

THE SOCIAL CREDITER

FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

Vol. 36. No. 10. A

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1957.

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Postage: At home 2d., abroad 1d.

6d. Weekly

Modern Science

By TUDOR JONES, Sc.D., M.D., F.R.S.E.

A REVISION OF THIS ESSAY, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THESE PAGES IN THE LATTER PART OF 1943 AND EARLY 1944, HAS FOUND NO MAJOR ALTERATIONS NECESSARY. DR. JONES HAS, HOWEVER, ADDED A NUMBER OF FOOTNOTES AND A POSTSCRIPT.

(V)

Thorpe* calls physics and chemistry "twin sisters, daughters of Natural Philosophy, like Juno's swans, coupled and inseparable."

The same author has noticed that Lavoisier's views were not accepted immediately in Germany, Sweden and England. "The spirit of revolution, even though it might be an intellectual revolution, had not extended to these countries."† I note Thorpe's description of the provinces of physics and chemistry. "Physics," he says, "is concerned with the forms of energy which affect matter; chemistry with the study of matter so affected. Each, then, is complementary to the other."

In the light of a sentence from a letter by Major Douglas which I have been privileged to see, how is this 'complementary' characteristic regarded by those who wish to extend 'education' in the higher seats of learning to something like three times its present proportions?

Douglas wrote: "What I am trying to do is to synthesise the situation away from the Encyclopædistic heresy, which is simply a Satanic application of the principle of divide and rule."

Forty-three *per cent.* of the total candidates at the School Certificate examination in July, 1929, offered Chemistry to Boards other than Oxford and Cambridge to 27½ *per cent.* offering Physics. The figures for the Oxford and Cambridge Boards were 22 *per cent.*, and 19 *per cent.*, in itself a curious, and, in my opinion, a not unimportant distinction.

Does it indicate the influence of the Board of Education, the preference of urban parents for the study of the material before the study of the immaterial, the inspiration of Widnes odours, or what? Only 4 *per cent.* of school candidates offered Mechanics‡ (*i.e.*, the Science of Mechanics,

which invigorates the conditions which govern the motion of bodies) and they were all 'Other Board' scholars. Twenty-five Oxford and Cambridge Board scholars offered *both* Physics and Chemistry, "like Juno's swans, coupled and inseparable," to 3 *per cent.* of scholars examined by 'Other Boards.'

Professor Irvine Masson, a chemist himself, has written about this matter: "Let me make no bones about this early juvenile school chemistry; a great deal of it is worth very little indeed. A great deal of it is taught by those unlucky (because misdirected) persons, the Honours graduates in chemistry, who ought to have been given a good broad pass course which would have afforded them a reasonable perspective. It is in no way their fault; if you turn out a specialist to teach youngsters, can he be blamed if he transmits the only thing you have equipped him with? I make no apology for selecting chemistry for special comment, because the universities produce far more Honours graduates in chemistry alone than in any other experimental science, and nearly as many as in all the other experimental sciences put together." And, again: "... as a chemist I deplore the extraordinary number of children well under sixteen who study chemistry . . . for young people under sixteen, to differentiate and to develop the branches of physical science as much as is done strikes me as quite artificial." Now that Professor Masson is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, I hope he is not too busy measuring the strength of the (chemical) current to effect some reform. The distribution of full-time advanced students (*i.e.*, post-graduate) in England, Scotland and Wales in 1930 was: Mathematics, 7.5; Physics, 16.0; Chemistry, 50.3; Botany, 9.9.; Zoology, 7.5; Physiology, 4.6; Geology, 4.1. The figures are *per cent.*)

The late Sir Alexander Pedler was, from 1907 until his death in 1918, Secretary of the British Science Guild, a body which will always be memorable if only on account of its transient attachment to Dr. Sprague, the Bank of England *cum* Harvard *cum* New Deal-Federal Reserve-Board fame. Of Pedler it is recorded that he "was appointed by the Secretary of State for India to a post likely to involve original investigation, because a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, with ideas in advance of contemporary public opinion," (*i.e.*, Bengali public opinion?) "wished to add a competent chemist to the staff of the provincial Agricultural Department. A new Lieutenant-Governor,

(Continued on page 3.)

* Sir Edward Thorpe: *History of Chemistry*, 1909.

† Lavoisier, himself a member of the Paris Commune, was executed by the Convention—"La république n'a besoin de savants."

In 1768 he had become a member of the *Ferme-général*, a company of financiers to whom the State conceded, for a fixed annual sum, the right of collecting the indirect taxes of France. He excused the excesses of the Revolution in a letter to Priestley, on the ground that they were "committed for the love of liberty, philosophy, and toleration, and that there was no danger of such things being done in France for an inferior motive." (Acton, p. 91).

