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O.E.E.C. Reports

Economic Conditions in Member and Associated Countries of the O.E.E.C. United Kingdom, 1958; Greece, 1958. O.E.E.C. Paris.

Surveys the economic conditions in U.K. and Greece covering the period ending mid-1958. (1071)

A Standard System of National Accounts: 1958 edition. O.E.E.C. Paris.

Revision of text of the 1952 edition. (1072)

Maritime Transport. O.E.E.C. Paris.

The fifth annual report by the Maritime Transport Committee, January, 1959. (1073)

Ten Years of Economic Co-operation in Europe. O.E.E.C. Paris.

Speeches, addresses and statements by eminent public figures who have taken a leading part in the work of O.E.E.C. (1074)

The Work of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, April, 1959. O.E.E.C. Paris.

A report by the Secretary-General. (1075)

Commonwealth Review

Industrial Fibres: Commonwealth Economic Committee. H.M.S.O. (10s.)

A review of production, trade and consumption relating to wool, cotton, silk, flax, jute, sisal and other hemps, mohair, coir, kapok, rayon and other man-made fibres. (1076)

Annual Report

Town and Country Planning Association: 1899-1959.

The sixtieth annual report of the Association. (1077)

I.M.F.

International Monetary Fund: Summary Proceedings, 1958. I.M.F., Washington, D.C.

Summary Proceeding of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Board of Governors, October, 1958. (1078)

Enlargement of Fund Resources: Through Increases in Quotas. I.M.F., Washington, D.C.

A Report by the Executive Directors to the Board of Governors. (1079)

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To our Subscribers.

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*Digest Spotlight focuses on***The British Council**

WHEN the British Council was founded in 1934, at a time of increasing totalitarian propaganda, *The Times* wrote:

"A new body, the British Council for Relations with Other Countries, is being established to encourage a better appreciation of Great Britain and to maintain closer relations between this and other countries.

"No country today can expect to be understood if it remains aloof and passive. Foreign policy alone, however wisely conceived, cannot remove misunderstandings unless it can work on a background of knowledge. Some form of national publicity, if wisely directed, with the Government, education and industry in a working partnership, can do much to provide a fruitful ground of policy."

British and Commonwealth Purposes

In 1940 the Council was granted a Royal Charter, by the terms of which its purpose is the promotion of a wider knowledge of the English language and the United Kingdom abroad and the development of closer cultural relations between the United Kingdom and other countries for the purpose of benefiting

the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Council not only seeks to convey a knowledge of Britain to other countries but encourages other countries to make themselves better known in Britain and fosters contact and exchange of ideas between technical, professional and educational groups in Britain and similar groups in other countries.

Almost the whole of the Council's funds is derived from grants voted by Parliament. The Executive Committee of thirty is composed of members drawn from both side of the House of Commons, the Universities, industry, the Trades Union movement, and other fields of British life and nine members nominated by Ministers. The work is planned and carried out under the guidance of experts who serve on Advisory Committees, and who, like the unofficial members of the Executive Committee, give their services in the public interest. The Council is thus closely linked with most phases of national life.

Portraying Britain Abroad

Its activities include the formation of new, and the encouragement of existing, British cultural centres,

Anglophil Societies and British schools abroad; the encouragement, in foreign countries, of English language teaching and British studies in universities, schools and other institutions; and the projection of knowledge of British life and thought, particularly in the fields of literature, science, medicine, engineering, agriculture, social studies, music, drama, the fine arts and architecture, through the medium of books and periodicals, films, exhibitions, lectures and advisory visits, study groups, concerts and theatrical performances.

The Council publishes various brochures and the following journals: *English Language Teaching*, *British Books News*, *British Medical Bulletin*, *British Medical Book List* and *British Agricultural Bulletin*.

Scholarships and bursaries for the study in the United Kingdom of British institutions, methods and achievements are granted to graduates, technicians and specialists from

overseas. In the Colonies, because of the rapid constitutional developments, the Council places at the disposal of their peoples the results of Britain's long experience in the practice of self-government.

The Council maintains centres in the United Kingdom, mainly in university cities, to provide, in association with other organisations, services for students, professional visitors, holders of Colombo Plan awards and U.N. Fellowships and others from Commonwealth and other overseas countries. It organises short courses, with the aid of educational and other bodies, for teachers of English and members of the professions and public services from overseas, and arranges programmes of study for individual visitors. It is responsible for accommodation and welfare services for the main body of colonial students in the United Kingdom, funds for this work being provided from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and in this field co-operates with many voluntary societies.

Britain's Epitome

DURING its first twenty-five years, the British Council has had seven Chairmen. The differences in their training, experience, careers and interests, the multiplicity and diversity of their contacts with British life reflect the wide and varied range of the Council's activities.

This is apparent in the composition of the Executive Committee. The 21 independent members (there

are also 9 official members) are drawn from both sides of the House of Commons, the Universities, industry, the professions, the arts, the Trade Union movement, and so on. The present members with the longest service are Lord Rootes, one of the small band who founded the Council in 1934, and Sir Stanley Unwin. The Vice-Chairmen are Lady Albemarle, Sir Charles Mott

Radcliffe, M.P., and Mr. Maurice Edelman, M.P. It is reflected also in the advisory committees and panels headed by Sir Bronson Albery (Drama), Sir Charles Snow (British Books Overseas), Professor G. Bulough (English Studies), Sir Philip Henny (Fine Arts), Lord Evershed (Law), The Earl of Harewood (Music), Sir Alfred Egerton (Science), Mr. Christopher Mayhew, M.P. (Soviet Relations), Sir James Mountford (Universities), Lady Tweedsmuir, M.P. (Scottish Panel) and Lady Megan Lloyd George, M.P. (Welsh Panel).

Distinguished Chairmen

The first Chairman was the late Lord Tyrrell of Avon, son of a High Court Judge in India, who had been Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office and then Ambassador in Paris. Lord Tyrrell was succeeded by the late Lord Eustace Percy (later Lord Percy of Newcastle), whose administrative ability and expert knowledge of educational organisation enabled him to place the London office on a sound basis, equip it with carefully chosen advisory panels, and found or re-inforce several educational institutes abroad. In 1937 he became Rector of the Newcastle division of Durham University and was succeeded by the late Lord Lloyd of Dolobran, of whom Sir Harold Nicolson, in his history of the Council, has written:

"Lord Lloyd had been a member of the Council since 1935 and had undertaken on its behalf tours of

inspection in the Near and Middle East. He possessed long and intimate knowledge of eastern conditions and was among the first of our imperialists fully to realise the force and fervour of oriental nationalism. He was a man of quick intelligence abounding energy, persuasive persistence, great personal charm, and dominating will. Restless and indeed impatient, he delighted in travel: he would fly from capital to capital, interviewing kings, dictators and ministers, and inspiring the local staffs of the British Council with his enthusiasm and sense of urgency. His dominating personality, his personal intimacy with Cabinet Ministers at home, enabled him to communicate to the Government his conviction of the necessity for immediate action and large increased funds. Above all he was positive that in a changed world the Council represented the instrument best adapted to our purposes and that was among the first to foresee its potentialities, its limitations and its eventual scope. He was impressed by the fact that in many Balkan and Asian lands there was what I called 'a hunger for our help', yet he was fully aware that our long imperial past, while it provided us with both experience and esteem also rendered us suspect to the nationalist. His conception of its aims and the methods which ought to be pursued and adopted by the British Council was succinctly expressed in an address which he delivered to the Central Asian Soci-

almost two years after he had become chairman:

"Our cultural influence is in fact the effect of our personality on the outside world. . . . We have in many places a wary and critical audience to convert. . . . We do not force them to "think British"; we offer them the opportunity of learning what the British think'. "He realised that if young men and women were to know the English way of life, and to appreciate its many easy advantages they must first be taught how to understand, to read and to speak the language. It was thus towards the teaching of English that he predominantly directed his incomparable energy.

"Although Lord Lloyd first concentrated upon the lands bordering on the Mediterranean he was among the first to foresee that if the Council were to justify its existence it must eventually operate, not in foreign lands only, but also in the Colonies and the Dominions. The British way of life must also be explained to the Commonwealth, and Colonial students must be attracted to this country and their welfare while in England be carefully organised."

Since Lloyd

After Lord Lloyd's untimely death in 1941 he was succeeded by Sir Malcolm Robertson, whose career had been in Foreign Service. He was simultaneously Chairman of the Council, M.P. for Mitcham and Chairman of Spillers Ltd., a decidedly unlikely combination except in the special circumstances of war-

time. During his term of office, 1941-45, the Council's Parliamentary grant rose from under £½m. to over £2½m., which involved very rapid expansion, both geographically and functionally.

The longest term, nine years from 1946, has been that of General Sir Ronald Adam, who for most of the time combined the office with the full-time post of Director-General. After the abnormal war-time growth he had to deal with many difficult problems of adjustment to peacetime conditions. In the family tradition—his father was one of the founders of Manchester University—he has an enthusiastic and enlightened interest in education and did much to clarify the functions of the Council and confirm the primacy of its educational work.

The appointment of the late Sir David Kelly was a return to the diplomatic field—he had been Ambassador to the Argentine, Turkey and the U.S.S.R. In many capacities, not least that of regular contributor of special articles to *The Sunday Times*, he had wide contacts and skilfully used them to make the Council's aims and activities better known and understood.

Lord Bridges, who assumes the Chairmanship this month, takes to the Council experience of high office in yet another field: he has been Secretary to the Cabinet and Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

Individually men of very diverse experience, tastes and talents; collectively—and appropriately—pretty well Britain's epitome.

The Origins of the British Council

by HAROLD NICOLSON

UNTIL the twentieth century, the British, trained to regard as obnoxious all forms of self-display, were arrogantly reticent. If foreigners failed to appreciate, or even to notice, our gifts of invention or our splendid adaptability, then there was nothing that we could or should do to mitigate their obtuseness. The genius of England, unlike that of lesser countries, spoke for itself.

In the nineteenth century there may have been some justification for this imperturbability. Great Britain was regarded abroad as the champion of liberal institutions and the pioneer of technical progress and invention. In the decades that followed the Industrial Revolution our comparative monopoly of manufacture left us with the illusion that, whatever others might create, English exports would automatically expand. Our insular invulnerability, our unchallenged mastery of the Seven Seas, convinced us that our security was inviolate and that in the then existing balance of power, our intervention on either side would prove rapidly determinant. The excellence of our institutions, the numbers and honesty of our middle class, the contentment of our proletariat, the amicable tolerance of all our ways, persuaded us that we were universally liked, respected and admired.

Once aircraft came to crowd the sky above our island we realised that we had ceased to be the most invulnerable of the Great Powers and

had become one of the most vulnerable. Gone were the days when we could alter the whole course of the Eastern Question by sending two frigates to Besika Bay.

It was then that we first realised that our foreign competitors had for years been devoting effort, skill, and large sums of money to rendering their languages, their type of civility, their scientific or technical resources and inventions, and the desirability of their exports, familiar to students and buyers overseas.

Creative Curzon

Like so many of our institutions, the British Council began without any clear definition of its purpose, policy or scope. It developed, as all organisations develop, by processes of evolution: by processes, it might be said, of trial and error. Its present functions and organisation are the result of experience rather than of premeditation: from its earliest beginnings it has adjusted itself to changing conditions and to shifting needs.

The several agencies of information and propaganda which were created by His Majesty's Government during the course of the 1914-18 war, were disbanded so soon as victory was assured. They had never been held in affection by the British Press or public, since they were regarded as un-English, wasteful, and ineffective. It was only our

From the 21st Anniversary Report of the British Council.

enemies who, as they subsequently divulged, recognised their devastating efficiency.

The idea that it might be useful, and indeed necessary, to consider some form of educational and cultural activity overseas first germinated in the imaginative and precise mind of Lord Curzon. He had observed during the war that foreign nationals resident overseas seemed to possess greater solidarity and closer links with their home countries than had been manifested or enjoyed by similar British communities. In 1920 therefore he set up a committee in the Foreign Office under the chairmanship of Sir John Tilley. The task of this committee was to 'examine the position of British communities abroad.' The Committee were also empowered under their terms of reference, to consider whether it seemed desirable to encourage political or commercial propaganda in foreign countries, whether British libraries should be set up in certain capitals, and what was the value of the Boy Scout Movement in communicating to foreigners the British idea of the good.

They reported that it seemed to them 'the moral duty' of His Majesty's Government to assist British subjects resident abroad to have their children educated in British schools locally established. They saw no reason why the local citizens should not also be admitted to such schools and in fact they recommended that prizes or scholarships might be awarded to foreign nationals who desired to attend these schools and

to learn our habits and our language. They went further. They suggested that a Standing Committee representing the Foreign Office, the Board of Education, and commercial firms specially interested in the export trade, should be established in London to 'consider facilities for the reception and education of foreign students at British universities and technical schools'. They also suggested the foundation of British schools and institutes abroad, the dissemination of English technical works and other books, and the creation in certain capitals of British 'centres' containing institutes and libraries.

No Propaganda!

The Tilley Committee expressed themselves as firmly opposed to 'any form of political propaganda' and considered that trade propaganda could best be carried out by means of recurrent exhibitions and by strengthening the Commercial branch of the Diplomatic and Consular services. They added that British representatives overseas should certainly encourage the Boy Scout Movement among their own nationals but should allow such movements as existed among foreign nationals to develop on their own lines. The report of the Tilley Committee was sent to the Cabinet by Lord Curzon in a covering Note dated 9th February, 1921. He began by saying that the war had disclosed 'a very noticeable lack of cohesion and aptitude for common action among British subjects resident in foreign countries.' He pointed out

that the French Government had already allocated large sums to their Foreign Office vote for purposes similar to those advocated by the Tilley Committee. He urged that we also should devote to the establishment of schools and institutes overseas 'even so modest a sum as £100,000 per annum'. The Treasury refused to consider such an allocation or the establishment of a Standing Committee. The subject was therefore dropped for the next twelve years.

During this interlude both the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade were disturbed by frequent reports from our Representatives abroad and from successive Trade Missions to the effect that our inactivity in the educational and cultural field was doing damage to British interests. Delegations such as that headed by Lord d'Abernon to South America in 1929, by Sir Ernest Thompson to the Far East in 1931, and by Sir Alan Anderson to Finland in 1933 all commented upon the failure of His Majesty's Government to gain goodwill abroad by spreading knowledge of our language, resources and institutions. In November 1933, Sir Percy Loraine, then High Commissioner in Egypt, addressed to the Foreign Office a specific warning:

'If we continue', he wrote, 'in our present path of inaction, we must realise quite clearly that we are laying up for ourselves . . . a

future store of antipathies and hostilities, of enemy partisanships, of trade losses, which will impose upon our armed defensive forces and our economic structure burdens far heavier than the slight ones we should assume by financially supporting a concerted educational and cultural movement attracting to our orbit the youth and intelligentsia of the new East which is shaping under our eyes.'

Public—

Fortified by warnings such as these, the News Department of the Foreign Office, who had for long striven to persuade the Cabinet to emulate the intensive cultural activity of foreign Governments, enlisted the support of the Boards of Trade and Education and of such commercial firms as were primarily interested in the export trade.

In a memorandum of 18th June, 1934 Mr. Reginald Leeper, at that time head of the News Department, renewed the old recommendation of the Tilley Committee. Mr. Leeper in this memorandum laid down most of the principles, and some of the methods, in accordance with which the British Council was eventually to operate. While the direction of policy must remain in the hands of the Government, the day to day operation should be entrusted to private or semi-official organisations: these organisations should

be assisted to visit the United Kingdom, and British lecturers sent out to foreign capitals and universities to provide information about what was being done in Great Britain in social services, administration, medicine, science and the arts.

—and Private Enterprise

In order to save the conscience of the Treasury it was suggested that the campaign might, at least partially, be financed by voluntary subscriptions from leading British firms. From the seed sown through the years by Lord Curzon, Sir John Tilley and Mr. Reginald Leeper developed the mighty banyan tree now known as the British Council.

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Among the further exchanges planned are those of university professors, postgraduate students, teacher-training students, English and Russian language teachers, and technical specialists, museum directors and librarians.

One of the latest developments to take place is another exchange of

English and Russian language teachers. About 25 Soviet teachers of English will attend a special course in the U.K. from August 27th to September 26th and during the same period a party of teachers of Russian from British schools, technical colleges and universities will attend a similar course in the Soviet Union.

The British Council Now

By its Director-General, SIR PAUL SINKER, K.C.M.G., C.B.

OUR main task is the making and fostering of contacts between individual people. We have not the resources, even if the attempt were desirable, to make any direct impact on the masses. Among the most effective international contacts are those between opposite numbers, i.e., between people of the same profession or calling or academic discipline who 'talk the same language' because they are dealing with similar problems in their respective countries. Many of these contacts

Adapted from the 21st Anniversary Report of the Council.

take place direct without any help from the British Council or anyone else. Where this is not the case, the British Council comes in to foster and sustain such contacts. It is in its rôle of middle-man in this form of international traffic that the British Council does much of its most effective work. In the nineteenth century the preservation of peace owed much to the 'Monarchs' International'. It is not altogether fanciful to see a parallel at the present time in the mutual understanding that can exist between those who work in the professional and managerial fields in their respective countries. The many single strands ultimately form ropes which may even stand up to some of the strains exerted in opposite directions by conflicting national interests and emotions.

Britain's Guests

The number of overseas visitors to this country (excluding students) for whom arrangements are made each year by the British Council is some 5,000. Very few of these visitors are financed by the British Council. Many are private visitors; some are financed by their own Governments; others hold United Nations Fellowships, etc. It is our task to arrange the personal contacts, to frame the programme, and to make the practical arrangements to ensure that each visitor can make the best use of his time and see what he comes to see. It is our task also to preserve the personal touch, to give advice and help where needed, and to treat

each visitor as an individual rather than as a unit in a statistical table. The length of the visits ranges from a week or two to two years or more. The subjects which the visitors come to study or discuss cover most of the professional, technical and academic fields. So far as the subjects can be grouped, the largest group consists of subjects falling under the heading of Education, followed by Natural and Applied Sciences. This is closely followed by Social Studies in its widest sense, and by Medicine. The remaining large group consists of the Arts and Humanities.

Geographically, the largest group—about half the total—consists of visitors from European countries. The second largest group—between a fifth and a quarter of the total—consists of visitors from the Commonwealth, including the Colonies. Many of these are trainees under the Colombo Plan. The remaining three groups, in order of size, come from the Middle East, the Far East, and Latin America.

It is encouraging the willing response we find when we ask for overseas visitors to be shown how things are done in this country. There must of course be a limit to the calls we can properly make on people's time for this purpose, and we try to spread the burden as widely as possible, but the kindness and the hospitality of the people of this country has so far proved adequate and indeed more than adequate to meet the calls that we make upon them.

Future Leaders

Many visitors of this kind are already leaders in their own spheres. We also have to look to the leaders of the future. Much of our work therefore is concerned with students. There are at present some 40,000 overseas students in this country, of whom about one quarter are University students. The remainder are following some form of professional or technical training. For Colonial students the British Council provides introductory courses to this country, sometimes before they leave their home-land; meets them on arrival; finds suitable accommodation; arranges private hospitality; provides club centres; and arranges tours and courses for the vacations. It provides some of these facilities for non-Colonial students also. A tribute should be paid to the good work done, often unconsciously, by those British landladies who through natural kindness implant a life-long feeling of friendliness towards this country in some of those who have passed their student years here.

In this country the British Council's work for visitors and students is carried on in nineteen area offices as well as in London. Most of the area offices are situated in large University towns and cities, and each covers its own area, co-operating with local voluntary bodies and individuals, as well as with University and educational authorities. One of the deepest impressions left by a tour of British Council posts

overseas has been of the many tributes from foreigners to the way they had been looked after in this country by the British Council. The ancient tradition of hospitality in Greece was such that the same word, Xenos, meant both 'stranger' and 'guest'. It would be too much to say that this happy state of affairs has been reproduced here in the modern world, but it is one of the tasks of the British Council to help to reproduce it and to ensure that the foreign visitors entrusted to its care leave these shores with pleasant memories of their welcome. In discussing methods with the French *Direction des Relations Culturelles*, who have had far longer experience than the British Council of cultural relations, it was interesting to find that they regarded our organisation for the reception of overseas visitors and students in the United Kingdom, to which there is no exact counterpart in France, with considerable admiration.

The success of these activities depends equally on the work done overseas. Our staff overseas will normally have made the first contact with the visitors and students before they come to this country, and they will often keep in touch with them after they return. They are also responsible for organising the traffic in the reverse direction, of distinguished British specialists or professional advisers. The by-products of a lecture tour overseas are often more important than the lectures, namely the personal contacts made with those of like interests.

Schools

Amongst the personal contacts fostered by the British Council, not least important are those between teachers and taught. Many British Council staff overseas are engaged whole-time or part-time in teaching English language and literature in our own Institutes or in Anglophil societies or in overseas Universities. There are also British schools (too few of them) either subsidised or run by the British Council. The standing of these schools is very high and entry to them is much sought after. From them may be expected to come many of the leaders of the future. In these schools we have a very clear example of the principle that underlies, or should underlie, all British Council work, namely that to be justified, it must be of benefit both to the United Kingdom and to the country in which we are operating. Apart from these British-run schools there are many demands for British teaching staff in Universities, teacher training colleges and schools. Quite often the posts are of exceptional importance, headmasterships of schools, for example. In many cases the help of the British Council is asked in recruitment.

The opportunity, especially perhaps in the field of school education, is of outstanding importance. School education is after all one of the greatest British achievements, and we have much to offer and much to gain. There is a widespread recognition of the value of British school education with its emphasis on character, sport, and discipline without rigidity.

Teaching of English

One of the most interesting recent developments has been the great increase in the demand, especially in Asian countries both within the Commonwealth and outside it, for the British Council's services in the training of local teachers of English. The scale of the opportunity is staggering. The difficulty is to meet the demand, and the difficulty is not only financial. Although the British Council has many officers experienced in teaching English to adults in British Institutes and elsewhere, there is a dearth, both within the British Council and outside it, of people who combine experience of school teaching with the appropriate academic qualifications in linguistics. The teaching of English as a foreign-language is a subject which needs a professional approach, especially in those who will be required to train local teachers of English and to advise Ministries of Education on the framing of syllabuses and other such matters. This is not a problem which can be quickly solved. In the long term it can only be solved by increasing the provision of suitable academic training in this country, and we are addressing ourselves to this task.

Our work in this field, the teaching of English, may perhaps appear at first sight as an exception to the general statement made earlier that our concern is with selected individuals rather than with large numbers of people. Even here, however, our most important work is with selected individuals, i.e. the teachers

and the educational authorities, rather than with the large numbers who will ultimately be affected.

Libraries

Another central or bread-and-butter activity is represented by the British Council libraries in many countries overseas, with which should be included the provision of specialised films. The 'mass media'—general films, broadcasting, etc.—are useful to us in certain parts of the world: for instance, in some Colonial territories the most elementary misconceptions exist about life in this country, which can best be dispelled by the use of films and by the 'seeing is believing' process.

But, generally speaking, our work lies amongst those who can use, and need to use, books and periodicals on their own special subject. In many countries English books and periodicals are hard to come by, and the only source may be the British Council library. The library also is the origin of many valuable personal contacts. The running of the libraries is a joint operation between headquarters staff who advise and provide, and overseas staff who select and maintain the stock. The work done through the libraries, though quiet and unspectacular, provides one of the most lasting impressions left by a tour of Council centres overseas.

Anglo-Soviet Exchanges

THE Soviet Relations Committee of the British Council was set up in 1955 at the request of H.M. Government to develop cultural relations with the U.S.S.R., and to provide a single official channel for this purpose.

The Committee has Mr. Christopher Mayhew, M.P., as Chairman, Mr. Gilbert Longden, M.P., as Vice-Chairman, and Dr. R. S. Aitken, Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University and Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, as representative of the Universities.

The Committee's first object was to foster exchange visits of small groups of people representative of their professions or academic subjects. Accordingly it proposed to the

Soviet Embassy the following fields, among others, for these exchanges: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, The Arts and Architecture, Broadcasting and Television, Engineering, Journalism, Law, Literature and the Humanities, Local Government, Education and Social Services, Medicine and Natural Sciences.

With the Soviet Government's agreement to this proposal, exchanges were soon under way. In addition to the exchanges initiated and financed by the Soviet Relations Committee itself, the Committee promotes other exchanges in co-operation with professional and similar organisations and helps in various ways by providing interpreters, assisting in the organisation of

programmes, arranging accommodation and hospitality, and in some cases giving financial assistance.

Soviet Visitors

Within twelve months the Soviet Relations Committee had organised or assisted with the visits of 26 Soviet delegations, including a distinguished group of Scientists from the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. for whom the Royal Society were hosts here; a group of broadcasting and T.V. officials invited by the B.B.C.; a delegation from Moscow to Oxford; and groups of agriculturists, doctors, teachers of English, and others. The Committee also gave administrative help and provided interpreters for a number of important industrial groups visiting this country at their own expense whose programmes were being organised by various Government departments.

Though the exchange of theatrical and musical productions posed considerable financial and other problems this has also been tackled by the Soviet Relations Committee with success. Two notable early exchanges were the production of "Hamlet" in Russia by the first British company to play in the Soviet Union since the Revolution, and a tour of the Soviet Union by a group of British musicians led by Sir Arthur Bliss.

Music and Dancing

In February, 1956, the Soviet Minister of Culture, Mr. N. A.

Mikhailov, came to London at the Committee's invitation for discussions on future cultural relations and the work continued to expand. Though mostly concerned with the exchange of professional and technical visitors, a more spectacular event took place when the Soviet Army Ensemble came here under the Committee's auspices. Later the London Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Sir Adrian Boult, toured the Soviet Union for three weeks.

In October, 1956, the Bolshoi Ballet arrived. During its visit the Committee arranged for the Company to visit Stratford-on-Avon where the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company put on a special afternoon performance of "Othello" and entertained the Company at a reception.

Further Exchanges

A further development has been in the field of language teaching. In January, 1958, small groups of British and Russian language teaching specialists were exchanged. Resulting from this was a course for 28 Soviet teachers of English held in Scotland that summer and a course for a similar number of British teachers of Russian in Moscow.

Among distinguished Russians who came here during 1957-58 were Madame Bocharnikova, Director of the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet School; Madame Mironova, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet; and Mr. F. I. Panterov, novelist and play-

wright and Chief Editor of the Soviet Journal "October", and his authoress wife, Madame Koptyaeva. Several useful exchanges of professional groups — engineers, town planners, surgeons, and the like — also took place.

Towards the end of 1958 the Committee had sent an invitation for 400 students and young people to come here in 1959-60. As before the invitations are for groups to spend up to six weeks as guests of British students and youth organisations.

Early this year there were promising developments. On March 31st the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. signed an agreement on the general principle of cultural exchanges and from March 24th to 28th a Soviet Relations Committee delegation had talks in Moscow making plans for more exchanges.

The British delegation was headed by Mr. Mayhew, and Sir Fitzroy Maclean, M.P., then acting Vice-Chairman. The Soviet delegation was led by Mr. G. A. Zhukov, Chairman of the State Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The talks resulted in a programme for the rest of 1959 and the first quarter of 1960 providing for an extension of exchanges of students and teachers and of specialists in the fields of science, technology, industry and agriculture. Further development of exchanges in the arts is also provided for. Festivals of British and Soviet firms and exhibitions of books will be held in the U.S.S.R. and in the United Kingdom respectively and next year an important exhibition of British paintings goes to Moscow and Leningrad.

continued on page 201

Incomes in U.S.

MORE than two-fifths of family and single consumers in the United States had personal incomes between \$4,000 (£1,425 10s. 4d.) and \$8,000 (£2,851 0s. 8d.) in 1958, the Office of Business Economics, U.S. Department of Commerce, reported in an article in the April issue of its monthly magazine, *Survey of Current Business*. Another 22 per cent. received more than \$8,000 and 36 per cent. are estimated to have had less than \$4,000.

From Labour News in U.S., May 22nd, 1959.

The total personal income flow to consumer households in 1958 amounted to \$338,000 million (before taxes), up \$6,000 million from 1957. Increases in unemployment insurance and old-age benefits, and in upswing in farm income, more than offset a \$1,000 million decline in wage and salary disbursements stemming from the 1957-58 drop in employment, the Government agency said.

Commonwealth Survey

(1) COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A British Council Interest

MORE than 150 delegates from all the Commonwealth countries and fifteen Colonial Territories will be in Oxford from 15th to 20th July for the largest Commonwealth Education Conference ever held.

The United Kingdom delegation will be led by Sir Henry Lintott, Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Commonwealth Relations Office. The delegation will be representative of all interested Government Departments, the British Council, local education authorities, teachers, universities, technical colleges and teacher training colleges. It will also include about twenty-five representatives of the Colonial Territories.

Lord Halifax, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, will be President of the Conference, and Sir Philip Morris, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, will be Chairman.

From The Commonwealth Relations Office; Ministry of Education; Colonial Office; British Council.

Fruits of Montreal
The Conference will formulate a new programme of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships and will review the existing arrangements for co-operation with Commonwealth countries on all aspects of education.

The Conference arises from the Montreal Conference of Commonwealth Ministers last September which decided to establish a new scheme of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships. It was then expected that within a few years there would be a thousand Commonwealth scholars. Of this total the United Kingdom Government undertook to be responsible for one half and Canada for one quarter. Among the other subjects likely to be discussed are those mentioned in the Montreal Conference Report—technical education, supply and training of teachers and the interchange of university staffs.

(2) ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY OPEN

ON April 25th a convoy of 70 vessels headed by a Canadian ice-breaker entered the newly completed St. Lawrence Seaway between Montreal and Lake Ontario which enables ocean going ships of 10,000

From Commonwealth Producer, May/June, 1959.

gan, Detroit and Buffalo at opposite ends of Lake Erie and Toronto and Hamilton on Lake Ontario have been linked with the seas of the world by this 27 ft. deep waterway which, with its associated power project generating nearly 2m. kW has cost about \$1,000m. and has taken five years to complete.

Although actual construction of the deep waterway was begun so recently the project has been in the air for much longer, the United States and Canadian Governments having appointed a Deep Water-

ways Commission as long ago as 1895. Many studies were made but much argument, two world wars and opposition from vested interests on both sides of the border prevented action until 1954. What eventually brushed aside the objections were the needs of both the State of New York and the Province of Ontario for more cheap hydroelectric energy and the iron ore requirements of the Middle Western blast furnaces which could be most easily met by water transport of the ore from the Quebec-Labrador deposits.

(3) COSTS OF DECIMALISATION

A CHANGE over from sterling to decimal currency in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland would cost not less than £4,000,000, Dr.

A. G. Irvine, the Under-Secretary to the Treasury, told the 130 delegates attending the three day Association of Chambers of Commerce of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, congress in Ndola on May 12th. He was giving the Government's view on a motion which calls for an investigation of the desirability of decimalisation. The Treasury, he said, had already studied the case for decimalisations.

It might have certain advantages but short-term transitional costs would definitely be substantial. Higher taxation would be necessary.

"It is also going to be exceptionally difficult to capitalise on the advantages of the decimal system and turn them into savings in terms of £ s. d.," he warned business men. The system would be time-saving in large undertakings—and in the Government—but many businesses in the Federation employed a small accounting staff. Thus the time saved would not easily be turned into cash saving.

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Trade and the Bamboo Curtain

by the EARL OF VERULAM

IF we accept the position that the policies of the West have been driving the People's Republic of China into the arms of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, an embrace which she does not particularly appear to cherish, then there may be reason for suggesting that, in the interests of the world's future, John Bull, or Uncle Sam, or Western Europe, or any or all of them together, might offer China, perhaps by loan or by lease, something less charged with hypocrisy than the economic hug of the Bear (or the threat of nuclear destruction).

Is it too much to suggest that an offer by the West to undertake some major project of lasting significance to China and her peaceful development might, because the Chinese are practical people, have profound results on the future attitude of China to both Russia and the West? Russian propaganda instils continuously in the Chinese mind that only Russia stands by China in her need, that Russia assisted with the construction of 120 major engineering projects during the First Chinese Five Year Plan and is now helping on a similar scale in the Second Five Year Plan which started in 1958. The antithesis of this form of propaganda is that the United States and the West have responded only with the strategic embargo and "blockade".

Practical Achievements

The tremendous present and
*Extract from a paper read to the Royal Society of Arts
on May 20th, 1959.*

future harm, to the well-being of the human race on earth, that the present situation is likely to occasion, cannot be assessed. To counter it the words of diplomats and politicians can hardly be enough; the practical achievements of the engineer, the technician, the scientist, and even the trader, are likely to do more.

If the West were to offer to undertake, over the next twenty years, the provision of the designs and the equipment for the correction of the Yangtze-Kiang, with its locks, barges, hydro-electric schemes and measures for flood-prevention, the Government of China could hardly refuse. A mighty but peaceful blow would be struck at the roots of the assumed Soviet technical hegemony; a propaganda weapon of lasting importance would have been forged; the sum total of human misery on this earth would come to be progressively lessened. At the present moment every Chinese is consumed with pride that the new bridge across the Yangtze—the first to link the two halves of China—has just been opened, for road and rail, at Wu-han (the former Hankow).

Every newspaper, every leaflet, features this bridge as the current greatest achievement of Soviet and Chinese technology. It is by no means the greatest bridge in the world, in length or size or difficulty or cost, but to the Chinese it is a triumph of Communism and the only large bridge in the world. The

offer to control the Yangtze river, or perhaps the Hwang-Ho—China's Sorrow—would by its sheer magnitude strike home more forcibly, and more permanently, in a language that all could understand.

The Flame of Unorthodoxy

It has been my intention to convey that a realistic assessment of New China and its potential is a matter of real moment to Britain and to the West. Realistic assessment must be followed by imaginative action, action in which perhaps the flame

of unorthodoxy can be seen to burn with a virgin brightness. It is manifest that the conventional approach is suspect. Russian achievement is valued more highly than Western words; with the oldest continuous major civilisation in the world behind them, the Chinese are not interested in European culture as such. Deeds at present are more potent than words. The channels of trade have the overwhelming advantage over all other forms of communication in that they leave something tangible behind them.

"Stinking Ditches"?

DURING the past hundred years the gradual deterioration of the British waterways system has from time to time spurred governments into setting up committees to investigate the prospects of reviving the dying traffic. Their reports have not often resulted in impressive action and in the meantime the changing industrial pattern of the country and increasing competition from more flexible means of transport have transformed many miles of once thriving canals into mere trickles, deserving the epithet "stinking ditch", applied to Brindley's canal by the townspeople of Bewdley.

Today, the British Transport Commission controls some 2,170 miles of waterways. For the purpose of their *Report*, published last July, the Bowes Committee divided them into three categories, A, B and C. The wide, barge navigations, Class A, still make a profit—in 1956 they produced a surplus of £290,000.

Class B waterways, mainly narrow-boat canals with locks to take boats only seven feet wide, seldom pay their way. As a group they made a loss of £320,000 in 1956. The 1,315 miles of Classes A and B form the "prescribed navigable system", while Class C waterways are of no further value for commercial transport. But they often bring in money from anglers, boating enthusiasts or water authorities, and the Committee suggests that those interested in these canals for such "alien" purposes should co-operate in deciding what is the best use to be made of each stretch and who should own and manage it.

The Real Problem

The real problem the Committee had to solve was the future of the Class B waterways. Class A already earn a profit which, as the Committee suggests, can be used for future development. In the case of Class

From Westminster Bank Review, May, 1959.

C, weeds, neglect and the loss of trade to other carriers have ensured that these canals will never again see the painted, cargo-laden boats gliding along them. But what of Class B? The part played by all waterways in the U.K.'s transport system is tiny: in 1956 the 184 million ton-miles of canal freight amounted to less than 1% of the work of British Railways' goods trains. Where conditions are favourable, inland waterways are able to compete effectively with road and rail, but Class B canals are usually heavily locked—it has been calculated that there is on average a lock every $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles—and their route indirect. Narrow boats have a capacity of only twenty-five tons and this, together with the very low average speeds attained means that labour costs are relatively high. Even where good facilities are available and where hauls are short and consequently more remunerative, double-handling and the inflexibility of the system often outweigh the advantages. Nevertheless, though the Committee recognized that Class B canals were unlikely ever to pay their way, they felt that these waterways could still play a useful part in the country's transport system.

Proposals

The Committee therefore made three constructive suggestions for canal redevelopment. First, to provide a reasonable security of tenure, the "prescribed navigable system" should be put into good working order and maintained so for not less

than twenty-five years. Secondly, Class B waterways should be restored over a period of five years to dimensions sufficient to enable the largest craft built for use on them to navigate safely with a full payload. Thirdly, the present system of tons should be replaced by an annual licence of £1 per ton for vessels up to sixty tons capacity. The costs of improvement and losses made should be borne by public funds.

In February the Government's proposals appeared. Most of the problems are to be left open for a period of two years, during which time it is hoped to gain experience as a basis for action later on. The Transport Commission has already embarked on a £5½ million programme of improvements on Class A waterways. A Redevelopment Advisory Committee, to assist in promoting schemes for Class C waterways and to make recommendations to the appropriate Minister, is to be established immediately.

For Class B waterways—which, as the Bowes Committee reported, pose the most urgent problem—there is only a promise that, during the two-year experimental period, the system will be preserved as far as possible and improvements undertaken where traffic justifies it. The Advisory Committee will explore the contribution that non-transport users might make to upkeep. It seems a pity that, in the meantime, Class B waterways are likely to suffer a further decline in traffic.

Rural Economy

(1) THE NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT

AFTER a lapse of six years the new International Wheat Agreement which comes into force next August will have the United Kingdom as a member. At first sight, this reversal of policy on the part of the British Government may seem somewhat surprising because during the past six years the United Kingdom has suffered little if any disadvantage by reason of her non-membership and, with wheat still in over-abundant supply, there would seem little danger in maintaining an opposition to the Agreement. On closer examination, however, it is apparent that the new Agreement no longer contains some of the less satisfactory elements present in the current and expiring Agreement, and indeed goes some way, if only a very small way, towards dealing with the problem of the embarrassing world surplus of wheat.

One of the most important differences between the new and old Agreements lies in the method of computing the quotas which each member should have. Under the old-style pacts, each country was given a guaranteed quota but exporting countries were required to supply the full amount only if the price of wheat should reach the maximum fixed under the Agreement and similarly importing members were required to buy their full quotas only in the event of the price dropping to the minimum; in recent years the price has reached neither

the floor nor the ceiling and no parties to the Agreement have been obliged to fulfil their full quota obligations. From next August, although the principle of maximum and minimum prices for sales will be retained under the Agreement, the fixed quotas will be abolished and importing members will merely guarantee to purchase at prices below the maximum a certain percentage of their imports from exporting members who, in their turn, will undertake to supply the importing countries' commercial needs at prices within the price range.

No Hardship

The United Kingdom has undertaken to purchase 80 per cent. of her imports through the Agreement, but as about 97 per cent. normally comes from signatories to the Agreement, no hardship is likely to be suffered from this aspect of the new arrangements. The minimum price remains in fact unchanged under the new pact, namely, 150 Canadian cents a bushel for the standard grade of wheat (No. 1 Manitoba Northern) but the maximum price is reduced from 200 to 190 cents; it was the fixing of the maximum price in the 1953 Agreement at 205 cents which was one of the reasons why the United Kingdom withdrew six years ago.

A further point to which the United Kingdom objected in the two previous Agreements was that

From Barclays Bank Review, May, 1959.

no effort was made to deal with the problem of the world surplus. Under the new Agreement, however, the governing body (The International Wheat Council) is charged with the task of making an annual review of the world wheat position, including production, prices and stocks; this proposed review is a step in the right direction, albeit a very tentative one. In addition, although all members retain complete autonomy in their agricultural policies, those holding large stocks have agreed that such surpluses should be disposed of in an orderly fashion and in ways which should not harm normal commercial trade; wherever possible surpluses should be reduced by efforts to increase consumption. Hitherto sales on special terms, which have provoked sharp criticism of the United States on the part of Canada and Australia, have been completely outside the Agreements,

(2) INDIAN FOOD PRODUCTION

INDIA intends to double the country's food production by the end of the present Third Five Year Plan. India's Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri Ajit Pradas Jain, told a recent meeting in New Delhi that raising the yield was all

From World Farm News, I.F.A.P., May, 1959.

FOREIGN TRADE

by N. S. KHRUSHCHOV

Foreign trade is the sound and stable foundation on which the peaceful co-existence of states with different social and economic systems can successfully develop. Moreover economic relations provide good prerequisites for the strengthening of political relations. Extensive development of trade would play a big part in strengthening confidence among the nations, in easing international tension.

but from August such transactions although not included in the guaranteed percentages must be formally reported to the Council.

Provided that no marked change occurs in the world wheat position during the coming three years it does not seem likely that the United Kingdom will secure any marked advantage or suffer any disadvantage from rejoining the International Wheat Agreement. However, having been instrumental in bringing about a number of improvements in the Agreement, the United Kingdom authorities are to be congratulated in their decision which has undoubtedly pleased Australia and Canada and which is in accordance with the undertaking, given last year at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference at Montreal, which was to consider on their merits international schemes to stabilise commodity prices.

What is Wrong with Arab Planning? MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIES IN OPPOSITION

HOW is it that the Arab world has failed to induce economic development at a pace at least commensurate with its political activity?

In part, the lag in economic development in the Middle East has been caused by the meagreness of natural resources and productive capacities. Excluding oil, the natural resources of the area consist mainly of poor deposits of coal, iron, copper and chrome in Turkey; phosphates, manganese, and iron in Egypt; and potash in the Dead Sea area.

Meagre Output

The region, moreover, suffers from considerable aridity. By far the greater part of the area receives less than eight inches of rainfall per year; more than half of it receives less than four. Though the land of the Middle East may, in many areas, be extremely fertile, the acute shortage of water limits cultivation and settlement.

Thus, one-third of the inhabitants of the region live by the sea-coast, one-third dwell along fertile river beds, and the rest are scattered among oases, mountain ranges, and deserts. Local cultivators have been forced to adopt means of artificial irrigation, and the most valuable cash crops (cotton, sugar cane, and citrus fruits) are now being cultivated in this manner.

The climatic and soil conditions

obviously impose limitations on agriculture. Over 75 per cent. of the economically active population is dependent upon agriculture and animal husbandry for a livelihood, yet because of the low productivity of the land, the rôle of the Middle East in world agriculture is a minor one.

Human failure

But despite the natural hazards, many of the economic shortcomings of the Middle East are man-made. It is because of human failure that there is so great a shortage of educational and financial institutions and a very limited supply of persons with any professional, technical or managerial skills. Man is at fault if the farming methods are still primitive and the wooden plough used in Biblical times is still the principal implement of cultivation.

Man has also created the strange conditions of land tenure in the area. Until recently there existed considerable confusion in regard to the legality of land titles because no regional cadastral survey had been completed, and most land titles were based solely on tradition.

In practice, the Ottoman land system, which is still in effect, has deprived the individual cultivator of his land, and special favours and awards granted by the state and by religious groups have led to absentee ownership.

From Jewish Observer and Middle East Review, 1st May, 1959.

Absentee landlords

In Syria, for example, until a year ago, 40 per cent. of the land was owned in this fashion; and in Iraq even after the revolution, although small holdings predominated in the rain-fed northern provinces, in the southern irrigated lands a few owners monopolised agricultural machinery and irrigation equipment.

Thus, man-made social stratification in the area has led to the establishment of a small class of rich absentee owners set aside from the mass of poor. The rich have indulged in conspicuous consumption and have invested their money in real estate or in foreign, rather than domestic, therefore, to the scarcity of local capital.

The poor, on the other hand, could hardly scrape a living let alone save. Consequently, the local consumer's market has been limited and the infant industry could not draw on it for encouragement. At the present time, with the exception of Israel, no country in the area derives more than 15 per cent. of its national income from industrial activity.

Revolutionary shortcomings

The series of recent revolutions in the Arab countries have changed the internal political structures, but, thus far, have not achieved the social and economic pre-conditions essential for a progressive political democracy.

The revolutionaries have been more concerned with political and military entrenchment than with the

comparatively, humdrum undertaking of economic development. They preferred, even within the economic sphere, large demonstration schemes over gradual and balanced development in all sectors of economic activity. They have chosen to channel economic activity through the public rather than the private sectors.

Private enterprise as an entrepreneurial factor which accumulates, organises and allocates capital and technical skills has always been rather limited in scope in the Arab countries. It has been fostered by the small middle classes consisting of foreign or native minorities existing on the fringe of the Moslem majorities.

Until the new Arab middle-class of ex-officers and semi-educated bureaucrats of humble origins comes into its own, the Middle East, it seems, will have to pay a high price for the displacement of the old and more enterprising middle class.

Little use for cheap oil

The Middle Eastern oil industry is the most obvious example of regional economic dislocation. Not every country in the Middle East possesses known oil reserves. Even in the case of a large producer like Iraq, oil revenues amount to only a small share of the national income. But, even so, they are rarely used for development projects. Instead, they are used to offset the cost of government administration.

The benefits of the oil economy in providing employment opportunities

to local labour have in general been limited to unskilled work, and the supply of cheap oil made available by the concessions is of little use to the local, unmechanised industries.

Densely populated Egypt could feed immigrants into sparsely populated Syria and Iraq. The capital accumulated in the oil producing countries could, furthermore, help regional investment requirements.

A U.N. survey has estimated that some \$1.3 billion must be annually invested in the region to raise *per capita* incomes by 2 per cent. The proceeds received for the 214 million metric tons of oil produced in the area in 1958, for instance, could definitely contribute towards this commercial and industrial potential, need.

How it could be done

But the Middle East—despite its past record—could function as an integrated economic unit. It has within it all the complementary ingredients necessary for an efficient regional economic unit. Along the Nile, the Orontes-Jordan and the Tigris-Euphrates river systems a prosperous community could thrive. Israel and Lebanon could, with their commercial and industrial potential,

complement agricultural Syria, Jordan and Iraq. They could serve as gateways to this hinterland, and through them ideas, goods and men could flow eastward.

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Digest Reviews

RE-WRITING OUR HISTORY

Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace: A Critical Examination of the Foreign Policy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and its Aftermath. Edited by Harry Elmer Barnes, with the collaboration of William Henry Chamberlin, Percy L. Greaves, Jr., George A. Lundberg, George Morgenstern, William L. Neumann, Frederick R. Sanborn, and Charles Callan Tansill. (The Caston Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, (1953) \$6.00.)

This is a frightening, important, neglected book. It has only recently reached us and Dr. Barnes claims that denigration, silence and misrepresentation have been the treatment given by what we would call "the Establishment" in an America not in his view so very far from 1984. The work is dedicated to the memory of Charles Austin Beard—an historian honoured and reviled. Like Beard, Mr. Barnes and his collaborators utterly reject the Roosevelt myth. Indeed they attribute to the great President as much of the blame for World War II as could plausibly be placed upon a single pair of shoulders. Not only, as Lord Chandos and others have explained, did F.D.R. force Japan into war; but by commission and omission brought about the "infamy" of Pearl Harbour.

Less convincingly argued, because the evidence is so diffuse and the conflicts so intricate, is the account given of the inter-war years. The conclusion reached is that Roosevelt did much to make Nazi Germany's aggression and the spread of Communism inevitable; Neville Chamberlain in 1938-39 appears weak not merely towards the German Chancellor but towards the American President. Dr. Barnes and his associates seem to believe that German expansion could have been directed eastwards and that the Nazi menace, in for instance Latin America, was over-estimated. Their philosophy is isolationist; they believe the world and its peace better served by an American policy of "America First" of "continentalism" rather than "internationalism". They pronounce "One World" as dead and find no popular basis for world government.

Englishmen may find quaint the survival of the view that British cunning and diplomacy have involved the United States since World War II in the defence and subsidizing of non-American interests; but should read the distinguished and elegant essays Dr. Barnes has brought together and his own remarkable contribution. Their scholarship and their arguments—some of which are shared by Mr. Kennan—should be dispassionately weighed and met, if they can be met—for the sake of truth and the safety of the nations.

SEAS AND COASTS

Nautilus 90 North, by Commander William R. Anderson, U.S.N., with Clay Blair, Jr. