

SOCIAL CREDIT

A JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

The Official Organ of the Social Credit Secretariat

Vol. 2. No. 12.

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1935

Weekly 2d.

Jubilee, Without the Silver

Why do we Imagine Ourselves Poor ?

THE King's Silver Jubilee is now bang in the news. The word is on everyone's lips and punning distortions of it are used in scores of advertisements. London has blossomed with a gay crop of variegated poles and bunting. The shops are full of Jubilee specialities. There are Jubilee hats, Jubilee books, Jubilee mugs, mascots, shaving creams, blends of tea, free gift coupons, cures for corns and seasickness, breakfast foods, systems of mind training and Knitties for Toddlers.

Well, and why not? Of all the reigning kings, our own King George is the most deservedly popular with his subjects. Of all the Royal Families in the world, our own Royal Family gained the greatest personal prestige during the War. Why shouldn't we have a really good Silver Jubilee just to show our affection?

No reason at all why not. For many centuries we have excelled in dignified pageantry, and there was a time, before the Industrial Era laid its heavy hand upon us, when we excelled in merry-making too. Merrie Englands is still proverbial. But in spite of this natural bent and our genuine affection for our King, most of us are leading lives of such unnatural economic stringency that the Jubilee celebrations are bound to strike us as a mockery of what national festivities should be.

Because the struggle to make both ends meet is so desperate, we are no longer capable of enjoying anything just for itself. No, not even the Jubilee. Ministers are wondering what trade or emigration concessions they can wring out of the Dominions visitors. Shopkeepers and hotel proprietors are anxiously considering its effect on their trade. Out-of-workers are eagerly hoping for a little temporary employment. And so on. Not a man who does not regard it from the point of view of Business.

Read the Insurance Correspondent of *The Times* :

"The preparations for the celebration of the King's Silver Jubilee are creating a demand for special insurances . . ."

"One of the most essential types is necessitated by the erection of stands for sightseers, not only on the occasion of the Royal processions in London on Monday, May 6, but also at open-air events throughout the country. The liabilities for the safety of seatholders on stands that are being erected rest, first, on the builders and, secondly, on the owners of stands." Etc., etc.

Or *John Bull* :

"There have been protests in Parliament and out of it against

the importation of foreign-made Jubilee medals. As a result, few of these are likely to be worn during the coming celebrations.

"A greater scandal has remained almost unventilated. Many Jubilee novelties which will be bought by the public are being produced at scandalously sweated rates.

"Poor women are making emblems, carnival hats, fans, 'good-luck' favours and the like for incredibly low rates."

What it amounts to is, the vast majority of the King's subjects, pausing for a moment from the sordid economic struggle which keeps them hard at it all day long, say to themselves: "Here's this Jubilee coming. Will it help us make a shilling or two?"

So overwhelmingly apparent is the economic pinch that one of the principal features of the Jubilee is the King George's Jubilee Trust, which is to be spent so as to give the next generation a better chance.

What an extraordinary commentary on the short-sightedness of the times (not to call it by any harsher phrase) this fund is! No one can doubt the complete sincerity and benevolence of the Prince of Wales who is organising it. He has shown again and

again that he is out to help people all he can. But oh, the needless and iniquitous limitations which the organisation of this meagre fund tacitly recognises!

Here is this Great Britain of ours a land of such vast resources and actual real wealth that even with 2,500,000 men laid off with the Lord knows how much plant idle, or jettisoned, we are yet able to produce nearly every class of goods in abundance. Here are the blood, bones and sinews of wealth—the whole substance of wealth, except for the paper and watermarks which go to make banknotes, and the inkmarks in ledgers which procreate bank loans.

And yet we blasphemously imagine that we are poor, and go cap in hand to firms and private citizens, begging donations from them for the young men and women who for some unfathomable reason we think the nation is too hard up to help itself!

What financial aid, within the nation's capacity, is too great in order to give the next generation a good start? Look at it with a commercial eye, if you like, and regard it as a national investment. What prospects has Great Britain?

Good Heavens above! have we not *all* the physical resources to give every boy and girl such a start in life as is due to the heirs of our cultural and material heritage? And can anything which is physically

(Continued on page 186.)

**DO YOU
REALISE
WE ARE
AT WAR?**

(See pages 189 and 193)

“Ask, and It Shall Be Given You”

IT is a fact, long obvious to a few, and now recognised by many, that the industrial nations suffer poverty and insecurity, in a world of enormous physical wealth, simply because **the incomes of individuals are too small.**

Modern power production could supply all the wants of everyone. Indeed, the producer to-day is being strangled simply because he cannot sell his goods—the very goods, mark you, that the people would buy if they had incomes large enough.

These are the outstanding facts of the present situation throughout the world, and the question is rising on all sides: What is to be done about it?

Now Major Douglas discovered and, sixteen years ago, explained to an unbelieving world that there was a flaw in the price system which accounted for this state of affairs. He observed that, under the present finance-accountancy system, the prices of goods and services for sale grew faster than the incomes of the people who wanted to buy these goods and services. And because of that fact the people have to go short of the things they want, and the producers have to restrict or destroy or export these very things—simply because the money incomes issued to people in the process of production are too small.

Now, if that is true—and all the facts of life to-day tend to prove that it is true, do they not?—if it is true that our incomes are so small that we cannot buy the things we want, although the shopkeepers beseech us to buy them, surely the obvious cure is to **increase our incomes**—to increase them effectively, so that they can overtake prices.

Why, then, is this not done?

Most of us know now that the money, in which our inadequate incomes are paid to us, is not a *real* thing. That is, money in itself is of no use. On a desert island money would be quite useless. We cannot eat it or clothe or shelter ourselves with it. Bread and butter, houses, roads, railways, clothes—these are *real* things, and in order to produce them effort is necessary, though less, and less human effort is needed as the use of machinery is developed.

But money does not require effort to produce it. Money can be anything so long as it is recognised as money and universally accepted by those who have goods and services to sell.

Money is in fact merely a sort of ticket entitling its holder to any kind of thing he chooses up to the value of the figure marked on it. It may be coin or banknotes; or it may be simply special paper—cheques—upon which figures can be written by the holder to correspond with figures in bank ledgers.

In a word, money in itself is worthless, and derives its value only from real things. If, therefore, there are no real things for sale that people want, money would actually be worthless. If, on the other hand, there is an abundance of real things that people want, money

has just the value of tickets entitling their holders to that real wealth, and should be sufficient to buy it.

What we want, then, is higher money incomes, and it is obviously possible to have higher incomes, because money costs nothing to create.

Now comes the question: **What can we do about it?** And it is here that the Social Credit Movement comes in with the answer.

Major Douglas made the great discovery of why it was that incomes cannot, under the present faulty arrangements, be issued fast enough to enable people to pay the prices of all the things for sale. He has made another great discovery without which the first would be futile, but which, if it is acted upon, makes the remedy possible.

Like all great discoveries this one was so simple that people cannot believe it to be true. But that does not matter, for it can be put to the test and its truth proved.

It is simply that **whatever the people want they can have if they demand it**—always granted that it is *physically possible*.

Now it is obvious that there are to-day plenty of goods and services, the real things that people want. Therefore, if this law is true, the people have only to demand that they shall be given the necessary money incomes to buy these real things. Let them **make this demand and see what happens!**

Perhaps, after all, this was not really a new discovery, but the stressing of an old truth. What was the meaning of these words, spoken two thousand years ago, “Ask, and it shall be given you”? Is it possible that we have never yet really understood their tremendous significance. **Suppose these words are true!** Let us put them to the test.

But how can the people express their demand? To whom must they make it? It is just here that Major Douglas has offered guidance by pointing out that the proper implement for a democracy to use is the vote.

In this democratic country we have universal suffrage. By means of it we elect representatives to go to Parliament. When they are there they can exercise supreme power, for it is Parliament, through the Government elected by a majority of the people, that orders the armed forces of the Crown—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

Anyone, or any section of the people, that tries to oppose the majority can therefore be suppressed by force.

Thus the people can wield the greatest power in the land, and to get what they want they have only to demand it clearly by means of their votes.

The immediate and extremely urgent task with which Major Douglas has charged the Social Credit Movement is nothing more or less than to canvass the electorate and ask them whether or not they want a sufficient money income—a National Dividend—to enable them to enjoy the plenty and security that money can buy.

And the only thing necessary to bring this about is to bring Finance into line with Reality.

Real wealth is possible immediately. Faulty financial mechanism cheats us, like Esau, out of our heritage. But unlike Esau we need not be put off for ever with a mess of pottage. We have votes, and we can use them to get our bad bargain rescinded.

G. W. L. DAY.

For New Readers

This page will normally be devoted to new readers, and will contain new or reprinted articles which give a short introduction to the ideas for which this paper stands.

(Continued from front page.)

possible be financially impossible? Why, the King himself said as much when he opened the World Economic Conference.

Judging by physical facts—by real facts, that is—we could help every man, woman and child in the kingdom in just the same way and make this coming Jubilee the greatest period of rejoicing in history.

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9 Regent Square, W.C.1. Tel. TER 3226.

Subscription rates, home or abroad, post free: One year 10/- six months 5/-, three months 2/6

Advertisement Rates: Whole page £6 6s. and pro rata down to one-quarter page. Smaller advertisements 7s. an inch. Classified advertisements 6d. a line, minimum 3 lines

Vol. 2. No. 12. Friday, May 3. 1935

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Notes and Comments

THE valiant but misguided efforts of the richest nation in history to enter the Kingdom of Prosperity by violence is surely one of the strangest anomalies in history. With the aid of three new Government agencies and sixty existing Federal units, work under 200 classifications is to be organised for her 20,000,000 unemployed. Chief of the contemplated projects are highway development, with elimination of level crossings, rural electrification and resettlement, housing development in town and country, reafforestation, loans or grants to political sub-divisions, assistance to the "white collar" classes, and the continuation and expansion of the civilian conservation corps. Not only are individual families to be moved from poor land to more promising localities, entire communities shipwrecked on the economic rocks are to be rescued and transplanted.

The sum voted by Congress for this colossal programme is one which would make our own cautious Budget-balancers shake in their spats; but all the same this £1,000,000,000 is only £50 per unemployed. Obviously it is quite inadequate to solve America's problem. Already there are some in America who realise this, and the latest news from Washington is that one of Senator Vandenberg of Michigan's constituents has complained to the Senator that Roosevelt's scheme is not big enough.

"It would make more work and accomplish better relief," he writes, "if the Government would remove the Rocky Mountains and dump the soil in the Atlantic Ocean, which would, in turn, raise the Atlantic to the level of the Pacific and do away with the necessity for the Panama Canal."

Senator Vandenberg considers his correspondent has put forward "a very interesting idea." So do we. It only remains now for Mr. Lloyd George to include

dumping the South Downs into the English Channel as part of his New Deal. But perhaps France, nearly crazy for work by the time it was carried out, would insist upon throwing in a bit of the Pyrenees instead?

Bread and Circuses

Panem et Circenses was the good old Roman prescription for keeping the people quiet and discouraging them from thinking too much. History is repeating itself to some extent to-day. True, we are too busy curtailing wheat production to have much opportunity for distributing bread, but when it comes to circuses, is not our benevolent Chancellor of the Exchequer about to give us a remission of entertainment tax, and have not the governors and headmasters of our public schools made such a fetish of games than even the Western Brothers are never at a loss for gags?

But the organisation of "circuses" on an international scale goes one better than this. We have before us a brochure headed "Olympic Games—News Service," which bears the impressive sub-title, "Decisive Battle for Peace." It emanates from Germany, and one of its passages runs as follows: "Never in the history of the Olympic Games has the head of a State intervened with such enthusiasm and such keen personal interest in the preparatory work for the Games as the Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor of the German nation has done and is doing."

This is followed by extracts from addresses by the Reich Sport Leader, Herr Hans von Tschammer und Osten: "Speaking before the memorial shrine to the war dead on March 17, the German Minister of Defence uttered the significant words: 'Europe is too small for a war'; but I might add, this Europe is large enough to hold an arena on which the youth of the world can win a decisive battle for the cause of peace."

Obviously it is absurd to condemn athletic sports; that is not at all our intention. We do say, though, that bread and games are only a palliative; what Mr. Aldous Huxley would call "soma." Or shall we say they are like trying to cure the measles by treating the spots?

By all means let us have games, but let us first remove the root cause of war by issuing National Dividends, and so releasing populations from their straight-jackets and at the same time averting that fierce competition for foreign markets which leads to military conflicts.

The Emigration Bubble

One of the senseless parrot cries which is likely to be heard again in the near future is the demand for emigration. When harassed Ministers are burdened with millions of men in a state of enforced idleness, can you wonder that they say to themselves, "Let's pack as many of these fellows as possible off to Canada or Australia, or somewhere, and get them out of the way."

So they start shouting "Emigrate for Prosperity!" "Develop the Empire," and they stick up beautifully coloured posters depicting sunburnt young men toiling happily and prosperously in the Great Open Spaces. And they talk about the vast untapped wealth in Alaska or somewhere, in a way to make your mouth water. The theory of it, too, is quite simple. It is that if you have, say, half a million unemployed in Alberta and two and a half million unemployed in Great Britain, then all you have to do is to ship a few hundred thousand unemployed from Great Britain to Alberta with a nice note to the Albertan Government asking it to give them something to do.

But the trouble is that after all this trouble and

expense these tiresome emigrants have a way of coming back again. Last year, for instance, no fewer than 40,000 of them returned, as the only alternative to starvation, and a great many of them became a burden on the Poor Law as soon as they landed!

It is all very worrying, and we very much wonder what will be the upshot of the discussions on emigration between Mr. Thomas and the Dominion Premiers after the Jubilee.

The only thing we can suggest to help them is that they agree to distribute enough purchasing power in their own countries to avoid the dilemma of any of their people becoming mere human surpluses.

False Gods

The very first of the commandments which Jehovah gave to Moses was "Thou shalt have none other gods but Me."

Without wishing to enter into a religious discussion, it is surely reasonable to suppose that those who direct monetary policy are breaking this first and most important commandment every day of their lives. For worshipping God surely implies a true sense of valuation? It means, doesn't it, caring more about human happiness and human misery than winning or losing a game of beggar-my-neighbour played under the Thread-needle Street rules?

Everyone, probably, has come across what is usually called a "bridge fiend": a man (or very often a woman) who lives only to play bridge, think bridge, discuss bridge, food and sleep being merely tiresome interruptions necessary in order to refresh the brain and the nerves for yet more bridge? Well, this financial game of beggar-my-neighbour has become very much like that to the experts who specialise in it, and the hideous part of it is that they are forcing all the rest of us, who would prefer not to break the first commandment, to play it. To play it not for fun but literally for life and death stakes.

How much longer are we going to put up with such a monstrous state of affairs? Shall we go on playing against our wills until the banks have won all the "chips"—Major Douglas has reminded us that world indebtedness increases as the fourth power of time in a hundred years—or shall we say, "Enough of this," get up from the card tables and escape into the open air to see what life really holds for us?

Finance First

We have just noticed the following gem which appeared in *The Observer* on April 13: "To-morrow is Budget day, and it would be hard to find a Finance Minister in any country who could face his annual statement with the confidence that Mr. Neville Chamberlain will draw from his realised figures of revenue. Our affairs are more satisfactory in their money aspect than in their human aspect, but for a Chancellor *quâ* Chancellor that is beside the point."

Here in a few plain, honest words is a confession of the whole present-day situation. So long as the money aspect is all right, every other aspect can go to blazes! Whether we have 2,000,000 or 2,500,000 on the dole, whether millions more are living like kirk mice, is nothing to Chancellors of the Exchequer provided their figures plan out in accordance with systems of arbitrary rules—entirely man-made rules, mind you, and bank-made rules at that. For, remember, the biggest item in the annual Budget is the interest which we pay the banks in return for lending us our own money!

But apart from this a Budget, under the present rules of the game, is utterly ridiculous. It is a statement of the nation's overhead expenses, and in a sane world these expenses would be paid out of a national credit account. Under no system of rational thought could it be considered as anything but a *communal* account.

But in this Crazy Fun Fair, which we call civilisation, our boss-eyed money experts ask us to believe that the only source of money to meet Budget expenditure is the savings and earnings of individual Britons; and we, instead of storming the Treasury in a fit of righteous anger, bow our heads to the ground and thank God for giving us a Chancellor who is not going to clap another sixpence on the Income-tax.

What is Money?

In this issue is inserted a leaflet entitled "Money," which has two very useful purposes. On one side are little pieces of vital and—to those who have not studied the subject—even startling information. What is money? How is it brought into existence? Who brings it into being and who cancels it out of existence?

Money is the most important thing in the life of nearly everyone. Our daily round, our common task, are circumscribed by money limitations. In the most real sense we are governed by money. It is not fear of the policeman and the majesty of the law behind him that governs our comings and our goings. It is the amount of money in our pockets or in our banking accounts.

Do we want to take part in the daily rush to and from work—work we have probably not been free to choose—day in, day out, all the year round except for perhaps a fortnight's "holiday" a year? If not, what forces us to this course? Do we long to see more of the world so enticingly pictured for us in travel advertisements? If so, what prevents us? Can we give our children the upbringing we know they deserve? What is it that gives the final verdict of yes or no? What is it that makes so much difference between happiness and the unhappiness of worry and frustration? *It is money.*

On one side of this leaflet are certain essential facts about money that are worth memorising. The other side of the leaflet tells that this weekly journal points the way to freedom from the grip of the money power, a way to the enjoyment by everyone, rich and poor, of the abundance to which The King has drawn attention and to which we are all the rightful heirs.

Belgium Begins to See Through It

A feature of the recent by-election in Brussels was the 45,000 votes gained by M. Amandes Janssens, an Antwerp business man, the "Realist" candidate, against the 120,000 of M. Spaak, the Socialist Minister. *The Times'* correspondent described M. Janssens' platform as a violent attack on the banks. It included State banking and other proposals which, from the Social Credit point of view, are irrelevant, and there can be little doubt that the currency devaluation last month and the popular indignation at this "betrayal of the franc" gained him great support.

The real interest lies in the awakening of even the most conservative peoples of Europe to the secret tyranny which is squeezing out the lives and liberties of Latin, Slav and Anglo-Saxon alike, of manufacturer, *rentier* and peasant, of Catholic, Protestant, Jew and agnostic, of young, old and prematurely old. The Belgian may not perhaps take kindly at first to what he would think of as "something for nothing" in the form of National Dividends. At present, however, he is getting nothing for something, and there are signs that he is waking up to the unpleasant fact.

Prosperity for All is at Stake

This article, reprinted from "Reynolds's Illustrated News," April 28, with cordial acknowledgments, is doubly interesting in conjunction with the following paragraph from SOCIAL CREDIT, April 26 :—

"Since all industrial nations are "in the same boat," war exists now in the fight for foreign markets. The weapons are tariffs, quotas, exchange restrictions and other hindrances to trade, causing international friction, the threat of competitive exchange depreciation being regarded in the light of an ultimatum."

"PROSPERITY is returning," say many newspapers and the "National" Government posters. "World trade is drying up," say League of Nations reports. Who is right?

The fact is that mankind is in the throes of a mighty industrial revolution, such as history has not known before. More and more production is being achieved by fewer and fewer men. The productive capacity of the Machine is outstripping consuming power at an ever-increasing speed.