‡ The untrained should bear in mind that Mechanics has *primarily* nothing to do with machines but with the general derivative laws of motion.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: *Home and abroad, post free:*
One year 30/-; Six months 15/-; Three months 7s. 6d.
 Offices—*Business and Editorial:* 11, GARFIELD STREET, BELFAST.
Telephone: Belfast 27810.

Law and Orders

“Legislation has not always meant what we understand by it to-day, or even what Coke understood by it in the seventeenth century, as that which has received the ‘three-fold assent of King, Lords and Commons’ . . . Judges did not consider themselves ‘bound’ by statutes as they do to-day . . . they were the servants and mouthpieces of the Common Law, not of parchments or edicts; and the scant respect which they sometimes paid to ‘statutes’ has led to a theory that the position in the Middle Ages was the converse of that which exists to-day, and that all enacted law was subordinate in the last resort to a supreme overriding, Common Law. This was an exaggeration, but not a very serious one. Even in Blackstone there remain some supposed limitations on the scope of an Act of Parliament, not the least being a Law of God . . . and it was not until the nineteenth century that this last restraint was finally recognised by the Judges, and legislation was finally recognised as possessing complete supremacy over the law of the land, Common Law, previous legislation and prerogative, like.”

—C. K. Allen: *Law and Orders*, pp. 19-20. (The emphasis is ours).

The July number of *The Catholic Lawyer*, that excellent monthly from the United States, reprints an address given to law students at Birmingham by Lord Radcliffe, in which he advanced the very pertinent suggestion that to preserve the dignity of a concept of Law there ought to be a different term for all the mass of enactments which pass through the legislature and should be called, he suggests, “para-laws” or “sub-laws,” rather in the way railway regulations have always been known as by-laws. He traced the uphill battle by which, little by little, a severely positive and practical conception of enactment has supplanted the older conception of the Law as a great humane study, the Inns of Courts ranking as a University education, when Law was seen as something with its own life and nature, so that it could be contested in the eighteenth century that statutory enactments were only valid if they fitted into the established framework of the Law as it had been handed down. Behind this reasoning there are theological conceptions, which have not kept their authority in the modern age, and over a great deal of the earth’s surface to-day Law is simply what the government of the country in question chooses it shall be.

—*The Tablet*, Aug. 17, 1957.

The Development of World Dominion

During the period of the Socialist Administration in Great Britain, following the end of World War II, *The Social Crediter* analysed the activities of that administration in our progress to disaster; and emphasised over and over that a change of administration would not mean a change of policy. The Constitutional issue, philosophy, politics, economics and strategy were examined in the notes under the heading “From Week to Week.” Written or inspired by the late C. H. Douglas, these notes are a permanent and invaluable addition to our understanding of the policies of opposed philosophies, and we propose to re-publish a considerable selection of them, both for their relevance to a situation which has developed but not otherwise altered under a ‘new’ Administration, and for the benefit of new readers of this journal to whom otherwise they are not readily available.

The date of original publication is given in brackets after each item.

By the time these words appear in print, Parliament will have discussed the Bretton Woods racket. It is a measure of the accomplishments of the Social Credit movement that there is in the country and in the House of Commons a not inconsiderable minority of more or less informed opinion on the elements of finance. Twenty-five years ago, “Bretton Woods” could have been put through unexposed; we are fairly confident that Mr. Hugh Dalton, the People’s Advocate, will have to tread very delicately indeed to keep the peculiar position of a “Labour” Chancellor supporting a Gold Standard Bank proposal from looking just a trifle odd. But doubtless he will do it, with the aid of a few well tried stalwarts such as “World Peace,” “International Trade” and “Full employment.” For our own part, we are so assured that sanctions and not technics are involved (and we have no immediate sanctions) that we propose to leave the matter to the play of forces until exposure seems to have languished at the hands of those who are concerned with it.

There is one aspect of the matter to which more attention must be drawn, however. It is stated that (a) We must sign a chit for about 125 million sterling, value received in lease-lend, immediately; (b) In five years, we are to begin to pay back eleven hundred million pounds we have never received, just like 1920.

Just exactly how does it come about, if it does come about, that any and every transaction between this country and the United States involves (1) Loss of prestige. (2) Loss of money. (3) Disproportionately high taxation allegedly to pay for disproportionately small services to a common cause. (4) The progress towards power of agencies such as P.E.P., the Fabian Society, and other promoters of monopoly masquerading as “People’s Movements”? It should be observed that each and every one of these effects, repeated almost without variation from 1920, tends directly to the elimination of Great Britain as a World Power.

Only ordinary intelligence combined with a willingness to undertake a not very arduous examination of the mass of evidence available, is necessary to assure anyone that the most gigantic, conscious, and successful robbery in all history has been progressively taking place on the natives of these islands, more notably since the access to power of the Liberal Government in 1906. Its earlier stages were carried out more through the Stock Exchange and Real Property Markets; the later stages have been Governmental and Fiscal, together with currency manipulation. The penultimate stage is the "nationalisation" of such private property as remains, when at the final stage, the title deeds to once-great Britain will be neatly tied with red tape and handed over to the World State run from Wall Street—or Jerusalem.

