ruins and their populations reverting to barbarism. It is possible to give, with reasonable accuracy the populations of the U.S.A., Canada, Gt. Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Luxemburg, Australia, New Zealand, and some other countries. These all keep and publish reliable Vital Statistics. But who can even guess less than wildly at the populations of—to name a few—China, India, Germany, Poland, Finland, Roumania, Bulgaria, Yugo-Slavia, South America, Greece, and practically all of Africa? Of Russia we know nothing. That is to say we know next to nothing, and nothing accurately, of about three-quarters of the inhabited surface of the globe. Yet writer after writer, speaker after speaker, pours out the information that—to quote a recent one—"The world's population in 2,200,000,000 and; "Every day—to-day, yesterday, tomorrow—75,000

new babies see the light: 75,000 new mouths to feed." Why 75,000 and not 100,000 or 50,000 is purely a matter of choice and not of knowledge.

In the Nineteen-twenties one "authority", a Dr. Ross, was claiming that 150,000 (not 75,000) children are born into the world every day, and the question was asked by another "authority" of a more cautious and sceptical nature: "Why 150,000? Why not 130,000 or, rather, 200,000 as Prof. East assumes?" One can rely upon authorities for almost anything. For total population, 2,200,000,000 is a nice round figure that may, or may not, be as good a guess as any other. There is no means of knowing.

What, however, seems possible is that in China and Russia—that is to say in one-third of the world—the mortality for the last thirty years has been, and is still, so high through Civil-Wars, floods, pestilence, periodic purges, systematic mass liquidations, and so forth, that there has been no increase of population at all; indeed there may have been a decrease, though "authorities" swear to the contrary. But nobody knows.

Then, take the heart of Europe. We know very little about it; but the casualties of the last war, the terrible occupation of the Eastern half by Russia since the war ended, and the horrible general malnutrition in the parts controlled by the other Powers, must have produced results so awful that the increase of population which was still taking place before the war may have been completely reversed. We do not know.

However, there is one fact relating to the major part of Europe, North-America and Australia—that is to say, to the White Races in general, except the Slavs and Italians—which is of vital importance in examining this question, and that is that the populations of these countries have not for a long time been reproducing themselves, and must, in the near future, *start to decline in numbers*. The evidence for this is very clear, even though populations before 1939, were, and possibly still are, increasing. The key to this is the Net Reproduction Rate among women. As far back as 1926 an analysis of the Vital Statistics of Great Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, an area said to account for from 10 *per cent* to 12 *per cent*. of the world's population, showed that, although the total population was increasing, each 100 Mothers were only producing about 93 daughters who reached marriageable age. By 1931 the figure had fallen in this country to 80. Other countries followed suit. With a Net Production Rate of 1.00 a population will remain steady—other facts being equal, of course. Below that figure it will not be reproducing itself and sooner or later must decline in numbers; and above it the numbers are increasing and are bound to go on increasing. The following countries were said to be increasing before the war:

### *Net. Reproduction Rates Among Women*

Bulgaria 1.19; Italy 1.13; Holland 1.12; U.S.S.R. 1.70; Ireland 1.16; Poland 1.10.

Naturally, since the war ended nations which previously had an unfavourable rate passed through a period of relief, and for a year or so the Net Reproduction Rate rose to above unity, but the passage of only a short time curbed the rise so that pre-war figures tend everywhere to be

repeated.

In Western Europe falling reproduction rates were, and on the whole, still are, accompanied by increasing populations due to decrease in infant mortality and to increased expectation of life, both caused by medical development. These two items are on the face of it limited in effect. Old people cannot be kept alive for ever; and the declining rate of infant mortality has its limit clearly set. The result is bound to be a population falling in numbers and increasing in average age.

These tendencies were found, also, in pre-war days in the U.S.A., and throughout the British Commonwealth (except Catholic Canada) where, no doubt, they still persist.

When the International Statistical Institute, the International Institute of Agriculture and the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations were saying in about 1926 that China had a population of 450,000,000, Professor Wilcox, after careful study, assigned her no more than 300,000,000. Since then China has been bled white by revolutions, civil-wars, the Sino-Japanese war, and Banditry, to say nothing of floods caused by erosion; and, yet, to-day, she is given a population of 500,000,000 by one of the latest "authorities", Mr. Walter Fletcher, M.P., who so numbers them in the *Sunday Times* of May 1, 1949. But, rivalling Mr. Fletcher comes a Professor P. Buck, who sets the number at 600,000,000. A gain of between two and three hundred millions in twenty years or so would surely indicate a record fecundity in the history of nations. But, as a set-off against Mr. Fletcher and Professor Buck, Miss M. Hubback in 1947, in her book, "The Population of Britain," gave China only "probably over 300,000,000 people." After all, one mustn't be too finicky in this business. What is a mere difference of two to three hundred millions?

Of India we used to know something because we had census methods of a kind in operation which, carried out by honest Civil-Servants, gave fairly reasonable results. That state of affairs is ended, and the future is both uncertain and black. We know that in other days the population of India was growing rapidly. It may be so still, and it may continue to do so, but there is a greater probability that local customs will deal with any too great increase of mouths to feed. Already Suttee has been re-introduced. There is, also, the probability of war in all its varieties assisting custom. Miss Hubback states that the population of India is "about 400,000,000 or nearly one-sixth of the whole world." She says that the birth-rate is only just lower than that of Russia, and that the danger lies in a rapidly increasing population and a diminishing agricultural yield. Maybe.

The rest of the Eastern world is no clearer than India and China. Burma, Malaya and Siam are in the throes of civil strife. Japan, the most disciplined nation in the world, will, no doubt, adjust herself to her new conditions, to which need war-deaths and death through post-war mass movements of populations, will already have contributed some assistance. Birth control has for many years been seriously advocated and practiced in Japan at all levels.

Palestine and the Arab countries are in a state of turmoil with refugee problems that will take care of increases, if any, in the number of births.

In South America there is the same kind of uncertainty

that is found in many other parts of the world. Hardly any of the Nations in this sub-continent keep even reasonably accurate records of Births, Deaths and Marriages. There may be the form there, but few of the figures have any value at all. As R. R. Kuczynski says, in "The World's Future Population" (Harris Foundation Lectures, 1929, University of Chicago):—

"Take, as an example, South America, where conditions on the whole are much more satisfactory than in Asia or Africa. Bolivia has no birth registration at all. Brazil has practically no birth registration in the northern and central states. Colombia has birth registration throughout the country, but the results are wholly unacceptable, the birth-rate, for instance, of the state of Magdalena fluctuating from 1915 to 1926 between 7 and 56 per thousand. Conditions are not much better in Ecuador and Venezuela. The Statistical Office of Paraguay assumes that 30 *per cent.* have to be added to the registered figures in order to get the actual figures. In Peru the number of registered births has increased from 59,000 in 1923 to 140,000 in 1926 but is still lower than the actual number of births, although the Director of Public Health complains that many births are registered twice. In the Argentine no births have been reported since 1917 from the national territories, and registration must be quite inadequate in at least those four provinces where the reported male births exceed the reported female births by over 25 *per cent.* Birth records seem to have recently become fairly complete in Chili and have apparently been so for many years in Uruguay. The total number of births for South America may be 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 or 4,000,000."

This was written in about 1929, but there is no reason at all to suppose that things have changed since then. The second world war may, indeed, have made them worse. The fact is that we know next to nothing about them, and the figures available can only be used, in this game of make-believe, as bluff.

As for Russia the Report of the League of Nations, 1947, "The Future Populations of Europe and the Soviet Union, 1944," as quoted by Miss M. Hubback, says:

The wounds of the first world war struck a resilient and rapidly growing population; through high natural increase this population could quickly close over its losses. The present struggle strikes at populations already growing much more slowly than a generation ago, and on the basis of past trends destined to decline. The wounds of the present war will, in a sense, never be healed. In some countries of Western Europe the total population may never again reach its pre-war size. Even in Eastern and Southern Europe war losses comparable to those of World War I will be made up much less rapidly than before, unless there is a marked change in fertility trends. Only in Soviet Russia are vital trends such that the tremendous losses can be absorbed without a serious check on population development.

Whether this is right or not cannot be said. Russia's Vital Statistics are subject all the time to adjustments to suit policy even to the point, as in 1932, of suppression. They are not to be relied on. It should be noted, however, that Russia's losses in the war are said to have been 5,000,000 soldiers and 9,000,000 civilians, and the deficit in unborn children 6,000,000. It should also be remembered that there are in Russia, according to other authorities, some 20,000,000

people in concentration camps whose job is not that of builders of healthy families; and it should be remembered that liquidations in the twenty years between wars are estimated to have accounted for another 20,000,000 in such events as the elimination of Kulaks when 5,000,000 people in the villages were deliberately starved to death. When, therefore, Russian figures give a Net Reproduction Rate before the last war of 1.7 and show a population rate of increase of 30 *per cent* per generation, there appears to be something wrong, and one reaches for the salt.

In the Report of the Royal Commission issued last year there appears a table headed: "Population of the World, by Continents, 1750 and 1900," with a footnote "estimated by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders (World Population, 1936, p. 42.)"

Now what value can be attached to this table is difficult to see. The Committee, of itself, it seems, took no steps to even check these figures but took them as presented. One must record, therefore that Sir A. Carr-Saunders has achieved almost a vested interest in the over-population theory, having been one of its chief protagonists for many years. One can only raise an eyebrow on seeing the figure of 728 millions given as the population of the world for the year 1750. How does he know? With great respect for his authority this, however, seems to be a guess, and, judging from Kuczynski's analysis, a wild one.

To sum-up: ruling out the Slavs and the Italians, the danger of over-population in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand is just poppycock. The real danger for these nations is *shrinking and rapidly ageing* populations unable to defend themselves against the attacks of other less civilised nations, unable, for one reason or another, to work to feed themselves, and unable or unwilling to reproduce themselves.

At this point it may be noted, profitably perhaps, that, as far as this country is concerned, it is these potential enemies of ours whose well-being has been for years tenderly protected by our rulers.

## PARLIAMENT

(continued from page 3).

a third party, and the failure to have any scientific or mathematical system of representation, makes the position almost hopeless when the question of what Government is to be in office depends upon it—contrary to the system prevailing in the United States. There, no matter what the majority of the House of Representatives may be, whether Democratic or Republican, the Executive does not change in accordance with that majority, for it is independent. Here, when the Executive is so entirely dependent upon the majority of the House of Commons, however small that may be, it is essential that we should try to bring about a more scientific and less inaccurate system of representation.

May I take this first opportunity of expressing my deep regret at the loss of Members who were an honour to this House? Of the 12 University Members whose seats have been abolished only four have returned to this House. . . .

. . . If hon. Gentlemen had been listening in to the Moscow radio describing the Election, they would have gained an extraordinary impression. Do hon. Members realise that Moscow radio described the violent methods by which Communists were prevented from voting for their candidates? Moscow radio, in fact, attributed to this

country the exact methods which were used in Poland, Bulgaria and Roumania to suppress the freedom of elections. I only hope that hon. Members who do not understand the Russian language will at least apply to the B.B.C. and get the monitors' report of what was being broadcast every hour or so from Moscow on this most orderly Election. . . .

*Captain Duncan* (South Angus): . . . There are two matters on which I wish to speak with regard to the Gracious Speech. The first is this: the speech refers to the making of better use of marginal land. Now, we shall look forward with a great deal of interest to what the Government are proposing in their detailed application of these words. There is a tremendous difference of opinion as to what in fact is marginal land. The President of the National Farmers Union of England has not been able to define it, although in Scotland we have some sort of definition of a marginal farm. But I have no doubt in my own mind that quite a lot can be done in Scotland in the development of marginal land, firstly if we can define it, and secondly if we can give adequate inducement to the people concerned to develop it. But let there be no doubt about it, it is expensive. I have some, and I have been trying to develop it, but the expense is so much that it is uneconomic to develop the particular type of marginal land that I have in my own area.

I believe the best scope for adding arable acres to Britain's arable land is by dealing with it in small parcels. In so many farms you find an odd 10 acres which the farmer up to now has found uneconomic to develop because it is far too expensive and he has not the heavy machinery to do it. I believe that an enormous number of small blocks of marginal land can be developed, but that will not be done by nationalising it as His Majesty's Government suggested in their election programme. If it is a question of carving marginal farms out of hillside blocks, that is a very different type of work altogether, and we are awaiting with great anticipation to see what is proposed by the Government in that connection. But I would advise them that an enormous amount of marginal land can be taken back to arable cultivation in small amounts in all parts of the country if additional help is offered by the Government. But in no case should there be a threat of nationalisation behind this inducement. . . .

. . . The Gracious Speech says:

"You will be asked to approve legislation giving further encouragement to the transfer of industrial undertakings to the development areas."

I represent a constituency which borders on Dundee, and Dundee is in a Development Area. Through the operation of the Development Area procedure Dundee has obtained a large number of factories which are all doing well. There is a danger in encouraging too much industry into a Development Area because it tends to drain labour and industry away from the smaller towns outside the Development Area. In my constituency are the towns of Arbroath, Carnoustie, Monifieth, Forfar, and Kirriemuir, and there are other towns in other constituencies around Dundee none of which are in the Development Area. They are trying to keep their workers employed and their industries going without any of these advantages which Dundee has.

Another effect of the Development Area procedure operating in Dundee is that in order to accommodate the industries and the workers it is necessary to take first class arable land which is all round Dundee. Dundee itself is

tending to sprawl out not only in new housing estates but in new factories which are being erected all along the by-pass round Dundee. That may be all right up to a limit, but I suggest that there are certain limits beyond which one should not go, and that if those limits are exceeded the outside towns will be deprived of their industries and therefore of employment for their workers. Some of the industries in my town are very lightly held. There is much encouragement for people to go into Dundee, and it is only for some sentimental or accidental reason that they have established themselves outside the area, but they may easily flit into Dundee in order to obtain the advantages in the Development Area.

I warn the Government that if they go beyond a certain limit they will hit these factories very badly and will thereby create not one big pocket of unemployment as there was in Dundee, but a whole series of little pockets of unemployment spread all round the other towns in the other localities. I shall watch with very great care this legislation which the Government evidently intend to introduce, because I want to protect the interests of my constituents in the towns outside the Development Areas. . . .

### The Shepherd

The following appeared in the *Southern Daily Echo* for February 23:—

Mr. H. M. Bramfitt asks: "How can one serve Christ and ignore His Church?" But is it possible for competent shepherds to lose their flocks? Christ said it was not. "A stranger they will not follow" (John 10, 5).

He says that the Church offers no social paradise. What then, are they doing with the Gospel of Abundant Life? What is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth but a social paradise?

Why does the Church assist the almighty State in urging all classes and all ages to "lay up treasure?" Must we "take thought for the morrow?" Was Christ wrong then?

The immaculate condition of the banks of this town, compared with the Houses of the Immaculate Son of God, would suggest that He was.

The Church is indeed the Mystical Body of Christ, but, "where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" (Matt. 24: 28). The body without the Spirit is dead, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth—the flesh profiteth nothing." Where then, is the Spirit?

Christ assured His Church that He would send His Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance *all* the things that He said. (St. John 14, 26).

Not the least important thing He said was: "The children of God are free from custom and tribute" (Matt. 17, 24-27); the basis of an economic system that destroyed the Prince of Peace and cannot be enforced without the hangman's rope or the "abomination of desolation," the atomic bomb.

If the march of Communism is to be halted, the Church must make itself acquainted with the teaching of the New Economics and explain these things to parents presenting their infants for Holy Baptism—with a suitable warning to

politicians and others who have the power to alter things. Unless they do, all talk of democracy is hypocrisy.—C. W. Thomas (56, Carnation Road, Bassett, Southampton).

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