And the world, nominally at peace, is really engaged in a life-and-death struggle. As Sir Percy Bates, the Cunard chairman, told his shareholders:—"There is war to-day, universal war; and the weapons are not navies, armies, or aeroplanes, but tariffs, quotas, and shifted currencies." (Our italics.)

Nations Waging Trade War

Things at home are undeniably rather better than they were, for some people, at any rate. But the improvement is confined to the home market. Can it be kept up if, as seems likely, trade between nations gets worse instead of better?

"The estimated value of world trade in terms of gold," says the "League of Nations Bulletin of Statistics," "reached, in February, 1935, the lowest point yet touched."

Even the London Chamber of Commerce, in its annual report just published, says that, failing a completely new system of international finance, the only alternatives before the civilised Western nations are "sustaining life on a rice or similar cheap diet"; and "extending the present system of burning wealth, throwing it into the sea, or otherwise destroying it."

The Chamber hints, indeed, at a third possibility that "the surplus wealth which nations thus destroy might be very readily consumed by their own nationals, had they the purchasing power!"

Steel Peace This Week?

Apart from the grim spectre of Japanese competition with British industry in the markets of the world, there is the hardly less disturbing blockade of Belgian indus-

try by the British steelmasters, who, having been given the stupendous tariff protection of fifty per cent., are seeking to exclude Belgian steel altogether from the British market.

The Belgians have offered to limit their British sales to the 1933 level—the lowest for a long time—provided the British duty be restored to its former figure of 33 1-3 per cent.; and the British steelmasters' answer is due on Tuesday.

But already "protection" of British steel, worth at the most £450,000 to the home industry, has had devastating repercussions at home. It has caused coal exports to slump £1,000,000 and tinplate exports (of which cheap imported steel is the raw material) to slump £150,000.

Tariff gain : £450,000.
Tariff loss : £1,150,000.

Patchy Prosperity

Floodlight on the condition of British industry is shed by the Board of Trade, which, taking 1930, the first year of the Great Slump, as 100, publishes comparative figures for 1934.

Here are some industries undeniably doing well:—

Steel, 120.9; copper, 158.6; cotton, 119; artificial silk, 190.9; natural silk, 152.4; and rubber manufacture, 148.7.

The last three items probably reflect changes of fashion (wool is down to 97.4). Armaments (and possibly breweries, too) explain the metal increases.

The Other Side

But look at the other side of the picture: Coal, 90.7; electrical engineering, 77.6; shipbuilding, 45.1; railway freights, coal, 89.7; other railway freights, 91.9.

And although total industrial production is up to 105.8, employment (on an increased population) is up to only 103.5, while unemployment has actually risen to 109.3. All this means that labour is being displaced through improved industrial mechanisation.

A most amazing instance of this is supplied by the building trade, where unemployment has gone up by 2.2 per cent. at a time when output of dwelling houses has risen by 48.4 per cent.

Freedom and Social Credit

SOCIAL Creditors often have to point out that whereas St. Paul said, "If any man will not work, neither shall he eat," this did not imply enforced starvation for a man if his work were taken away from him by machines which could do it more rapidly and efficiently.

Nevertheless, it is as well to go one step further by quoting the still more authoritative statement "Consider the lilies," which implies a state of life having for its ideal the necessary freedom and leisure to live it for the joy and beauty of living, so that man's evolution may be hastened by the inner sunshine of his own happiness. This is exactly what Social Credit is trying to make practical by means of National Dividends which will make possible the freedom from economic preoccupation so vital to the development of innate gifts.

Douglas has said something to the effect that Freedom of Life consists in Freedom of Choice, and if this is

so, how many of us are free at present? There are millions who have practically no choice even within the very narrowest limits.

No Choice.

The harassed wife of an unemployed worker who knows that certain quantities and qualities of food are necessary for her children has no choice, for lack of a few paltry shillings, but to give them the lesser quantity of the inferior quality. The labourer with a tendency to lung trouble who ought to sit in warmth and shelter for a hot midday meal, has no choice but to sit in a cold damp wind to eat his dry bread and cheese.

The clerk, owning his small house, purchased out of hard-earned savings, who suffers a reduction of salary or has to pay for an expensive operation, has no choice but to let his little property go into disrepair—and so on up the scale of income to a diminishing number of

people with an ever-increasing freedom of choice which Social Crediters regard as a justifiable freedom for all.

And because this freedom is a Social Credit ideal for all individuals, Social Crediters are not obsessed with class feeling; they know that abundance and freedom are to be had at the expense of nobody, and that an increasing National Dividend based on what Douglas calls the increment of association, will level up the poor without any necessity for class strife.

If Social Crediters feel any resentment, it is not because some individuals possess more than others, but because successive governments have betrayed the nation by allowing a comparatively insignificant number of cosmopolitan financiers to acquire control over the lives of millions of people.

So great is this control and so wide the freedom of choice which it gives, that it is able to dictate how much or how little of this same freedom of choice shall be allowed to vast numbers of people who possess a saner outlook on life than those wielding the power of control.

An accumulation of wealth in excess of that enjoyed by others is, after all, just one of our many human weaknesses; but withholding freedom from millions of decent people by what appears to be a cold, deliberate policy on the part of centralised financial power is something almost sub-human. It creates a bewildered emotional resentment so deep that it cannot find expression even if the very means of public expression, such as the press, were not under this same financial control.

A Hidden Danger.

The constant generation of this emotional resentment in all nations is a terribly dangerous thing and may be used by the international money monopoly referred to for destroying the very thing which ought, at all costs, to be preserved: Freedom — economic, political and personal.

Vague resentment in one nation may easily be directed towards other nations, whereas all are suffering from the same thing, the lack of power to buy the result of their own productive capacity; and no country has ever attempted the sane financial experiment of equating incomes to production in order that the dire need of their peoples could be satisfied.

If this need were satisfied, if nations were enabled to absorb all they wanted of their own production of food and other products, the cry for markets to absorb what are only artificial surpluses to-day would be enormously lessened. Nations would only require to export true surpluses in exchange for the true surpluses of other nations, and in so doing there would be cause for very little friction. In this way the sense of being fettered and frustrated would give way to a feeling of freedom which cannot exist under the present conditions.

Social Credit is a growing influence to-day because it is attempting to mobilise the suppressed emotional desire of countless individuals and to direct this desire into constitutional channels where it can be formulated as a demand for a definite clear-cut policy. The policy into which the Social Credit Movement is attempting to crystallise the desire of the people is the policy of the abolition of poverty.

We ourselves, as a people, are still free to choose this policy and the efforts of Social Crediters are directed to securing representatives in Parliament who will see that this policy is carried out. The people will be asking for what they know to be quite possible; a policy of distribution in place of one of destruction and restriction.

But freedom of choice, both individual and national, is becoming less and less possible under the present system, and may yet be swallowed up by regimentation from above.

World Controlled By Finance.

It is essential to remember that the world is becoming controlled by people who are centralising financial power into their own hands and for their own purposes, economic and political. The weapon which these people use is the monopoly of the creation of financial credit which they have gradually usurped from our Governments,

This financial credit is never issued in any other form but as a debt repayable to the issuers by the communities of the world. It is impossible to get free from this debt and it is increasing in all countries at a staggering rate.

No one, having a grain of imagination, can be anything but terribly afraid of the power which such a system places in the hands of a few people who are altogether free from the responsibility of answering for their actions to anybody.

These individuals, so far as it is possible to know who they are, may be, and possibly are, quite decent as individuals, but, as a group, in any crisis involving a choice on their part between a retention of their power or of giving the peoples of the world real freedom of choice, they will be swayed by their inordinate desire to dominate and control.

Once the principles of centralised finance are grasped, it will be seen how subtle are the methods used for securing domination and how our highest aspirations are used for our own enslavement.

If we passionately desire peace and brotherhood as between nations, then we are offered a system involving centralised control of the nations by means of an international police force ready to act against the nation having the hardihood to attempt to snap the shackles of serfdom to international finance.

If we strive for economic freedom, then we are given a world economic conference which is allowed to discuss anything except the basis of money power. If responsible public bodies demand enquiry into the financial system, then they are snubbed and refused satisfaction.

The Only Real Obstacle.

The only proposals at all likely to prove a real obstacle to the fast approaching complete success of the international money monopoly are the Douglas Social Credit proposals which, alone of all political or economic ideas to-day, are entirely realistic in outlook, dealing only with the true inner cause of the danger and with the solid facts of human life and human needs.

The present financial system is a tremendously powerful weapon, because, as a system, it is dissociated from motives of human sympathy and thus is freed from all restraint in its operation. It is strong with the type of strength which knows no scruple, and because those who control it are old in worldly wisdom and practice, its methods are infinitely subtle and its influence as wide as the world.

To the superficial observer, the Social Credit Movement, being in its infancy, would appear to be puny and weak by comparison with this vast world-power, but, because the motive power within the Movement is one of sheer disinterested but practical idealism and because it holds the key for bringing about the well-being of all, with damage to none, it will win, at length, by that very quality which the present world-power despises and which, to vary the words of Douglas, might be called the power of the increment of human spiritual association.

Social Credit may become a live political question quite suddenly, it may creep slowly into the torpid imaginations of our politicians when they realise there is no alternative, it may assume reality under another name, or it may for a time be lost sight of in the vortex of onrushing events.

But whatever happens the truth it embodies will not be lost to the world and no one who works for a cause he knows to be vital to the spiritual evolution of humanity will ever know regret; and of all such causes Douglas Social Credit is the most vital and compelling to-day.

HARO.

The Parting of the Ways

We stand at the parting of the ways. Whether we find the way of peace or continue along the old road of brute force, so unworthy of our civilisation, depends on ourselves. On the one side the freedom of the individual and the security of society beckon to us, on the other slavery for the individual and the annihilation of our civilisation threaten us. Our fate will be according to our deserts.—Einstein.