(Dec. 22, 1945).

The calculated leak of Lord Keynes's statement that the British losses in killed and missing were three and a half times as great as those of the U.S.A.; that the British forces contributed twice as many man-years to the war as the U.S.A.; that total British war expenditure was 50 per cent. greater; the United Kingdom suffered thirty-five times more loss of external investments than U.S.A.; lost twenty-million tons (one-half) of shipping while U.S.A. shipping increased four times may be helpful to the horse-trade now proceeding in Washington, but we are far from sure. The reaction of the Americans is quite likely to be "Any-one can be sold a pup once; but people who allow themselves to be sold worse pups every twenty years don't need sympathy; they need a trained nurse." And we find ourselves not wholly without agreement.

It seems impossible to believe that this country has always to start behind scratch and to win barren victories at ruinous prices. The Americans are, averaged out, a capable agglomeration—about one fifth to one eighth as capable as they think and say they are. But it is obvious that they are incomparably better managed than we are, or seem likely to be. We are worse managed nowadays than we have been for two hundred years.

The position may be hopeless, but there is little doubt that instead of allowing ourselves to be insulted by atrocity trials of sadistic half-wits, we need some impeachments of such "leaders" as the ineffable Baldwin and some of the big bankers and industrialists who surround him. We will grant Mr. Attlee and his "Labour" Party this point, with compliments: that the conduct of British affairs between 1919 and the access to power of Mr. Chamberlain, a period during which Baldwin was dominant and Labour an eager accessory, passed all bounds of incompetence, and verged on downright treachery. And everyone concerned, who is still alive, should be arraigned for it.

(Oct. 6, 1945).

"More than two thousand youths enter the Army each year who cannot even sign their name."

—General Sir William Slim.

We aren't told how many who don't enter the Army

each year can't sign their name. But they can all make a cross on a "secret" ballot paper, even if they can't read the name of the candidate. So they just about cancel the votes of the few thousand whose opinion on political matters is worth attention.

(Aug. 20, 1949).

The "B".B.C. (Vice-Chairman, STELLA, Mrs. Isaacs, Marchioness of Reading) is highly nervous of the secret ballot issue, and with reason. In announcing the coming elections in Finland, it went out of its way to suggest how perfectly d'markratic the water-tight nature of the ballot-box arrangements would make them. The degradation of British politics can almost be identified with the introduction of the secret ballot. A man who is ashamed or afraid to let it be known how he votes, is afraid to take responsibility for the consequence of his voting and has no right to vote.

(July 10, 1943).

MODERN SCIENCE— (continued from page 1.)

with other ideas, was authorised to suppress the post of Agricultural Chemist and offer Pedler employment in the Bengal Education Department. . . . " And so the Bengali were taught chemistry, instead of preparing for a House of Lords Debate on manures. Possibly there has been still another Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal since then. Evidently the ascendancy of chemistry is a world-wide ascendancy.

One has only to consider the fact, to which Douglas has drawn attention, that the profits arising from the phenomenal growth of chemical techniques have remained largely undistributed, to question the theory that the needs of industry, in any form comprehensible to the ordinary man are even a subordinate requirement of those who have engineered it. What made weighty tomes on chemistry the companions of the Russian Nihilists in their moments of relaxation? Kropotkin's notion that chemistry more disposes to invention than other sciences because it involves the use of the hands is nonsense. The determination of the surface tension of a liquid involves the use of the hands; experimental verification of the laws of friction involves the use of the hands; all establishment of correspondence between 'Laws' and actual experience involves the use of the hands.

There is something deeper than this.

(VI)

Of a fast-moving, interrelated system of thought and action such as our political-economic society, it is difficult to take a "bird's-eye" view, and the more of a specialist one is, the more difficult it is. The fostering of specialisation of function is, therefore, a powerful weapon wherewith to gain the mastery over society, ready to the hand of anyone who has power to use it in alliance with the intention to dictate policy. Bearing this in mind, a totalitarian government, is by definition, a hidden government: it sees without itself being seen. It sees the confluence of the streams of individual action, while the individuals contributing see only individuals and individual acts.

