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The Planners – Builders or Destroyers?

by C. H. DOUGLAS

(Originally published in *The Social Creditor* of January 4, 1941)

Lord Elton, one of those Labourers whose Apprenticeship was served at Rugby and Balliol, who combines mildly Left Wing affiliations with the Secretaryship of The Rhodes Trust, has been telling us that the New Order, British Edition, is already with us, and that its main features are readily observable.

My first reaction to this interesting, but not in fact novel, statement was that of the small girl who was asked to admire her new baby brother—"I hope you got him on approval, mummy, because I don't think he'll suit." My second and perhaps more relevant thought, was that either those powers to which Disraeli (and who should know better?) referred as real governors of the world, are getting careless, or they are getting nervous.

It is reasonably certain that the immense influence which has been wielded by such organisations as international finance and Freemasonry has, in the past, depended primarily on well-concealed conspiracy. The technique of banking has never been what it pretended to be, any more than Freemasonry has as its objectives anything revealed to the great mass of its dupes.

But no ordinarily intelligent observer can fail to notice the emergence of an organised group in every country of strategic importance which announces that the New Order is upon us. In fact, most of us would be in some difficulty if asked to state precisely the war aims of Germany or Great Britain, as proclaimed, say by Hitler for Germany, and Mr. Anthony Eden for Great Britain, if we were not allowed to use that phrase.

Not of course, the same brand, or with the same Directors. Dear me, no. But on examination, both showing quite remarkable maturity in preparation.

Yet I suppose that if the average Englishman or German had been asked a few years ago whether he wanted an army of officials, ostensibly paid by him, to plan a New Order for him, the reply would have been instant, and most probably profane. In substance, however, it would have amounted to an unqualified assertion that what he wanted above all other things was to be allowed to do a little planning for himself. So unmistakably was this feeling evident that Mr. Israel Moses Sieff's organisation, P.E.P. was driven to confess that, "Only in time of war, or under threat of war, can the British Government be persuaded to embark on comprehensive Planning." Similarly, the German population was persuaded to become, in

effect, a gigantic edition of Port Sunlight, or the industrial colonies of Mr. Henry Ford, under threat of war.

Now numbers of people, including myself, have been at some pains to demonstrate that to separate war from the economic system, and in particular the monopolistic credit system, under which the countries of the world without exception, carry on their business, is a proceeding of the same order of intelligence as to separate the spots from the disease of measles. It is quite true that the German Broadcasting Stations have, since the outbreak of the present phase of the war, put out a good deal of incisive, telling, and reasonably accurate criticism of the international credit monopoly and its relation to war-making. But their main theme is still the gospel of work—economic work, and the consequent necessity for German *Lebenstraum*, so as to make and absorb work. Lord Elton for his part explains that the New Order will provide not equality, but equality of opportunity. What for? To compete for the choice places in a Planned Economy of work. And the *Times* tells us that the New Freedom will be, not freedom from interference (from which we may deduce that there will be still more interference) but freedom to work. So far as I am aware the Slave was always free to work.

I do not suppose that it is necessary to recapitulate all the arguments of the past twenty years which can be collectively termed the Poverty amidst Plenty thesis. All of us who take an interest in such matters know quite well that conscious and persistent sabotage and misdirection of production has been the outstanding economic feature of that period, coupled with every device of grinding taxation which would assist in reducing the number of economically independent individuals, and thus force still more of them into an already over-crowded Labour Market. It is beyond discussion that the policy which has been consciously pursued is that of making employment universal not of producing wealth with a minimum of work.

The military phase of the struggle which engages us at the present moment, is represented as being due to Hitler, or Mussolini, or Churchill. Does any sane person believe that the Socialism which in its main feature of the omnipotent state, is common to Germany, Italy and Great Britain, and from its very nature flourishes best in the unlimited orgy of war production can only throw up one Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin or Churchill?

(Continued on page 4.)

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From Week to Week

“Politics is the art of the possible.” Douglas himself raised the question as to what was possible in the name of Social Credit: a question we have still to answer.

A good deal of the history of Social Credit consists of demonstrations of what has not been possible. The positive achievements have almost all been Douglas's own. So what is possible is the impact of individuals, who have made the Social Credit idea their own, on events. No “movement” could do anything with the calculus, or any other idea; it is the individual who understands the calculus and its use who solves problems to which it is applicable. We need Social Crediters who are able to deal from the Social Credit point of view, with the problems and situations with which they come in contact, by means of contacts with others concerned, or by correspondence, or by action. At present the lunacy of artificial satellites and the idiotic talk of manned space arsenals go virtually unchallenged.

It has been stated that to put one pound of satellite into orbit requires a ton of initial stage rocket, so that to put a manned vehicle into orbit would require an initial rocket the size of a large ship. The blast from the engines of such a rocket would doubtless be comparable in its effect with the explosion of an H-bomb. To land on the moon or elsewhere would require a succession of sufficient rockets to establish the industrial resources to prepare and launch a return vehicle.

The colossal misdirection of effort involved in the actual and hypothetical space-projects plays, and is intended to play, the part of war in the key statement, “Only in war, or under threat of war, will any British Government embark on large-scale planning.” War is now too dangerous to the planners; but so are modern industrial resources, if directed to the needs of individuals. However, that does not mean that the situation is stable; it means only that the explosion forecast by Douglas is deferred.

Petition to Cromwell

*The Jewish Petition to Oliver Cromwell in 1656, which led to the Legalisation of Jewish Residence in England.**

About the middle of the seventeenth century, certain groups of Puritans in England began to take interest in the Jews. A number of Jews had secretly been settled in the country since the beginning of the sixteenth century. They gradually declared their religion. Manasseh ben Israel, a distinguished Hebrew scholar resident in Holland who had knowledge of English, was invited over to put their case to the English government. He arrived in London in 1655 and presented to Cromwell his petition, signed by himself and six leading Jewish residents in London. It is now in the Record Office in London, and it bears the Protector's signature. Cromwell referred it to a special committee who rejected it. Nevertheless, the Protector supported the Jewish claims which, within two years, obtained legal sanction.

The petition runs as follows:

“To His Highnesse Oliver Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland the Dominions thereof.

“The Humble Petition of The Hebrews at Present Residing in this city of London whose names ar under-written.

“Humbly sheweth

“That Acknowledging Thy manyfold favours and Protection your Highnesse hath bin pleased to graunt us, in order that wee may with security meete privately in owr particular houses to our Devosions, And being desirous to be favoured more by your Highnesse, wee pray with all Humblenesse that by the best meanes which may be, such Protection may be graunted us in Writting as that wee may therwith meete at owr said private devotions in owr Particular houses without feere of Molestation either to owr persons familys or estates, owr desires Being to Live Peaceably under your Highnes Government. And being wee ar all mortall wee allsoe Humbly pray your Highnesse to graunt us Lisence that those which may dey of owr nation may be buried in such place out of the citty as wee shall thinck convenient with the Proprietors Leave in whose Land the place shall be, and soe wee shall as well in owr Lifetyme, as at owr death, be highly favoured by your Highnesse for whose Long Lyfe and Prosperity wee shall continually pray To the allmighty God

Menassch ben Israel
 David Abrabanel
 Abraham Israel Carvajal
 Abraham Coen Gonzales
 Jahacob de Caceres
 Abraham Israel de Brito
 Isak Lopes Chillon

“OLIVER
 Wee doe referr this Petition
 to the Consideracion of the Councill.
 March the 24th.
 16 55/6.”

* Passage taken from *The Legacy of Israel*.

Crystallization

Events since they were written have brought out or emphasised the meaning in numerous of the notes under the heading "From Week to Week," written or inspired by the late C. H. Douglas and published in these pages during the second phase of the World War. Of the near infinity of political commentators, Douglas alone penetrated to the very heart of world politics, and not only exposed the cause of our malady, but progressively elaborated the cure.

The cause is still operative, the cure untried. What Douglas had to say then is applicable to our present situation which is continuous with our previous situation, and for those of our readers to whom access to earlier volumes of *T.S.C.* is difficult, and for other reasons, we propose to re-publish a further selection of his notes.

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

It is as certain as anything in this world can be certain (a) that any moral idea has only value to the extent that its concrete embodiment has value. (b) That in regard to means and methods, the majority is invariably wrong, and only a minority can be right. (June 28, 1941.)

All taxation is a transfer of the credit of individuals to the State and those who stand behind and manipulate the State. Taxation is Social Credit in reverse. (June 28, 1941.)

There never was a time in which the affairs of the world were so completely in the hands of a few "Leaders" as at the present time.

And there never was a time when the distance was greater between the civilisation which is immediately possible, and the civilisation which exists. So let's have still fewer and more powerful "Leaders," and take still more initiative from individuals, and then—waal, waal, waal, won't it be just too bad if it works the same way, but we can't go back? (June 28, 1941.)

"I always heard," said Alice, "that the Greek City States owed their happiness to their complete local independence."

"Of course," said the Mad Hatter, "that's why we're making all the States larger and larger."

"But—" said Alice, looking puzzled, "I thought—"

"It's the Law of Squeers," said the Mad Hatter, looking profound, "it's called after W. Squeers, our Great Leader into the New Garden of Eden—which-will-be-built-through-war-just-the-same. It says that if a thing's good, one twice as big is four times as good. That's Science, that is," said the Mad Hatter, proudly.

"Y-e-s," said Alice doubtfully. "Do you mean that a tiger's a million times as attractive as a kitten?"

"I knew you'd agree," said the Mad Hatter. "Have an O.B.E. No? Then be a Cabinet Minister." Alice said she'd think it over. (December 21, 1940.)

Society is very much like an aeroplane. Far better results are obtained by reducing the frictions (head resistance) than by increasing the thrust. (April 26, 1941.)

If still further production efficiency, more employment, and larger business and industrial units are the means to a better world, when did this great truth become evident, and where? (June 21, 1941.)