What is Want?

Poverty which hides behind Pathetic Cloaks

WHILE distributing leaflets outside a cinema recently, showing the close connection between want and war, some Social Crediters met with the astonishing objection that "there is no want."

As this surprising statement has perhaps rendered other propagandists momentarily speechless at some time or other, it may not be out of place to ask, what is want?

In the seaside town in which the incident occurred, such a contention might pass unchallenged by those who do not try to look below the surface of life. Well-dressed folk throng the pleasure gardens and fill restaurants and tea shops; there are handsome shops and solid, prosperous-looking houses half hidden by beautiful trees, and a general air of cheerful well-being about the place.

It would be easy to leave this scene and within twenty minutes find oneself in very different surroundings. Miles of mean streets, where broken and shabby furniture may be seen through the windows, inhabited by dejected-looking men and sad, worn-looking women, testify eloquently enough to poverty. The women are too harassed even to smile at the gambols of their babies making pathetic attempts to cajole them into a game. It is not slumdom, but poverty struggling hard to be respectable, and the struggle takes all their strength and leaves them with dull eyes and sagging shoulders, spiritless and apathetic. One word sums up their life: endurance.

Poverty Among the Well-Dressed

That is one corner of the picture, but it would be wrong to assume that poverty lurks only in the mean streets. It is also there among the well-dressed throng. Let us take a concrete instance. Sitting in the gardens or taking tea in a café might be seen a plump little woman, fashionably dressed in clothes of excellent quality, smiling at the children playing near by. The casual observer would take her to be the possessor of leisure and comfortable means. The facts, however, are as follow: Having gone into partnership with a friend some years ago, the venture failed and she lost all her money.

Since then she has done cooking in one boarding house after another, struggling against ill-health. She had a slight stroke, recovered and went back to work. A second stroke a little later left her so ill that work was out of the question. A wealthy friend paid for her to stay at a farm-house for several months. She recovered sufficiently to be able to go out alone, although she frequently reeled as she walked. The doctor told her that she was not fit for any kind of work, a verdict which was hardly surprising in view of the fact that she was sixty years of age and had had two strokes.

As she had no income, however, she stayed on at the boarding-house, helping the proprietress for her board and lodging, cooking and waiting on the guests, although suffering from blood pressure and having to walk up and down stairs with extreme care, as any exertion might easily be disastrous. The wealthy friend from time to time sends her a parcel of clothes and gives her a present of money at Christmas, which she spends on an occasional tram fare down to the sea, and tea.

Who knows how many who form part of the crowd of apparently leisured holiday-makers, are in similar circumstances to this poor woman? A breakdown after a prolonged search for a job, followed by some months, perhaps struggling to do some hopelessly unsuitable work, then a week or two at the seaside to recover, spending the few pounds they have earned.

Lecturers on the Dole

Probably nobody who attended a lecture given at the local branch of a well-known society, by a trim-looking grey-haired man and afterwards met him sitting on the promenade, or seated beside a well-dressed woman in a smart little Hillman Minx, would suppose that he was other than what he appeared to be—an educated man

of leisure. As a matter of fact the society pays the lecturer's expenses; he is put up by one of the members, and when the course of lectures is over, returns to his room in the east end of London, where he is living on the dole.

Another woman wears a fur coat given her by a generous friend and lives in summer in a hut eight feet by ten in the garden of friends; in winter giving her services *au pair* in order to eke out a minute income. For years she has lived on the verge of nervous breakdown.

It is to be feared that to many people nothing short of actual death from starvation or exposure constitutes "want." The slow sapping of the vitality caused by constant anxiety, the incessant struggle to make sixpence do the work of a shilling does not excite their pity. Want to them is the literal want of bread, not the deprivation of all those things that make life worth living—harmonious surroundings, books, pictures, music, sport, friendship.

They are apt to think vaguely that these things do not cost money. Probably most people would say that friendship at least is free, but is it? Those who have money only for the barest necessities become dull and uninteresting. More fortunate people avoid them because they are "so depressing."

In cheerless bed-sitting rooms with wall-papers that cause something like actual physical pain to the aesthetically sensitive, live delicate and elderly men and women with just enough to save them from actual starvation, unable to afford even a bus fare to see friends a few miles distant, to own a wireless set or go to a concert. To casual observers in the street they do not always present a poverty-stricken appearance, because in this age of mass production those who have money are able to buy so many clothes that the overspill finds its way down to them from better-off relatives and friends.

As proof that there is no want, someone recently wrote a letter to the newspaper stating that he had seen slices of bread and butter and even half-loaves thrown behind railings by persons who evidently wanted money rather than bread.

Perhaps the writer of this letter had had little to do with illness. It is well-known that sick people require a varied and appetising diet, daintily served. People who have had months and years of anxiety and semi-starvation, often tramping the streets for hours in shoes too small for them, are weak and debilitated, if not actually ill. Anyone who has attempted to live for any length of time on a diet consisting chiefly of bread and butter, knows that after a time the stomach experiences nausea even to the point of automatically rejecting it.

An Ultimatum to Experts

It is high time that the people told their servants, those they elect to represent them in Parliament, what it is they really want, instead of allowing the latter to tell *them* what to vote for. Parliament should then address the experts somewhat in the following terms:—

Gentlemen, here are the physical facts of plenty which you yourselves admit, and this plenty exists while the full productive capacity of the country is not being utilised; therefore, we need no other proof that poverty is unnecessary and can be removed.

Other countries are always eager to send us goods that we cannot conveniently produce for ourselves—in many cases using all expedients to induce us to take from them goods that we can produce ourselves and, therefore, do not want. You claim to be economic and financial experts. You are therefore the proper persons to devise a satisfactory method of utilising plenty to prevent poverty.

Whether you do it this way or that is immaterial to us, but we are persuaded that it can be done, and we expect you to do it within a reasonable time limit, or if you fail to do so to tender your resignation from the position you occupy. If you are experts you can abolish poverty in the midst of plenty. If you cannot abolish poverty, given such satisfactory material to do it with, then you cannot at the same time claim to be experts. (Gentlemen, the choice is before you.)

Our ancestors, the men and women of Britain who came before us, built up the Britain that exists to-day; fields, mines, roads, bridges, wonderful machinery and

inventions that have made it possible to produce wealth they never dreamed of with less and less human labour. A share in this wealth, therefore, properly belongs to each one of us, a greater share for those whose labour is still required, as is just, a lesser share for those no longer needed in industry.

This share can and must be distributed in the form of National Dividends. We must claim our inheritance before it is wasted or destroyed, either by schemes of "rationalisation" or by war. There is want, cruel and unnecessary want, and there is wicked and deliberate waste of our resources. We must show plainly and unequivocally that we intend to put an end to it and to enjoy our heritage. Heaven helps those who help themselves.

D. BEAMISH.

Too Poor To Buy Milk

I feel that those of you who realise the difficulties with which our class of business has been beset and who bear in mind that in many districts throughout which our branches are closely placed, the inability of a very large percentage of the consuming public to buy more than the barest necessities of life is still very marked, will agree with me when I say that the results, although not quite so good as we hoped for, are none the less satisfactory.—*Chairman of the Maypole Dairy Company, Ltd., at the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Meeting.*

This Age of Plenty

Dr. Shannon, coroner, held an inquest at Coleraine, Co. Derry, on Sarah White, aged eight months, who died in convulsions owing to malnutrition.

Mr. and Mrs. M'Mullan and ten children had had to exist on 15s. a week, received for care of three children.

Giving evidence, Mrs. M'Mullan said she had seven children of her own and in addition had had to nurse Sarah White and two others. All she had was 15s. a week, 5s. for each child. Her husband was workless and got no dole.

Inspector Duke, of the N.S.P.C.C., said he tried to get work for Mrs. M'Mullan, who was a kindly woman and did her best for the children.

Dr. Ritchie, of Castlervan, said she was working in impossible conditions.

Councillor Samuel Stirling, a member of the Jury, said it was deplorable. Here was a family of nine left without any means at all after Sarah White had died and all practically starving.

The jury were greatly moved, but after making a private subscription, found that no blame was attached to anyone.

Query: How many children in Great Britain and N. Ireland would have to die of malnutrition before it became somebody's fault?

Heroic Mothers and Daughters

Among members of employees' approved societies incapacity among men due to nervous diseases has steadily increased from 0.99 day per member in 1929 to 1.59 days per member in 1934. The amount of illness due to this cause in the case of women members, however, has remained almost stationary.

—*The Manchester Guardian.*

Identification Badge



A badge is now obtainable, by the wearing of which sympathisers with the Social Credit Movement and the Electoral Campaign can make themselves known to one another, and, by inviting comment, make fresh contacts.

The device is a thistle within a half-inch diameter circle of Douglas tartan green. It is unobtrusive and, being in the form of a stud, fits easily into the buttonhole of the coat.

Studs will be forwarded to applicants who send with their name and address three 1½d. stamps to the Social Credit Secretariat, 8-9 Essex Street, London, W.C.2. Please mark envelope "Badge."

Remember also that Douglas tartan ties, made from the woollen tartan can be obtained from the office of SOCIAL CREDIT, 9 Regent Square, W.C.1; 2/6 each.

The King says

"IT cannot be beyond the power of man to use the vast resources of the world as to ensure the material progress of civilisation. No diminution in these resources has taken place. On the contrary, discovery, invention, and organisation have multiplied their possibilities to such an extent that abundance of production has itself created new problems."—His Majesty the King.

"THROUGH the aid of physical science our powers of production have reached a very high point of efficiency; an efficiency such that, if the whole machinery of production could be set working at full speed, every human being might be lapped in luxury of the most elaborate kind at the cost of a modest expenditure of human energy. Yet the whole world is poverty-stricken in various degrees."—*Professor William McDougall.*

Hitherto the Social Credit Movement has confined its activities to spreading knowledge of the Social Credit proposals of Major C. H. Douglas. These proposals provide the technical means for abolishing poverty in an age of material plenty due to modern power production methods.

The Social Credit Movement, realising its responsibility to the nation in the critical world situation which exists, has now undertaken the organisation of a national campaign to arouse the electorate of the country to exercise its democratic rights and press for the issue of a National Dividend and the abolition of poverty. The purpose of the campaign is to unite the people of the country in demanding the abolition of poverty with the security to the individual which this will give. In doing this the Social Credit Movement is not seeking to put into power, nor to form, a political party. It is placing itself at the service of the electorate. This campaign is entirely non-party and can be supported by people of every political view who desire to see the solution of the one important problem of our time—the problem of Poverty amidst Plenty.

Help to abolish the disgrace of poverty in an age of abundance and gain democratic freedom for yourself and your fellow citizens.

YOU can do this. If you will fill in and post the form below, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, you will receive full information as to how you can help.

Name

Address

I am in sympathy with the campaign.

Please let me have particulars of how I can help in the campaign.

(Delete paragraph which does not apply)

To The Only Democrats
(Non-Party)

8-9, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

FUNDS for the CAMPAIGN are REQUIRED URGENTLY.

Psychological Factors in the Cause of War

Major C. H. Douglas's Notes for a Debate with Dr. William Brown, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., before the National Council for Mental Hygiene on April 10, 1935

IN opposing the motion before you to-night, "That psychological factors play an important part in the causation of war," I am confronted with a difficulty which, at first sight, might seem, to anyone who does not live amongst barristers as I do, to be somewhat formidable—that I agree that they do. But I do not think that this agreement is fundamental, or that, in fact, it assists very much in formulating a policy for the avoidance of war.

Certain instincts in human nature appear to be basic instincts, and, as one might say, of the very nature of humanity. One of these is a continuous reaction against limitation, whether that limitation be imposed upon the individual by those functions of the community that we call "laws," or whether the limitation arise from other basic necessities, such as food, warmth, and protection from the weather. I think it is impossible to deny that war is a reaction against a threat of limitation, of exactly the same nature as the struggle of the pickpocket against the policeman whose presence threatens him with gaol. It seems to me that any argument based upon the assumption that mankind can be brought to like limitation, or can be persuaded not to react against it is bound to be illusory. It is, I believe, quite beside the point to argue that there is no such thing as an effective reaction against limitation through the agency of war, and I do not, myself, believe that it is true.

Most of the consequences which have swept over Europe, and even the world, as the apparent result of the last war are *post hoc*, not *propter hoc*. It was not true, for instance, in 1919 that in a purely economic sense, as distinct from a human and ethical sense, the world was poor because of the war. Nor is it true that the economic crises, which have been the outstanding factor in the history of the past fourteen years, are in any genuine sense the result of the war—they are pre-eminently the result of financial manipulation which accompanied the war, but was neither an integral nor an essential factor of the prosecution of the war.

If, therefore, we recognise that it is in the nature of mankind to react against limitation, and that that reaction will go to any lengths, even including those of mass murder and suicide, while it may be true, in a sense, that this basic instinct is a psychological factor and causes war, it is much more helpful to consider whether, rather than attempting to alter this basic instinct, it is not possible to remove the limitations against which it reacts with such fatal results. Obviously the first step to this end is to examine the nature of the limitations.

I might begin by emphasising the fact that there is all the difference in the world between regulation and limitation. I should define regulation as the prescribing of a particular course of action directed to an objective which receives general assent, such as, for instance, the ordinance that all motor cars shall drive on the left side of the road. A limitation, on the other hand, is something which prevents either an individual or a country from achieving something which, rightly or wrongly, it wishes to achieve.

Now in Dr. William Brown's most interesting chapter on the psychology of peace and war, he suggests that there is an element of paranoia in nations, leading to war, and that before the last Great War this was well marked in Germany, which imagined itself to be ringed round by enemies. The last thing I wish to do is to enter into an argument on the subject of war guilt, but I cannot help feeling that it is altogether too facile to take it for granted that this was a delusion. In other words, I seem to detect in psychologists in general a tendency to believe that everything is a delusion and that nothing is based upon fact, an attitude which we see in its extreme form in certain popular psychological philosophies. If it once be granted that the major mechanism for the distribution of purchasing power is the wage system, and that all the sanctions of war are used to prevent economic security and a reasonable

standard of comfort from being obtained by any method other than the provision of wages, I think it is straining the meaning of words to say that a nation, which is prevented by the commercial and political activities of other nations from keeping the whole of its population employed, is suffering from a neurosis if it imagines it is ringed round by enemies. For all practical purposes it is ringed round by enemies, and while it may be, and is true, that the proper policy to pursue is not to engage in war with those whose necessities are similar, because their conventions are similar, but rather to endeavour by every possible means—both national and international to alter those conventions, the locality in which to look for the neurosis is not in the general population but in those persons who by every possible means prevent a favourable modification of the conventions.

The difficulty which arises, of course, is that the real patient in this matter denies that he is sick, and most definitely resists any suggestion that he should be cured. Nothing is more absurd than to imagine that, for instance, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Montagu Norman, is a pure self-seeker in any sense of the word. He is a dangerous idealist, and would, no doubt, be able to adduce very substantial arguments for the ideals that he pursues.

You may at once remark that if this is the case, what is there to differentiate him, for instance, from myself. I think there is quite a short answer to this, and that is that, in my own view, the neuroses of civilisation will be resolved only by removing limitations rather than imposing them. I, myself, and those who think with me, have no very strong views as to what an ideal world ought to be like. We are merely concerned with removing any difficulties in the way of the individual achieving his own particular desires, especially in the economic sphere. We believe that the limitations placed upon the material comfort and economic security of the individual arise very largely from an assumption which is obsolescent, if not obsolete—that it is normal for every human being of adult age to be engaged in economic production, and that, therefore, he should not expect to draw from the economic pool without contributing to it.

Where I should agree at once with Dr. Brown is that there are a number of fixed ideas in most people's minds, many of them derived from a misunderstanding of morality and religion, which prevent the removal of limitations, even though this removal were otherwise feasible.

From this point of view, any therapeutic technique which can be applied to those who tenaciously hold views out of relation with the facts of modern economic life, must be of the greatest value, and I can only wish him every possible success in the application of them in the right quarters. But it is as a preparation for definite action in the material world, rather than as an end in itself, that I think the teachings of modern psychology can be of the greatest service in averting the *delirium tremens* of civilisation—modern war, and, without the action which doubtless can proceed only from right thinking, nothing can prevent an even greater catastrophe than that of the last European war.

Increasing Productive Capacity

The new coal hydrogenation units installed by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., at Billingham-on-Tees are ready for production. Ultimately this plant is expected to provide work for 1,000 operatives and 2,000 Durham miners.

Some 500 tons of bituminous coal will be treated daily. At present the vapour-phase units are manufacturing petrol from creosote oil.

The plant, which cost £4,500,000, is regarded as the greatest industrial development on the Tees since the discovery of iron ore in the Cleveland Hills—the foundation of the fortunes of the district.

For Propagandists

"The Engineer"

A brisk correspondence on Social Credit is being conducted in the columns of this famous technical journal and our engineer readers are recommended to follow it closely.

"The New Statesman"

A more than usually supercilious article about Social Credit appears in *The New Statesman* of April 13. It is entitled "The Gallant Major," by Honor Croome, and actually sets out to review in under fifteen hundred words four books by Major Douglas and also the recently published attack on him by Dr. Lewis!

The author has only the most superficial knowledge of the proposals and begins the review by implying that this is no disadvantage. The all-too-common method of making an inaccurate paraphrase of the opposing argument and then complacently demolishing it is the basis of this review. There is no need for reply, but anyone who wishes to do so, and has the time, might comment on the matter by a letter to *The New Statesman*.

B.B.C. Economics Talks

Will those readers who have facilities for listening-in to the Economics Talks in the 9.30 News Bulletin make a point of protesting, in writing, to the B.B.C. against as many as possible of the most glaring and vicious mis-statements which are likely to be contained in these talks?

The power of such "mass complaint" would be of real coercive value, and readers and others who are carrying this suggestion into effect are therefore asked to keep a record of their complaints during the month of May. This record, which would merely be a list of the dates on which the complaints were made, should be sent to the Department of Propaganda, Social Credit Secretariat (8-9 Essex Street, London, W.C.2), at the end of the month, and it should then be possible, if the number of complaints was sufficiently great, to bring some pressure to bear on the B.B.C.

TORBEN LAUB,
Director of Propaganda.

"It Is Possible . . ."—"The Times"

" . . . there are still about 20,000,000 people on relief. Much hangs on the success of the measures to be taken by the President this year. If they fail the A.A.A. may find itself faced with a real consumers' revolution.

"It is possible to eliminate a surplus by consuming more of the commodity as well as by producing less of it."—*The Times*, April 17, 1935. (Our emphasis.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The twenty-four-page Special Electoral Campaign number of April 19 was possible at the ordinary price only because the monetary guarantees of certain friends enabled us to have a much larger quantity than usual printed.

We advised the ordering of not more than three months' supply of Leaflet No. 5 (The Elector's Demand and Undertaking) in view of possible alterations. In the present instance, on the other hand, it is advisable to order immediately sufficient quantities of the Special Number for at least six months' requirements, while the type is standing. After this edition is exhausted, the price of a further reprint will have to be increased.

It should be borne in mind that this Special Number is eminently suitable to put into the hands of all enquirers and new adherents.

Women's Social Credit Movement

At the request of Major Douglas, a Women's Movement to work for the practical achievement of Social Credit is being organised.

