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FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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The Darwin Centenary (1)

by NORMAN WEBB

"There is no doubt whatever that a mangled and mis-applied Darwinism has been one of the most potent factors in the social development of the last sixty years."

—C. H. Douglas in *Economic Democracy*, p. 8.

It is close on forty years since Douglas made the above observation, and one feels that the recent celebrations of the Centenary of Darwin's death is an occasion for Social Crediters to remind themselves of it, and to note with as much satisfaction as they are able to extract, the tentative efforts that have been made, and continue to be made in the more serious sections of the press, to bring the picture of him handed down to us, particularly in its more grimy economic aspect so appropriately named Manchesterism by the Germans, more into line with the changing ethical fashion of the times.

There is a tendency in human nature, to be observed right through history, to misuse its greatest treasures—ab-use them, or failing that to ignore them, bury them away from sight. And since the relative truth about anything is the greatest gift that any individual can make to his generation, unless, and until, a means has been found of perverting that dangerous element of truth and diverting it to false ends, it will receive no quick recognition. Charles Darwin was hailed as a saviour by the intellectual Progressives of the late Victorian era—at the risk of a pun one might almost say the face-saviour of the so-called Scientific Age—with a promptitude that should have put the more thoughtful on their guard. Here was the ideal conscientious investigator, the safe trained mind, not the fanatical type—the congenital over-simplifier, professing to have discovered a natural affinity between singleness of purpose and scientific progress, whom more recently the late Professor Harold Laski did not hesitate to condemn out of hand, but the really good sort, bearing salves and all sorts of comfortable assurance for those who wanted their own way with the world.

Even in those days the speed at which the fruits of applied physics were ripening, and the casualties and cultural devastation for which it was already responsible, cried out either for some reasonable regulation, or failing that, some divine or semi-divine sanction or extenuation. The picture outlined in the theory of Natural Selection of "nature red in tooth and claw," might not be a very alluring one, nevertheless, is not to be so greatly held against a much dumfounded and bewildered and possibly conscience-stricken generation that they were brought to accept it, with some slight changes of emphasis of course, as what Douglas

described as "an omnibus excuse for the worst excesses of the Industrial Revolution." Here, in the disarming guise of the conscientious scientific investigator, was the urgently-needed apologist for the theories of Karl Marx, that High Priest of really Big Business and "objective" Rationalisation, who pointed the road more deeply still into the labyrinths of dialectical materialism, where there is no such thing as over-simplification. Here was the signal for the really clever boys to come forward and show their less mentally-endowed brethren how to solve the problems that were already too big and involved for them to grasp by making them bigger and even more involved.

It was by this mental process that material means, *i.e.*, technology, restrained and bound back by no ethical realism, was elevated into an object of worship, as the ultimate and most desirable end of conscious evolution. A half-revolution, an inversion, had been effected in man's thinking; what should have been first had been put last, and means had been successfully converted into official ends. It was an undeniably brilliant and perilous operation; the most perilous, as St. Augustine was at pains to point out many centuries ago. For the first time in the history of Western Christian civilisation, a self-conscious philosophy of matter had been openly advanced. What was equally significant was the fact that it had been met by no constructive, reasoned opposition whatsoever, either from the Churches—if we except some of the recent warnings from the Vatican—nor, even more surprisingly, from the inductive scientists themselves.

With the publication of the *Origin of Species*, the whole dense atmosphere of human logic seemed to be against any protest of the kind. The material case appeared to be complete, and what was in fact no more than applied physics, a single department of natural science masquerading as Science for its own ends—a usurpation, in short—was accepted as the voice of truth. There followed what amounted to an official recognition from some of the chief dignitaries of the Church of England, such as Archbishop Temple, and the late Bishop of Birmingham, and the Dean of Canterbury. And that might have been supposed to end the matter, were it not for the intractability of truth.

All this was brought about by what can be seen as the most ironic twist of fate—ironic that is, if in spite of all the significant "events" of the last hundred years one can still bring oneself to believe in the entire pagan concept of an accidental universe—at the heart of the

(Continued on page 4.)

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From Week to Week

Dr. A. L. Rowse delivered the Herman Ould Memorial lecture to the English Centre of P.E.N. on October 14, 1958. The lecture was entitled "The Rôle of the Intellectuals in Society," and was reported at some length by *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* next day. From the report in the latter it is apparent that a considerable part of the lecture was an exposure of the silliness of Bertrand Russell and Harold Laski; but *The Times* made no reference to this, though it did report that "When it came to the planting of the fatal suggestion that led to the break-up of Czechoslovakia, this ['the leading organ of the intellectual Left'] was the one quarter that fell for it, along with *The Times* under Geoffrey Dawson."

So far from contemporary elections giving a mandate to the successful Party, it is increasingly evident that they express more the desire of the electorate to keep what is regarded as the more dangerous Party out of office. As the machinations of the Monopolists require the smoke screen of 'democracy,' this suits them well enough. But genuine democracy, as Douglas said, is essentially negative; and until we can achieve the responsible, open, and recorded vote, the best 'negative' mechanism available at present is the informal vote—which is a 'positive' vote against the policy of the Parties.

The gadget prosperity of our day is due not (as claimed) to the policy of any Government, but the production of gadgets.

Schoolmasters' Litany

That they may be delivered from the sin of Group Sisyphism.

There must be some explanation other than affinity of intellect for an omission from the Course of Studies which

places the educational experts who framed it on a par in stupidity with Ho-ti, Bo-bo and their compatriots in Lamb's celebrated essay. The burning down of houses and villages for the sole purpose of roasting pork may be more strenuous form of stupidity than the group sisyphism of spending huge sums of tax-payers' money on education without discovering the evidence of leading bankers that they manufacture money costlessly, but it is no more fantastic or absurd. The much abused mediaeval schools which did not teach that the Earth moves round the Sun were, at least, not guilty of this omission at the tax-payers' expense. What contributes, one might ask, or has contributed more to human well-being, a modern school supported out of heavy taxation in which no one is taught what might be called "the facts of life" about bank credit, or a mediaeval school which ignored new scientific discoveries? Where such omissions are intentional, *i.e.*, the result of planning, Socrates' beautiful comparison of a teacher to a midwife helping to launch the infant Knowledge into the world suggests, by perfect contrast, another equally valid but wholly repugnant figure, the educational abortionist who strangles or stifles Knowledge before birth! From all Joseph-mindedness,* all wish to stand between God and His gifts to man, or to participate in the group Sisyphism which, judging by results, is the open or concealed aim of all political parties to-day, Good Lord, deliver us schoolmasters!

ARTHUR V. McNEILL.

Population of Public Preachers

"A democracy of ideas is like a democracy of men, Father Provincial. It is the temporary shifting of a pack of cards. The shuffling can't go on for ever and in the end one card is bound to be on top. Imagine a democratic religion, a Catholic Church with no hierarchy."

"In the United States, there is not one truth which has not been denied. There is not a mystery which is not contradicted, not a principle which is not contested, not a duty which is not violated. People dispute on every point, on the government, the laws, the customs, the institutions. That in itself breeds a spirit of revolution. But what is far worse is this immense population of public preachers, teaching every possible kind of doctrine. The upper members of society are the victims of indifference, the lower classes are the dupes of ignorance. There is no homogeneity, no brotherhood of man. I'm right and you're wrong!! is what everyone shouts to his neighbour. Only now men have become discontented with shouting only."

—Father DeSmet, about 1860, missionary priest to the Indians, in *Father DeSmet* by H. Margaret, 1940.

The Social Credit Secretariat

LECTURES AND STUDIES SECTION

For a Thesis entitled "Legislation and Administration of the Alberta Government 1943 to 1957," Mr. D. S. Hamilton of Edmonton, Alberta, has been awarded a certificate of Membership of The Social Credit Secretariat, with Commendation.

—J. Hyatt, *Recorder*.

* *Genesis*, XLVII, 13-27.

Crystallisation

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 still 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 part of a curious propaganda in the United States to speak contemptuously of "the European mentality."

Practically everything of value in the Western Hemisphere derives directly from the European mentality. Some of the worst features in the world today derive directly from the grafting of Asiatic mentality onto an American background, such as New York and Hollywood.

(Sept. 20, 1941).

Before the beginning of this phase of the World War, Russia, the United States and potentially Germany, were the worst Governments in the world, in about the order quoted, which is about the order of collectivity. Russia was incomparably worse governed than in the time of the Czars, and the judicial murders between 1917 and 1937 exceeded in number those of a century of Czardom, which was not distinguished by undue clemency. Probably the best Governments were those of Switzerland and the small Scandinavian countries.

Every revolution in history, not excluding the English Civil War, has set back civilisation, in some cases for a long period. In Russia, the one idea of the revolutionaries was to make reform and progress impossible, so that grievances would form a background for the seizure of power.

(Aug. 15, 1942).

There is a curious tendency, suggestive of an aberration of mental faculties, for Socialists of the Fabian type to argue that because the scope of achievement by a first class individual is made much greater by the achievements of his predecessors, which have become a social inheritance, the achievements of the individual are the *result* of social environment. The argument is exactly equivalent to saying that James Watt was a Scot, there is a great deal of water in Scotland, water makes steam, therefore Watt invented the steam-engine.

It is becoming clearer every day that the use made of environment depends more on heredity than on any other one ascertainable factor. Why didn't the Red Indians invent the telephone? Race is more important, if possible,

than ever it was, and the inspirers of the London School of Economics, the Fabian Society, and P.E.P. know it. That is why it is systematically ridiculed, and why every effort is made to propagate the virtues of "the melting pot"—Federal Union, abrogation of State rights, *etc.*

But not in Palestine. (August 15, 1942.)

We have no contact with the Duke of Bedford, and we regard the eagerness of the gutter press to associate him with Social Credit ideas with the contemplative eye we keep for the Jews bearing gifts. But we have no hesitation in saying that if the epithet "pestilential" is to be applied to the opinions of a member of the House of Lords, our first choice would be for those of Lord Simon, who used the word. The Liberal Party, which he represents, has with its docile successor, the Labour Party, done more to wreck every decent constructive effort, and to bolster up its dear friends, the international bankers, than any other identifiable political movement. And the pity of it is that its support has very largely come from honest, well-intentioned, but muddle-headed people led by cynical careerists. Mr. Douglas Reed is right in saying that non-accountability for their actions is the mainstay of the type of politician we have suffered under for the last twenty years.

(December 6, 1941.)

Zionism

But this is by no means the only dilemma which the West faces in its attempts to re-orient its Eastern policy. For one must remember that the Arabs, the Western powers, and the Soviets do not exhaust the factors to be taken into account in the Middle East. Those who wish to "come to terms" with Arab nationalism will not be able to avoid the problem arising out of the existence of the state of Israel.

One of the oddest aspects of the Middle Eastern crisis is the schizophrenia of those people (mainly at home on the political Left) who denounce the Western attitude to Nasser and Nasserism as a form of reactionary blindness, but who at the same time admire the magnificent Israeli achievement and let pass no opportunity to proclaim their solidarity with the Jewish state. This is a classical case of "compartmentalised thinking" in which either is invoked according to need, as if they had nothing to do with each other. But they happen to have a lot to do with each other. Arab nationalism—of all kinds—is passionately, uncompromisingly, and without nuances anti-Israeli. The view that there can be no peace in the Middle East so long as the Israeli "foreign body" is not removed from it, is one of the first and most undisputed items of its creed; Zionism and imperialism have become virtual synonyms for the Arabs, and the existence of a nation of colonisers on Palestine soil is felt by almost every Arab to be the last and most shameful manifestation of colonialism.

—*The Permanent Crisis*; F. R. Alleman in *Encounter*, November, 1958.

Frankfurter

In our last issue we published an item from *Human Events* dealing with the high court of the U.S.A. and, in particular, with the influence of Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter in that Court.

From our many references to Mr. Justice Frankfurter, we re-puolish the following from *The Social Crediter*, May 26, 1943:

The Patriot for May 17, under the heading of "The Development of Communism in the U.S.A.", quotes from an article in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* of February 20, demanding the impeachment of Justice Frankfurter, following speeches made in Congress on the day before.

Felix Frankfurter was born in Austria, and has always been noted for his defence of Communism. During the last war, when he had denounced some American citizens who had protested against Communist sabotage of war production, he earned a very strong rebuke from former President Theodore Roosevelt, who wrote to him a public letter, which said in part: "You are taking an attitude which seems to me to be fundamentally that of Trotsky and other Bolshevik leaders in Russia . . . You are engaged in excusing men precisely like the Bolsheviks, who are murderers and encouragers of murder, who are traitors to their allies, to democracy and to civilisation as well as to the United States."

The attack on Mr. Justice Frankfurter on February 19 last centred round his alleged intrigues to get himself and men of his Leftist philosophy placed on the international court of justice to be established under the Dumbarton Oaks programme. In the course of his speech, Mr. McGhee, a Republican, said:—

"The Press now reveals that this member of the Supreme Court has launched out on a programme of controlling this country, and probably the world, by and through the henchmen who are endowed with his philosophy.

"For some time, his tactics and conniving behind closed doors to secure appointment of men in key positions have been known. This has been done to the extent that practically every government department is now infested with those who see eye to eye with him. His intent and purpose is eventually to change the form of government in accordance with his ideas.

"In my opinion, which is also the opinion of thousands of patriotic American citizens, this man Frankfurter, together with a few others, are the Rasputins of this administration.

"I suggest that the House Committee on un-American activities delve immediately into the actions of Frankfurter with a view to bringing impeachment proceedings against him, relegating him back to private life if possible, and sending him back to the land from whence he came. Let him teach his un-American doctrines there rather than try to contaminate a patriotic American citizenship.

"When, except when the monk Rasputin handled the Czar, has any nation experienced such influence over the entire national set-up as it is alleged that this un-American is influencing the higher officials of our country?"

Following this speech, several members of the House raised strong objection to the removal in the army of dis-

tinction between Communists and loyal Americans. Mr. Rankin, another Republican, said:—

"Communists are known to be dedicated to the overthrow of the Government. This directive (removing the bar on Communists from officer training and assignments involving military secrecy) is a violation of the law of Congress. It ought to be investigated, and the man responsible for it ought to be impeached."

Senator Bushfield commented:—

"I think it's terrible. The Communists' constitution calls for tearing down the existing government. Why put Communists in a position to get the army's privileged communications? I think it's worse than dumb."

• • •

On December 9, 1944, we recorded:

"The little group of Frankfurter protégés who were dictating the country's policy on cotton were seven in number. Four were Harvard Graduates. Four were Ph.D's. None had any knowledge of cotton. Five had never been on a cotton farm."

—Senator James O. Eastland, Mississippi.

• • •

"It has sometimes been stated here that Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter has more to do with guiding the wartime destinies of the United States than anyone except the President himself. Few major decisions are taken without consulting this trusted adviser. Justice Frankfurter was born in Vienna of Jewish parents."

—*Daily Sketch*, New York Correspondent, June 13, 1942.

THE DARWIN CENTENARY—

(continued from page 1)

most economically free and socially tolerant culture, as well as the richest, this world has so far produced. In place of a community dominated by a relatively gentle, personal plutocracy, in short, government by the wealthy, an impersonal occult control through financial wealth was instituted, a cult of taxation and the pay-packet. This is the grimmest form of tyranny the mind of man has ever conceived, comprising all the paraphernalia of priest-craft, with its hypnotic reiteration and oracular mumbo-jumbo, without any of its compensations.

The Golden Calf was again set up, not in the desert this time, but at the unsuspecting heart of what has come to be called the British Commonwealth of Nations—in glittering self-dazzled London, the fabulously wealthy, Edwardian London of the Rothschilds and the Sassoons and the Cassels, and the later Isaacs and Monds and Samuels, where physics and metaphysics, capitalised under the names of Science and Religion, were supposed to be locked in mortal combat. The fuse was being lighted for the 1914 War.

(To be concluded.)