

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### Alberta, 1935-1970

By T. N. MORRIS

(Continued)

Hooke tells us that "during these years Alberta's legislation was subjected to the most careful scrutiny by those whose powers were being challenged. Political opponents ridiculed, high-priced lawyers argued, banking institutions sponsored broadcasts and newspaper advertisements, all designed to destroy the confidence the people of the Province had placed in William Aberhart and his followers on August 2nd, 1935. In fact, both the special sessions which "were called to enact the legislation . . . together with the regular sessions and the session of 1940, witnessed what was, no doubt, one of the greatest battles ever undertaken by a Provincial Government." To their eternal shame the "higher authorities" were although, in so doing, they made a mockery of democracy. What would have happened if the battle had been joined in the first flush of electoral victory we do not know: as already stated there is a good chance that the result would have been very different.

During this battle Mr. Aberhart had many problems which told on his health. Four Ministers resigned, some voluntarily, some by request, and Mr. Powell and a member of the legislature, Mr. Unwin, suffered imprisonment on a frivolous charge of libel. Mr. Powell subsequently left Canada but Mr. Byrne stayed on and Mr. Hooke tells us that Mr. Aberhart, who had by now quite forgiven the "insurgents", had the greatest confidence in him and worked with him very closely; in fact every member of the Social Credit Board was in close touch with both of them. The work of the Board involved an immense amount of work and travelling about because one of its tasks was to keep the electorate informed about what was happening. Hooke became a member of the Board in 1938 and was its Chairman from 1940 to 1943.

When Mr. Aberhart realised that his Government could not gain access to the credit of the Province in accordance with the legislation which had been passed and later disallowed, it was decided to try other means. In his Interim Report Major Douglas had pointed out that it would be "difficult to contend that it is not a Civil Right for an individual to write an order on himself calling for the delivery of a portion of his property". Hence the Cabinet, the Social Credit Board and Mr. Byrne developed what became known as the Treasury Branch System. The public was encouraged to make deposits of cash in offices known as Treasury Branches in exactly the same way as they would in a bank. In order not to contravene the Bank Act, customers of the Treasury Branch paid for their purchases in non-negotiable transfer vouchers on each of which was a space showing the amount of Alberta-made or other goods for which the

voucher was tendered. Actually the voucher was similar to a cheque except that the recipient could not endorse and circulate it, but had to deposit it in his account. To encourage the use of the vouchers the Treasury Branch credited a bonus to the account of every customer whose vouchers indicated that he had purchased Alberta-made goods.

There was, of course, the usual opposition, but Hooke tells us that they "made every effort to publicise the benefits of the scheme and to make known the names of stores which would take vouchers. Before long some of these same merchants . . . made it known . . . that they were noticing new customers . . . as a result of their co-operation. . . . Other business men became aware of what amounted to a boycott, when customers refused to buy if the owner refused a voucher. In due course the larger firms came into the program".

A new principle was also introduced into taxation of farm lands which stated that the tax upon the farmer should be a percentage of his production delivered at the grain elevator or other receiving agent, depending on the type of produce. The legislation also included crop insurance and it was found that a levy of 7% of production would cover taxation and complete insurance against crop losses.

Mr. Aberhart died in May 1943 after the Social Credit Party had been re-elected in March with 35 seats out of 56, the total number of seats having been reduced by redistribution. He was succeeded as Premier by Mr. E. C. Manning who had been First Acting Premier and Provincial Secretary. Mr. Hooke took Mr. Manning's place as Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Manning assured the people of the Province that he would carry on in the footsteps of his predecessor, and that the battle for monetary reform would continue to be waged. "We are determined," he said, "to do everything in our power to break this vicious money monopoly in accordance with the mandate given to us by the citizens of Alberta in 1935 and again in 1940". He repeated this in considerable detail in a broadcast and, in 1944, the Social Credit Party was returned to power with 51 seats out of 56.

In 1946 the first and last attempt was made by the Manning Government to establish Social Credit financial principles and methods in the Province by the introduction of an Act known as the Alberta Bill of Rights which was similar in most respects to one of the Acts disallowed in 1937. Mr. Hooke calls it an "all-out attempt", but it would seem to have been weakened by the fact that it was "submitted directly by the Government to the Supreme Court of

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## FROM WEEK TO WEEK

Much more important than the facts of "pollution of the environment" is the propaganda use being made of them. Pollution and the waste of resources are the outcome of the false and vicious doctrine that the well-being of society depends on the continuous growth of "productivity". Productivity is an abstract and undefined concept, having no relation to the true purpose of an economic system. In practice, productivity means distributing incomes to individuals in payment for work, without regard to the utility or desirability of the work performed. Thus large-scale employment in the munition industry (and workers have a much larger vested interest in the industry than have the 'manufacturers') increases productivity, and war, which disposes of the output at the cost of human death and mutilation, maintains it.

On a less disastrous scale, the construction of huge palaces for an ever-expanding bureaucracy whose chief activity is placing limitations on the freedom of the individual also ranks as productivity. It is part of the building industry. The resulting restrictionism and regulation contributes to moral pollution, as it leads to attempts to evade the mounting taxation which is required to support it. Built-in obsolescence to maintain a demand for new "production" is part of the same picture—better to litter the countryside with abandoned wrecks than to have unemployment in the automobile industry. So is the artificially stimulated demand for gadgets, artificially induced changes of fashion, and the pornography industry.

Put shortly, the economic activity resulting from the policy of full human employment when industry is becoming increasingly automated, thus dispensing progressively with the need for human employment, is the direct cause of the deteriorating "quality of life" of which so much is now being heard. It is not pollution as such which should be in the public eye, but the overall policy which gives rise to it.

But the outcry against pollution is a method of visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children. This generation is not responsible for the excesses of the past, though those in control of ultimate financial policy are responsible for their continuance. But obviously this generation is to be

made to pay the penalty. The penalty is to be ever-increasing totalitarian control, and diversion of the efforts of the "rich" nations (or provinces of World Government) to the "poor" nations, or provinces. It is only necessary to promote the expectations of the "poor", give them a majority voice in the United Nations, and the frame-work of global slavery is established. It is physically impossible to fulfil those expectations under several generations. But that is long enough to consolidate the mechanism of total World Government.

That this is not fanciful theorising is demonstrated by the cynicism with which, British "entry to Europe" being, we are told, "assured", the objective of such entry is no longer being propagandised as "economic benefits" to Britain, but as an "opportunity" to raise the standard of living of "under-developed" countries. This of course means economic sacrifices.

Thus the outcry about pollution of the environment is predominantly what the late Lord Stamp called "suitable psychological preparation". Lord Stamp had in mind onerous taxation for the British; but the Big Idea now is onerous international taxation. And the basic idea behind taxation is to perpetuate wage-slavery.

Quality production rather than "economic growth", greater leisure rather than Full Employment, and a re-orientated educational system, would soon bring pollution to an end. But the main use of vehicles is to transport people to "work" in over-populated metropolitan conglomerates in which vehicle fumes accumulate, when increasingly automated factories requiring minimal human supervision could be decentralised. Similarly hordes of bureaucrats, both governmental and industrial, who contribute nothing to the production of the necessities or the luxuries of life, could be pensioned off, and would not need to be massed close to their "work". Under a realistic financial system, accountancy and legalism (mostly deriving from government Regulations) could be greatly reduced, again enabling a greater dispersion of the population.

There is no doubt that the momentum towards World Government is now enormous, and arguments against it are practically ineffective. But throwing a spanner in the works is possible. Preventing British entry into the Common Market, particularly if combined with a restoration of the British-speaking peoples as a self-contained economic unity conducting its affairs so as most easily and rapidly to supply genuine economic wants without encroaching on the needs for individual self-development, would be a very large spanner indeed. That is why the preservation of British national sovereignty is vital. The plan for World Government is a conspiracy; and action to force self-disclosure of the Conspirators is essential. A check to their maturing plans could do it.

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## The End of Mr. Quiverfull

The service called the Churching of Women in the Anglican Prayer Book—a ritual still urgently demanded by some country women to make them fit to “go out”—includes and often uses Psalm 127, which describes children as “like the arrows in the hand of the giant” and adds, “happy is the man that has his quiver full of them.” Such a psalm will hardly survive the chaos of liturgical revision, which reflects the instability of modern thought. Yet Professor Colin Clark writes (*The Keys of Peter*, May 1972) to say that the view of world hunger is exaggerated, together with the fear of population growth.

Most of the hunger is to be found, he says, in China, “due to Communist misgovernment”, and in India through the treatment of the lower castes. He repudiates the figure of two-thirds of the world being hungry. The World Food and Agricultural Organisation, giving the figure as a half, eventually admitted that it measured hunger by eating in Western Europe, where they often eat too much. He considers that the available land in the world could support 40 billion people, and points to the “wealth explosion” which outmatches the population increase.

If we turn to countries with an increasing population, we find interference of a different sort. Peter Simple (*Daily Telegraph*, May 25, 1972) describes the African National Council as a body with European advisers, formed expressly to campaign against the proposals for a settlement four weeks before the Pearce Commission arrived, and notes Lord Pearce’s surprise at “how little had been done by the Rhodesian authorities to commend the proposals to the population.” Ian Colvin, in the same issue, writes on the need for revising British assumptions about Rhodesia and says that a crisis faces Mr. Bashford’s multi-racial centre party “if it should become evident that the African National Council and its airborne Bishop Muzorewa have become the new darlings of the British Foreign Office.” Pearce admittedly only sampled 6 per cent and discounted the Chiefs.

Yet three bishops and various other notables sign a letter (*The Times*, May 23, 1972) which calls the African National Council the “representatives of the majority” and demands that this Council should enjoy “full participation” in any future negotiations with Rhodesia: otherwise sanctions should be intensified. The Defence and Aid Fund, under Canon Collins, sent a solicitor and a barrister to Rhodesia in response to the African National Council and two illegal African nationalist organisations with a “properly neutral brief”. They have produced a pamphlet on intimidation of Africans, of course. Yet according to Pearce, the authorities were rather half-hearted about the commission.

South Africa, however, received a more sympathetic visitor when Dr. Waldheim toured South-West Africa (*RSA World*, Second Issue, 1972), for “the mutual confidence which crashed with Dag Hammarskjöld’s plane eleven years ago is being rebuilt.” The issue no longer concerns objectives but methods.

In this fluid situation, senior Army officers are well aware of the dangers, and Christopher Walker writes (*The Times*, May 23) from Wilton, Wilts, “here in the newly built headquarters of the UK land forces there is much talk about ‘subversive forces’ and ‘growing pressures’ on British society. The officers often speak of anarchy and have a healthy suspicion of the mass media, ‘especially the BBC.’” —H.S.

## Alberta, 1935-1970

(continued from page 1)

Canada for a ruling on its validity before ratification”. The essential parts were, of course, turned down by the Court and in a further submission to the Privy Council the whole Act was said to be *ultra vires* of the Province.

Any disappointment that might have been felt was soon mitigated, however, by the fact that, in 1947, Alberta struck oil after several years of exploration by oil companies. Three great oil-fields were discovered which brought “undreamed of revenues” to the Province together with immigration and economic activity. A Department of Economic Affairs had been set up in 1945 with Mr. Hooke as Minister and it became his responsibility to bring Alberta’s industrial potential to the notice of the English-speaking world. Hence, in 1947, it was decided to open an “Alberta House” in London to make contact with British industry and to encourage immigration of the right types of professional and other skilled people. Mr. Hooke and a colleague spent several months in England making the necessary arrangements, leaving Mr. N. E. Tanner, Minister of Lands and Mines, as acting Minister of Economic Affairs in Hooke’s absence. Probably a worse choice, from the point of view of furthering Social Credit policy, could not have been made: Although Hooke does not say so, from the point of view of the enemy the choice and the timing were perfect. Mr. Hooke says of Tanner, “I had never heard him make a speech which could be construed as a Social Credit speech, but had, in fact on more than one occasion actually cringed [?shuddered] as I listened to his espousal of programs at complete variance with Social Credit while being labelled by him as Social Credit”.

It was to this man, who resigned in 1952 in order to accept a position in an oil company and later become a Director of the Dominion Bank that Mr. Byrne, as Technical Adviser to the Social Credit Board and Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs had to report and from whom he had to seek instructions. As might have been expected, there was conflict and while he was in London Mr. Hooke received the “disquieting news” from Mr. Manning that Mr. Tanner had asked for and received Mr. Byrne’s resignation. Mr. Ansley, Minister for Education and former Chairman of the Social Credit Board supported Mr. Byrne and was also asked by the Premier to resign.

When Mr. Hooke arrived back in Alberta he found that the trouble had been brought to a head by a Report from Mr. Byrne stating that the Provincial government and the Federal government ought to be made “aware of the onslaught of socialistic policies throughout Canada . . . Socialist governments were strongly entrenched in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand . . . half of Europe was under a Communist reign of terror, while unstable but strongly socialist governments controlled most of the remainder of that continent. Communism was being openly advocated . . . in nominally democratic countries, where powerful Communist fifth columns were being organised by under-cover Communist organisations. World scarcity had been promoted and the attack on the British Commonwealth with the aid of the Socialist British government had been intensified.”

Mr. Byrne also stated that “the Social Credit organisation in the Province (Alberta) has ceased to be an effective

instrument of action" and he urged, among other things, "a full scale offensive, with speakers informed of the facts, to arouse people to the peril of the situation and to initiate effective counter-action against the policy of monopoly." The other members of the Social Credit Board issued a report supporting that of Mr. Byrne and the result was that the Cabinet decided that the Board had outlived its usefulness and should be abolished.

Actually, although Mr. Hooke does not tell us so (he admits that events have justified the Board), the Byrne Report with its emphasis on identifying and exposing the individuals and institutions behind the Credit Monopoly reflected the policy advocated by Major Douglas in his later books and articles, most of which had appeared in serial form in *The Social Crediter*. Mr. Manning repudiated this policy, in spite of the fact that he had often declared that the existing financial system must inevitably lead to socialism; hence his support for Mr. Tanner's request for Mr. Byrne's resignation.

Mr. Hooke failed to make an issue of what his Cabinet colleagues had decided in his absence, his excuse being that although he regarded Byrne and Ansley as two of his closest friends and had the greatest regard for their knowledge and integrity, his blind devotion to Mr. Manning and his belief in his infallibility were such that he was prepared to believe that "in the long run his action would be proved to have been correct". This comes somewhat oddly from one who had been an insurgent under Aberhart in 1936, but we can understand his dilemma. Possibly he thought he could do more good by remaining in office than by resigning. At any rate, he did remain, and busied himself by organising an Immigration Branch of the Department of Economic Affairs so that immigrants sponsored by the Alberta Government should have no cause for complaint. But he must have known that with the departure of Mr. Byrne and the abolition of the Social Credit Board the last link between Major Douglas and the government of Alberta had been severed.

Following the oil discoveries the Province flourished financially, and in 1952 the Manning Government was re-elected with 51 supporters out of 60 seats. Provincial revenues soared and the government was able to build up financial reserves in addition to carrying out a pay-as-you-go programme in every Department. Accusations of malpractices by government supporters led to a reduced majority in an election in 1955 but they were vindicated by a Royal Commission and, in 1959, they won 61 seats out of 65. In 1957-58 they had even paid substantial dividends to each adult citizen out of oil royalties. But, in 1958 there was a recession throughout Canada. Unemployment, living-costs, consumer debts, debt service charges and the Federal Budget deficit reached the highest levels since the war. For these reasons Mr. Manning prepared a huge "anti-recession programme" of public works and welfare to be paid for out of Provincial reserves, payment of dividends being suspended.

Throughout the 1960's the Manning Government continued to be returned with overwhelming majorities, even taking 55 seats in 1968. But, apart from the attempt to introduce the Bill of Rights in 1946, and in spite of constant lip-service paid to Social Credit policies by Mr. Manning, there was a slide towards orthodox practices which, in 1966, became steep. At the end of 1965 the Premier informed his colleagues that he had been holding discussions

with Professor of Sociology C. W. Hobart, of the University of Alberta and that he was "much impressed by the professor's approach to what he called Human Resources." He also mentioned a young man, Erik Schmidt, who could prepare a paper on the subject. Soon afterwards Schmidt was appointed Co-ordinator of Human Resources Research and Development in charge of the Human Resources Development Office and in 1967 he, together with Mr. Manning's son who had stood as a Social Crediter in a Federal election and been defeated, attended a Conservative "Thinker's Conference" and a Conservative Leadership Convention held when Mr. Stanfield replaced Mr. Diefenbaker.

About the same time Mr. Manning began to talk about retiring; he had given up pushing Social Credit candidates for Federal elections and was even recommending that so far as these elections were concerned, Social Crediters would be well-advised to vote Conservative because he hoped that "in the national field, the Social Credit Party can make its maximum contribution to the furthering of its own ideals and principles and assist in bringing about an effective re-organisation of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada". They must however insist that they can be allowed to do this without sacrificing their convictions. Actually this last quotation is from Mr. Manning's book *Political Realignment, a Challenge to Thoughtful Canadians*, concerning which Mr. Hooke says: "What is lacking . . . in Premier Manning's book are those dynamic arguments of which he is so capable in favour of monetary reform."

(To be continued)

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