Mr. G. M. Young to whom I have already referred in these articles, has been complaining against the tendency to proffer a "simple diagnosis." While freely admitting that a complicated diagnosis is much harder to understand, and therefore much easier, if wrong, to "put over," I submit that what is required is a diagnosis, and that its accordance or otherwise with the powers of the education-shocked public to understand it is a speculative irrelevance which might well be left to be dealt with when the diagnosis is found. At the same time, I think we may be grateful for Mr. Young's story of the secondary-school children who could not use a French dictionary because they had not learned the letters of the alphabet in the traditional order. Without going further at the present stage, but as something germane to the issue, it should be pointed out that the divorce of a mastery of English from familiarity with other languages effected has arisen, in part, from the same cause as the separation of physics from chemistry, namely, insistence upon carrying instruction to the boundary of mental capacity. Never mind the child; find a way of making it learn *something*, never mind what, or why. It *must* learn: we must be "an educated democracy."

It will be apparent that of the 43 per cent. of Secondary School pupils who, in 1929, took Chemistry in their School Certificate, not many became 'chemists.' Presumably most of them were deterred from studying physics because a reasonably good grasp of the more commonly used demonstrations in mathematics is required by way of preliminary. The physics training which Larmor and his generations received consisted, mainly if not entirely, in a complete review of the ground covered by Galileo, Kepler and Newton, upon the completion of which they felt themselves ready for anything that might turn up. This is still the 'Natural Philosophy' of the Scottish universities. I am told that there are medical students who are taught 'physics' without any previous instruction in mechanics. It seems that what they are taught is a few formulae, while the lecturer expatiates on the principles underlying the construction of various gadgets which represent his understanding of some of the 'mechanisms' of the living animal body (e.g., the system of vessels for circulating the blood), and other mechanisms which form the working parts of (expensive) experimental and diagnostic apparatus (e.g., the capillary galvanometer). Thus they come to rely more and more upon 'indicators' impelling them to a course of action: but what else the 'indicator' 'indicates' besides the prescribed action becomes more and more an impertinence to inquire.

One has not to look to the future for the time when the conscious, intelligent individual may be converted into the perfectly efficient *tool*, unconscious of everything but his function, by these means. The time has arrived. Nor is it only a caste segregated by aptitude that is affected. The whole system of thought is submitted to a broadside of fire, while up from the fo'c'sle and down from the bridge its whole integrity is undermined. The boy who goes not further than the first steps is transformed. He has the whole 'Law' at his back: the law of the conservation of matter! Money?—Oh, well, it's an enzyme, of course! There is such a thing as *La Philosophie Chimique*.

In the grip of *La Philosophie Chimique*,* little Tommy detaches himself from his 'ignorant' parents, who cannot understand that salt is merely the chloride of sodium, from the whole philosophical ground from which he has sprung, in which, simple or complex (and most philosophies which work are simple), he was rooted. But why should he have roots? Trees have roots. Trees and their roots can be dispensed with. Indigo and rubber can be synthesised artificially—i.e., chemically. Tommy looks forward to the day when it will be possible to concoct Tommy in the laboratory. Tommy's philosophy does not comprise the question why this accomplishment is inherently desirable or to whom it is desirable? With great respect for Tommy, why go to all this trouble?

I was visited lately by a gynacologist who asked me to give him an account of the methods available for detecting deviations from the normal (let that pass) in the reproductive male cells. I told him that the recorded visible deviations were striking and easily demonstrated. He said he feared so, and that a new specialist "service" was springing up, if indeed it was not already supplying grist to the mill of the enterprising, with the object of "certifying" the normality of material for artificial insemination. "That wouldn't be in much time to be of much use to Bevin, would it?" No. "What's the idea? Going to found a matriarchal society?" The idea was being exploited in America. "But what's the idea?" Oh, sterile marriages, inheritance, etc., etc. "But why start now: this is the era of disinheritance, isn't it?" Yes, he thought it was a ramp. But to call it a ramp is to underestimate it. It is not a ramp, but *the* ramp. A correspondent puts it clearly: it is "the canalisation of externally-selected functions, with atrophy of other potentialities. So long as this takes place the critical faculty may be allowed to continue. It may even be encouraged. This is one aspect of ruling humanity by functions: the 'culture' of 'pure' functions. What is being interfered with is synthetic mental processes. Retention of these is reserved for the rulers."

* I have at hand a table showing the distribution of awards (Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants) by the Carnegie Trust in 1938-9. Considerably more than one third of the money went to Chemistry, the rest being distributed over thirty-five recognised subjects of study, of which twenty have more or less relationship to Chemistry. The figures are £5,786 out of a total of £16,037. "Medicine" during the year cited "benefited" to the extent of £736 only, and "Medicine" included Anthropology, Anatomy, Embryology, Physiology, Genetics, Psychology, Neurology, Public Health, Pharmacology, Therapeutics, Pathology, Bacteriology, Surgery, Gynaecology, and Paediatrics! It may occur to the reader that it is amongst works chemists, that most complaints occur of underpaid university graduates with high honours degrees.

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Published by K.R.P. Publications Ltd., at 11, Garfield Street, Belfast.
Printed by J. Hayes & Co., Woolton, Liverpool.