This Movement will be affiliated to the Secretariat and will be to secure for the organisation representation of all branches of social activities with which women are concerned.

The work of this Movement will be particularly directed towards the Electoral Campaign, for which supervisors and workers are urgently needed.

Will all women interested please write to Mrs. Carlisle Sayer, Organising Secretary, c/o The Social Credit Secretariat, 8-9 Essex Street, London, W.C.2?

Labour Saving

Sheffield metallurgists are engaged in an attempt to produce a new type of stainless steel which will overcome the effects of rapid wear in the cylinders of motor-car engines.

Since the firm was established three years ago, the staff has been increased from forty to over 250 employees, and production enlarged by 600 per cent.

Plans are now virtually complete for work to start on the construction of a £750,000 deep-water quay at Jarrow Slake on the River Tyne. To be equipped with modern machinery for handling and discharging cargo the quay will measure 1,400 ft., and will provide berths for vessels up to 30,000 tons.

The first to be constructed in England, a large and intricate calculating machine known as a differential analyser has been installed in the physics laboratory of the Manchester University . . . This differential analyser will deal with abstruse mathematical problems that arise in present-day scientific research which would otherwise necessitate prolonged and in many cases imperfect, numerical calculations. The machine will also make possible many investigations which without it would be too laborious to be undertaken at all.

The above are quoted from *Industrial Britain*, April, 1935.

Sales of S.C. Books

It was recently announced in the Press that of books on sale in the Belfast area, *Economic Nationalism* by Maurice Colbourne was the best seller. This coincides with the printing and issue of the third impression of *Economic Nationalism*, the demand for which outstrips supply, and is continuing at a very high rate. The publishers, Messrs. Figurehead, are also about to issue an exceptionally important book entitled *Property—Its Substance and Value* by the Comte W. G. Serra, with a preface by the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Hewlett Johnson, D.D., B.Sc. This well-bound volume, printed on good paper, will be published at a price of 2s. 6d. net.

WANTED—CONCISE INTRODUCTORY ARTICLES.

Every week we want to publish an article explaining concisely to new readers what we are aiming at. We believe there are many ways of doing this, and we invite readers to send us suitable articles, which should not much exceed 1,000 words—brevity is a virtue.

Articles should be clearly written, with a margin, on one side of the paper only, and the actual number of words stated.

To the authors of all such articles published, we will present six months' free subscription to SOCIAL CREDIT.

A Plague on All Their Parties

Ex-Tory Trounces Tories, Whigs and Radicals

SOcial Credit means plenty in the midst of plenty as opposed to the present poverty in the midst of plenty, and thus would assure freedom for the individual. Social Credit thus has nothing in common with any existing political party, every one of which, desiring the provision of work for all as its primary objective, is essentially—though not admittedly—against individual freedom.

This open letter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Malmesbury, Hon. Treasurer of the Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union, written by Lt.-Col Creagh-Scott, a member of that union, was prompted by a circular letter dated March, 1935, from the Earl of Malmesbury, warning members of the dangers of a Socialist victory. Since all political parties are tarred with the same brush, to which this hard-hitting ex-Conservative attaches the label "Socialism, red, pink or mauve," he places before the Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union the only constructive proposal in the world which can be of any use to it.

My Lord,—As a subscribing member to the Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union, I wrote to the Editor of *Information* some time ago requesting him to publish an explanation in regard to the Douglas Social Credit analysis, and pointing out that many questions were being asked in regard to that subject. The Editor was kind enough to reply personally, but as his letter was a personal one I refrain from publishing it. But amongst other things the Editor said that Socialists were divided on the subject of Douglas Social Credit, that the majority seemed opposed to it, though, of course, they favoured the idea of a National Dividend.

It seems to me quite extraordinary that the Editor of *Information* should be so misinformed in regard to what is, and what is not Socialism, more especially as he is the Editor of political notes published under the auspices of the body which believes itself to be "Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist," every member of which, including yourself, would support the Douglas Proposals if you and they realised that those Proposals constitute the most complete antidote to Socialism at present before the electorate.

Has it occurred to you, My Lord, and to the Editor of *Information* that the Conservatives and Liberals are pseudo-Socialists—every mother's son and daughter of them? Has it occurred to the chairman, secretary and committee of the union that the very ruin against which the members of the union have been warned is being brought about, aided and abetted by your and their own unfortunate unenlightenment, or—maybe—because of a certain distaste for swallowing the gruel of enlightenment which, perforce, you and they would have to do if the Douglas Social Credit proposals were examined and understood?

The particular crisis which you wish to avert may be averted if the return of a purely Socialist Government can be averted, but if the mongrel type of Socialist, i.e., the Conservatives and Liberals be returned, or the Socialist ragoût known as the National Government were replaced in power, then there will be a crisis just the same, except that it will come about in a different manner. Nothing on earth, nor in the heavenly cloisters of Westminster, can prevent Nemesis while the three political parties persist in their common sacrifice of commonsense upon the altar of orthodox economic ordinances and political persiflage, which are the egregious corollary to their ignorance regarding the operation of the price system on modern production.

The "wait and see" attitude is not yet dead in political policy. There is a very large and rapidly increasing body of men and women—Social Crediters—who would prefer neither to wait nor see, but to strike hard *now*—without a moment's delay—for the overthrow of Socialism, red, pink and mauve. If your members and those who advise and lead them could but sharpen their sophisticated senses so that they could detect the hidden hand that holds and controls Socialists, pseudo-Socialists, and Anti-Socialists, then, My Lord, the organisation of which you are the worthy treasurer would be worthy of the name it bears which, at present, it is not. In proof of this I would ask you to be good enough to answer the following three simple questions, the answer to which will be the acid test of the veracity of the claim that you and the members of the union are Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist.

1. Do you, in principle, support the wage system as the only means of subsistence?
2. What difference is there, in principle, between the dole, poor relief, etc., and National Dividends?
3. Do you consider that taxation, in principle, is scientifically and morally justifiable?

I note, My Lord, that the motto of your distinguished ancestry is *ubique patriam reminisci*, which should serve to remind you that you are called upon to remember your country everywhere, and, therefore, to examine dispassionately the case for Douglas Social Credit which vast numbers throughout the country and the Empire support, because it is the only real Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union. You will find also that it will help you and the members of the "Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union" to diagnose a condition of cumulated hypocrisy in your ranks which—though entirely unintentional—is making you and them appear very ridiculous.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your humble servant and Anti-Socialist,

J. CREAGH SCOTT.

We Are a Rich Country

Says Sir Stephen Demetriadi, President of the London Chamber of Commerce.

SIR STEPHEN DEMETRIADI, K.B.E. (President of the London Chamber of Commerce), replying to the toast [of "Trade and Industry"], said he would like in the first place to express to Sir Josiah Stamp his best thanks for the very kind remarks he had made. When he (the speaker) was asked to respond to the toast of "Trade and Industry," he was informed that he ought to be very brief and in that respect he would not disappoint them. The position of trade and industry at the present time, both nationally and internationally, reminded him of an old nursery rhyme:—

"The centipede was happy quite,
Until the toad in fun,
Asked him which leg went after which;
Which worked his mind to such a pitch;
He lay distracted in a ditch,
Considering how to run."

(Laughter.)

They had succeeded in making what was originally and what should still be a simple business into some-

thing so involved and complex that trade and industry, like the centipede, were lying down and passing quietly away. The international trade last year was only one-third of what it was in the year 1929. In simpler and, he suggested, in saner days, nobody had the least doubt as to what constituted wealth. Wealth consisted of the things human beings wanted—food, clothes, houses, horses and beautiful works of art. And the more of those things a man possessed, the richer he was reckoned to be. It was quite clearly understood that the reason why a man produced things was so that his friends, his relations and his retainers might consume them; and those simple souls would have been amazed to hear from more subtle moderns that what they should have done to become truly wealthy was to have restricted their production and burned, or otherwise destroyed, part of it—that in that way, by making it scarcer, they would make it also more valuable. Even the great merchant adventurers who set off on perilous voyages laden with hatchets, with beads and with gin, and returned with ivory, spices and silks, would have been

somewhat surprised to learn that, according to modern notions, they would have done far greater service to the community had they been instrumental in exporting those goods, while successfully evading the obligation of importing anything at all in exchange for them. (Laughter.)

International trade, instead of becoming an exchange of goods and services between nations to their mutual advantage, had become a desperate struggle by one to undersell the other. Those early ancestors of ours would, he was sure, be amazed to hear that great masses of people were in destitution, not because there was not enough to go round, but because there was too much, and that in consequence their labour was not needed to produce more. It sometimes seemed to him that the present mess in which the world found itself was so essentially devoid of reason that perhaps the answer which had been hidden from the wise and prudent might yet be revealed to babes and sucklings; in other words, he thought it was not impossible that the centipede might yet decide to forget all about the toad and might just get up and walk quietly away. (Laughter and applause.)—From *The Accountant*, April 13, 1935.

Active Service

We invite contributions to this column. The experiences of workers in the Electoral Campaign will be especially welcome. Questions asked and answers given, humorous incidents, brief reports of meetings, and anything relevant to the prosecution of the campaign to bring about Social Credit, will be acceptable. Please mark postcards or letters "Active Service."

Gateshead Gets Ahead

The District Supervisor in Gateshead has a slogan, "Gateshead for Social Credit this Year," and believes that it can and will be justified. By way of a start he has already obtained 2,761 votes with a team of five men. Next week he will have seven men. We hate to be hackneyed but that is the stuff to give the troops

Widnes At It Again

The last report from Widnes seems to be unbeatable—but we are just waiting to see the next report from Widnes. Believe it or not, in 31½ hours they collected 540 signatures. One signature every 3½ minutes will take some beating even by Widnes. Residents in Skegness are recommended to try Widnes for their holiday, it is so bracing.

Lowdowns from Liverpool

Now that the warm weather has arrived, it is best to concentrate on open-air meetings for securing recruits for the Electoral Campaign. Liverpool finds a saving of a hundred per cent. in forms and a considerable saving in time—not yet specified—if the form is delivered with a few words of explanation, rather than thrust under the door. Will those who have completed their thirty days' trials kindly try the experiment, advising headquarters when they do it and the results attendant thereon?

Tip for the Electoral Campaign

A local cinema has been induced by one of the Electoral Campaign organisations to throw on the screen an intimation that those who desire to sign the forms may do so there, and deposit the forms with the attendant for the collector when he calls. In view of the confidential nature of the signatures, it is perhaps as well to provide the attendants with a cheap device in the shape of a box or something of that kind to preserve the secrecy.

Visitors to Norway

Will any Social Crediters who are intending to visit Norway (for however short a period) and who are willing to do a little light and pleasant holiday propaganda there please write to the Director of Overseas Relations, Social Credit Secretariat, 8-9 Essex Street, London, W.C.2, as long before their visit as possible?

ELECTORS

DEMAND NATIONAL DIVIDENDS

Leaflet No. 4

For Recruiting.—The leaflet is designed as an aid to recruiting and contains a space in which the address of the local group or District Supervisor can be inserted with a rubber stamp.

It can be used for distribution at meetings, or for delivery by post or from door to door, and is admirably suited to be left behind after collecting signed demand forms.

It is printed in purple and orange, as these two colours emphasise each other, and the latter will always catch the eye whether it may be lying amongst other papers or by itself on the floor.

Leaflet No. 5

Elector's Demand and Undertaking.—This is the instrument of the Electoral Campaign, fully described in our Special Electoral Campaign Number, April 19, 1935, and can be obtained either in purple on orange or purple on white, the latter only for experimental purposes until it has been proved by results to be the superior in use in a particular locality.

Leaflet No. 6

For Personal and Business Friends.—Not suitable for the house-to-house canvass, but for use in offices, factories, or by travellers, or at parties. Contains space for twenty-four signatures. Also described in our Special Electoral Campaign Number, April 19, 1935.

Prices of Leaflets

Leaflet No. 4: 6s. for 1,000 (postage 9d.); 3s. for 500 (postage 9d.); 1s. 6d. for 250 (postage 4d.); 7d. for 100 (postage 2d.).
 Leaflet No. 5: (post free) 12s. 6d. for 1,000; 6s. 3d. for 500; 3s. 2d. for 250; 1s. 7d. for 125; 10d. for 60; 5d. for 30.
 Leaflet No. 6: (carriage extra) 25s. 6d. for 1,000; 3s. for 100; 1s. 6d. for 50; 9d. for 25.
 Obtainable from the offices of SOCIAL CREDIT, 9 Regent Square, King's Cross, London, W.C.1.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Active Service in the Electoral Campaign

I was very much surprised to see in the Special Electoral Campaign Number of SOCIAL CREDIT, April 19, references to those sections of the Social Credit Movement which, for reasons of their own, do not wish to embark on the Electoral Campaign.

Such remarks as, for example, "Groups that 'know better than anybody' don't work at the Electoral Campaign; they just talk," and "The Banker's best friends—those who 'know too much' to work at the Electoral Campaign," are obviously intended to be condemnatory.

It seems a pity that the official organ of the Social Credit Secretariat should descend to such methods of propaganda; it's not in the least convincing and is apt to antagonise otherwise whole-hearted support of the Campaign.

The rank and file of either persuasion are not interested in party disputes in the movement, and are solely concerned with the aims of Social Credit. Cannot the matter be dropped—at least in public?

London. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNER.

[If there are any in the Social Credit Movement who for good reasons do not wish to embark on the Electoral Campaign, that is one thing, but it would be well to be very sure that they are impersonal reasons and not merely a disinclination to the personal effort involved, which (at first sight) may seem tremendous. It is occasionally necessary to point out that those who are not acting according to directions issued from the Secretariat are not living up to their professed principles.—Ed.]

We Must Pull Our Weight

Herewith cheque value £12, my contribution as one of the two hundred.* By self denial, I shall cause the brewer and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pay at least part of this sum.

Reported to-day, Mr. Baldwin tells us that he feels that he is living in a madhouse.

In 1933, Mr. Lloyd George informed the world that we British were like a Nation of Lunatics governed by lunatics.

Let us be thankful that an organisation of sane people does exist in the world-wide Social Credit crusade; divided a little 'tis true, on the question of methods, but united in the clear view of the objective.

Magnanimity must prevail, and success is certain if we pull our weight at this most critical stage of the conflict.

We are taught that it is the hope of reward that sweetens labour; what greater reward can we have than to give true freedom to our children—to make them economically free?

Whether it be twelve pounds, twelve shillings or as many pence, all will surely make an effort.

K.

* Our correspondent refers to Miss de Castro's appeal in SOCIAL CREDIT of March 8 for 200 Social Crediters who would pay £1 a month for twelve months to keep the Social Credit Secretariat and this paper afloat during the present critical period.—Ed.]

Good Propaganda

Mrs. Clifford's most interesting letter in SOCIAL CREDIT for April 26, in which she tells of speaking "for about five minutes to an audience of 500 Public Assistance Committee delegates, on the subject of a National Dividend, etc.," calls for special comment.

First, I would like to suggest that each of those Public Assistance Committee delegates should be presented with a copy of the Electoral Campaign Special Number of April 19.

Secondly, I should like to suggest a threepenny fund for paying for this presentation.

Each copy will cost 2d. and 1d. postage, besides the initial outlay of correspondence with Mrs. Clifford, covers, etc., and I suggest that everyone willing to support this proposal should send you at once two three-halfpenny stamps for this specific purpose. I enclose four three-halfpenny stamps as a start. Postages at the

Secretariat must mount up with incredible rapidity, and no doubt stamps will be very welcome in payment for these very important side issues which should receive special help if they are to be carried out. This little job—which I am sure is well worth doing—will cost £6 5s. 6d. M.D.C.

Social Credit Slogans

I wonder whether it would be possible to make capital out of the attack being launched against us by financial interests.

For instance the contents bill of SOCIAL CREDIT might contain something in the following vein:—

"Read SOCIAL CREDIT—the Paper under the Bankers' Ban."

"Social Credit Suppressed for Fifteen Years—Why? Read SOCIAL CREDIT, 2d. weekly."

"Why Finance Frowns on Social Credit."

"Hush-Hush! Never Mention National Dividends."

It is, I believe, well known that for anything to be placed on the index inspires many people with a desire, even a determination, to find out all about it.

Dorset.

SAGITTARIUS.

[We would welcome suggestions for the suitable wording of posters to attract new readers. Already we have had a number of which some have been acted upon.—Ed.]

Cancelling Consumer Credit.

It is interesting to read the various efforts made to supply information on this subject which seems to be so obscure to some people.

As a form of mental gymnastics — and, therefore, excellent in itself even apart from its objective—one can follow with avidity, concern, despair, amusement, incredulity, disagreement, approval or mental exhaustion, the endless opinions of the students of Social Credit technique.

Occasionally—though very rarely—one feels tempted to force one's own microscopic rapier between the crossed swords of the energetic combatants — but why trouble?

Nothing is more stimulating to the palates of certain tasters than a smack of acidity; or to thinkers, than a little contradiction. The mere effort to annihilate the other fellow often adds rigour to one's own attack, and verbs and adjectives to one's vocabulary; or (of course, more rarely) to one's grip of this elusive subject.

If or when the fight becomes too fast or furious it seems to me that the referee's whistle might take this form: H.M. The King says, "It cannot be beyond the power of man so to use the vast resources of the world as to ensure the material progress of civilisation." And Social Credit Students of sixteen years' standing feel that the wits of the man who discovered (1) The Gap, (2) The Flaw in the Costing System, (3) The Social Credit remedy, can scarcely be incapable of providing the correct method of retiring consumer credits.

Credit: Belief in, from Credo: I believe—in Major Douglas

ONE-OF-A-NUMBER.

This Age of Finance-Magic

The Daily Express reports that panic buying has been caused by the devaluation of the belga. One old Luxemburg couple, fearing for their savings, bought a couple of coffins. Another couple—not so old—bought three perambulators, while a third couple bought kitchen stoves for their three daughters, the eldest of whom is thirteen.

It will depend upon the policy of the Central Bank of Belgium whether the coffins remain coffins, or whether they reduce themselves to matchboxes, but they may just as likely become mausoleums. As for the perambulators they may become Rolls-Royces, or soap-boxes, and what the kitchen stoves may be the Banker alone knows! Isn't Banking wonderful?

Bucks.

R.R.M.

What to Read

Books by Major C. H. Douglas:—

Economic Democracy 4th Edition, 1934. 3s. 6d.
The original statement of the philosophy and proposals of Major Douglas.

Social Credit, temporarily out of print ... 3s. 6d.
Contains the philosophical background and includes the Draft Scheme for Scotland.

The Control and Distribution of Production. 2nd Edition, 1934 ... 3s. 6d.

Credit Power and Democracy. 4th Edition, 1934 ... 3s. 6d.

Warning Democracy. 2nd Edition, 1934 ... 3s. 6d.

The Monopoly of Credit ... 3s. 6d.

The Douglas Manual, by Philip Mairet ... 5s. od.
A Douglas concordance and a valuable reference book.

Economic Nationalism, by Maurice Colbourne. 3rd Edition, 1935 ... 3s. 6d.
For readers with no previous knowledge of the subject.

The A.B.C. of Social Credit, by E. Sage Holter ... 3s. 6d.

Ordeal by Banking, by W. Allen Young ... 2s. od.

Books bearing on the subject, but not solely devoted to Social Credit:—

This Age of Plenty, by C. Marshall Hattersley. 3s. 6d. and 6s. od.

A very popular exposition of the paradox of Poverty and Plenty.

The Coming of Community, by W. T. Symons ... 7s. 6d.

Life and Money, by Eimar O'Duffy ... 2s. 6d.

The Community's Credit, by C. Marshall Hattersley ... 1s. od.

Pamphlets by Major C. H. Douglas:—

These Present Discontents: The Labour Party and Social Credit ... 1s. od.

The Use of Money ... 6d.

The Nature of Democracy ... 6d.

Money and the Price System (Speech before the King of Norway) ... 3d.

Social Credit Principles ... 1d.

Pamphlets by other writers:—

Introduction to Social Credit, by M. Gordon Cumming ... 6d.

Poverty Amidst Plenty, by C. F. J. Galloway ... 6d.

An Outline of Social Credit, by H. M. M. ... 6d.

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Short Papers on Money, by the Marquis of Tavistock ... 6d.

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The Abolition of Poverty: A Brief Explanation of the Proposals of Major C. H. Douglas, by R. S. J. Rands ... 4d.

Why Poverty in the Midst of Plenty? by the Dean of Canterbury ... 4d.

Men, Money and Machines, by C. Marshall Hattersley ... 3d.

The Douglas Theory and its Communal Implications, by Fred Tait (revised edition) ... 3d.

Outside Eldorado, by J. E. Tuke ... 3d.

False Prophets and False Profits, by Capt. W. Adams ("Daran") ... 1d.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEETINGS

Notices will be accepted for this column at 6d. a line, minimum three lines.

We suggest more extensive use of this column by affiliated groups for making their announcements. At present many groups notify their members by post, which costs both labour and expense that might be greatly reduced by a notice in this column. It would then only be necessary to draw the attention of the members to the fact that they would in future find all announcements concerning them in SOCIAL CREDIT.

Notices must reach the publishing office by the Monday morning before the date of issue.

To Let

Cottage with lounge hall, living room, kitchenette, two bedrooms (3 beds); Bournemouth 15 minutes by bus; close to golf links, woodland and moorland walks nearby. Full particulars and photo on receipt of stamped addressed envelope, to The Cottage, West Parley, Wimborne. Terms: Easter to end of June, 30s. weekly; July to September, two guineas weekly, payable to the Secretariat, less 15 per cent., as a contribution to the funds from the owner. A few dates in May and June, August and September, are still vacant. The response to this advertisement has already secured over £15 for the funds.

Belfast Douglas Social Credit Group

Public Meetings.—A meeting will be held at Headquarters, 72, Ann Street, on each Thursday, until further notice, at 7.45 p.m. prompt. Admission free.

Group Monthly Meeting.—The Monthly Group Meeting will be held at Headquarters on Tuesday, May 7, at 7.45 p.m. prompt. Admission on production of Membership Card or other establishment of identity.

NOTICE

Enquiries should be addressed as follows in regard to:
1. Douglas Social Credit: The Secretary, Social Credit Secretariat, 8-9, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

2. The Electoral Campaign: The Secretary, The Only Democrats, 8-9, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

3. The Editorial, Publishing and Advertising Departments of this paper: The Editor, the Manager, and the Advertising Manager, respectively, SOCIAL CREDIT, 9, Regent Square, London, W.C.1.

Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with any communication calling for a reply.

THE MONEY LEAFLET ENCLOSED

See pages 188 and 196.

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1933 Austin 10 h.p. Saloon de Luxe, black and brown	97	10	0
1933 Austin light 12/4 (Tax £9) Saloon de Luxe, colour blue; exceptional condition	99	0	0
1934 Austin 7 h.p. Saloon, colour brown, one owner, small mileage; faultless condition	85	0	0
1933 Austin 7 h.p. Saloon de Luxe, blue, one owner; exceptional condition	70	0	0
1933 Austin 7 h.p. Saloon de Luxe, fawn and black, one owner since new; excellent con- dition	67	10	0
1934 Ford V.8 4-door Saloon, one owner, small mileage, as new	155	0	0
1933 Ford V.8 drop head Coupe, 5 practically new tyres, Lucas dippers, faultless con- dition	77	10	0
1934 Graham 6-cyl. Saloon, 7,000 miles, black, faultless	225	0	0
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1933 Riley 9 h.p. Sunshine Saloon de Luxe, maroon and black, one owner; faultless	155	0	0
1934 Vauxhall 12 h.p. Saloon de Luxe, black and blue, one owner; perfect	147	10	0
1929 Riley Mark IV. Fabric Saloon, maroon and grey	57	10	0
1929 Triumph Super Seven Gordon England Saloon, grey, taxed, one owner, perfect con- dition	35	0	0
1933 Wolsley Hornet Saloon de Luxe, blue; taxed year	80	0	0
1934 Vauxhall 14 h.p. Saloon de Luxe, black and blue, one owner; exceptional condition	147	10	0
1934 Wolsley 21/60 Saloon de Luxe, 8,000 miles	245	0	0

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The Pied Piper

MANY years ago, before markets were plagued with burdensome surpluses, the good ratepayers of Hamelin were troubled with rats. There were far too many rats, and they were not good rats which reduced a sufficiency, but tiresome rodents which increased a deficiency. The citizens of Hamelin did not read daily newspapers, and they did not know what it was to suffer from good harvests, but they did know that they did not eat what was eaten by the rats, and they grew quite annoyed with the vermin.

The Hamelin rats even went so far as to eat sprats at a time when sprats were not used as manure, or thrown back in the sea; they were the cause of worry to the Dairy Marketing Board because they ate what little cheese there was, and even the social service organisations were angry because the rats made their nests in the old hats the nice people had collected for the poo-ah. Even the coroners complained about their biting the babies, but those archaic coroners had never heard of a surplus population, and they did not blame parents for increasing the number of babies, but the rats for reducing them. However, we may take it for granted that the rats were regarded as a plague, and the citizens became pretty fed up with the rich flavour of rat in their soup, in fact it was about all there was to feed them.

What did the citizens do about it? Did they form study circles to discuss ways and means of getting rid of the rats? We have no record that they did any such thing, although doubtless there were many who favoured poison rather than cats, while the more orthodox spoke of traps as being more efficient than dogs. The citizens brought the matter before their mayor and corporation.

Now the mayor and corporation of Hamelin had spent many and long days discussing ways and means of ridding their town of rats. One councillor favoured trapping, another preferred dogs, while a third insisted that both these METHODS were wrong, and that he would use poison gas. It will be seen how very like another corporation which meets at Westminster was the Hamelin Corporation. It was only quite recently that the Westminster councillors were quarrelling over METHODS of killing caterpillars! All the METHODS of these second-rate experts had failed, but they blamed the citizens, because they said the citizens had voted for such METHODS.

The citizens became highly annoyed at the continual delays in ridding the town of rats. For years they had been told the end was in sight, or just round the corner, and they had become rather tired of repeated references to the turn of the tide. They did not even trouble to ask if the mayor and corporation could free them of the curse. They sent a deputation to the mayor and corporation, and this deputation departed from all precedent. They told the mayor and corporation that if they did not see the town was freed from rats they would sack the lot!

What could the mayor and corporation do? They had held enquiries into the question of the origin of rats, and the effects of various kinds of antidotes, all to no avail. Conferences had been held daily, and each had resulted in other conferences, but here were the people asking for RESULTS, and demanding that those RESULTS should be given very quickly.

It was just at this point that a stranger walked into the council chamber. He was a musician, but he asked if he rid the town of rats, would they give him a thousand guilders? Obviously he was a crank, because what business was it of a musician to interfere in the rat-catching industry? However, he mentioned that he had carried out a number of engineering problems in India and other parts of the world, and though he did not even say he knew anything about rats, still it was obvious he was willing to try.

The offer to produce RESULTS had come as a considerable surprise to the mayor and corporation, so much so in fact that they did not think of appointing a committee, with its consequent sub-committees, to examine the proposal, neither did members have time to think of resolutions and amendments so beloved by all representative assemblies. They accepted the offer on the spot, and even suggested increasing the remuneration.

Without wasting time the musician set to work, and to the consternation of the authorities he did not even trouble to take for himself palatial offices, or engage an expensive staff, as was done in a later age by experts dealing with a plague of milk. He merely called a tune and the rats danced to it, and they just faded away from the sight of the people. It was so simple in fact, that the mayor and corporation repudiated their part of the contract.

Not all the rats were taken away. One was left, and it is believed that the musician left it in memory of the Hamelin School of Ratcatching very much in the same way as a certain engineer might leave one workhouse as a permanent memorial to the London School of Economics, should he be called upon to remove the plague of poverty from Britain.

In demanding RESULTS as they did, the citizens of Hamelin acted entirely in a democratic manner, but it is not suggested they were the only democrats. We might well follow their example, because we are suffering to-day from a plague of poverty. We know there could be plenty of all we want, but our representatives at Westminster are not seeing that we get it. We watch them removing the plenty while we want the poverty removed. The experts say they can't do it, and an engineer says he can. We want it done, so all we need to do is to say so, and tell our representatives at Westminster we will sack the lot if they do not see that we get what we want. If we do this in the democratic way, by using out votes at the next election as suggested by The Only Democrats, we shall HAVE IT DONE, and HOW IT WILL BE DONE is a matter for the engineer. He chooses the METHOD; we choose the RESULT, and Parliament signs the contract on our behalf, and sees that the contractor delivers the goods.

Musicians are like poets and dreamers, and a certain professor of economics has told us engineers are poets and dreamers, and not severely practical persons like economists. Therefore, engineers must be like musicians! Since a musician removed the rats from Hamelin there is no reason why an engineer should not remove poverty from England. Let him have a try. Engineers' dreams, unlike the dreams of so many other folk, have a way of coming true.

T. H. STORY.