Lao Tsu

"As restrictions and prohibitions are multiplied in the Empire, the people grow poorer and poorer. When the people are subjected to overmuch government, the land is thrown into confusion. The greater the number of laws and enactments, the more thieves and robbers there will be. Therefore the Sage says: 'So long as I do nothing the people will work out their own reformation. So long as I love calm, the people will right themselves. If only I keep from meddling, the people will grow rich. If only I am free from desire, the people will come naturally back to simplicity.'" —Lao Tsu.

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THE PLANNERS—BUILDERS OR DESTROYERS?—

(Continued from page 1.)

Perhaps it may emerge from consideration of these things, that, not only was the military method of sabotage confidently anticipated, but it was desired, and is still desired as a requisite to the atmosphere of compulsion in which a New Order "of which the main outlines are already with us" could be installed and supported by irresistible force.

Now, I can easily imagine, that in spite of the hints which are to be found in Disraeli, and in many other well-informed sources of information, the idea of mysterious and perpetual organisation, constantly working to mould the social and economic systems to suit its own purposes, is regarded as merely romantic if not weak-brained. There is one feature, at least, however, of history which can easily be verified—a feature both curious, and difficult to explain apart from the existence of this hidden force. And that is the invariable appearance of some brand, or many brands, of mysticism, as a precursor of revolution. In the case of Cromwell, it was a horde of half-crazed fanatics with their special interpretations of the more bloodthirsty and revolting portions of the Old Testament.

At the time of the French Revolution, the country was swept by the propaganda of the Age of Reason—just as mystical, and just as little understood by its dupes, as the apocalyptic ravings of Cromwell's Calvinistic preachers. The Russian tragedy of 1917 was finally consummated through the agency of the black magician Rasputin.

For years past, Great Britain has been inundated with Believers in Pyramid prophecies, Leagues of World Servers, and other shadowy Brotherhoods.[*]

Some of these number their followers in millions, and advertise on the grand scale in newspapers of large circulation which are highly selective in their acceptance of advertisements. Others are less obtrusive. Their ostensible chief officials are generally simple and sincere believers in the doctrines which they propagate, which, however else they may differ invariably have two factors in common. They tend to paralyse judgment by suggesting that events are inescapable. And so long as they are allowed to be popularised, they never criticise banking, Freemasonry, or the Jews. In the main the suggestion is that a body of wise persons, an Elder Brethren, is watching over us, and that they are responsible for these periodical New Orders, and we should accept them gratefully, and assist, without understanding, their aims.

Now I think that it does no harm to postulate the existence of these secret Moulders of Destiny, if only to deduce their character from their works. Cromwell's New Order (you have no doubt noticed the constant interpolation

of Cromwell as a subject for admiration in the last year or so) began by vandalism of every possible kind: Anything of beauty was savagely attacked, mutilated or destroyed. With the pathetic interregnum of the Restoration, it was followed by the Whig Economy—child labour, the Factory System, the destruction of the country-side in lovely Lancashire, Staffordshire and Cheshire. Then came the French Revolution of which the Continental Freemasons openly claim to have been the organisers. The same savage attack on beauty and culture. Whatever faults the French aristocracy may have had as a class, they were certainly, by any standard, more admirable than Danton, Robespierre, and the 'sans-culottes.' They were more decorative, they had a vivid conception of the grace of life, and they died more bravely. The France which followed the revolution was ravaged by war, and subsequently, and up to the present time, has been a by-word for every description of financial and political corruption and mis-management.

About the same period a desperate effort was made to bring about the same state of affairs in England and thus complete the work of Cromwell. The Chartist and Peterloo Riots, and the Hungry Forties, can all be traced without any difficulty to Gold Standard Finance and those international organisations which were the repository of its Secrets. In 1848 Germany came under the same influence—and the Germany which has been, and is, the Pest of Europe, was born. Of Russia, Austria and Italy, we know the story.

What I am suggesting is two-fold. In the first place, if these Masters of Wisdom are to be judged by their works, every intervention they have made into human affairs is marked by a hatred of cultured leisure, a wholesale destruction of the best which an imperfect humanity has been able to evolve, together with a determined effort to level down so as to prevent levelling up, and an increase in the Power of Money. And in the second place, these results have been achieved by methods which I believe to be likely to compass, if persisted in, the final destruction of organised Society.

The fundamental characteristic of these methods is falsehood. "*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité.*" "The interest of the individual must give way to that of the public," "A War to make the world safe for Democracy," (I refrain from the citation of the current spate).

The Great Critic of World Affairs said, "By their works, ye shall know them." I do not believe that there is any sounder test. And the characteristic of those works is that the end justifies the means, all of which are demonstrably aimed at the final enslavement of the race.

Correction

In our issue of October 4 the last sentence at the foot of the first column on page 3 should have read:—"The present war would have been impossible without the skilful manipulation of the 'Nationalisation' idea, etc."

[*] It should not have escaped the notice of our readers that the current mysticism accompanying the continuing revolution is the elevation of 'science' to virtually supernatural position. "A pie in the sky when you die" has now become the imminent promise of populating first the nearer and soon after the more distant planets from which, no doubt, expeditions to other stellar systems will be arranged. What more beneficent objective of universal slavery could be devised or even imagined?—Editor, T.S.C.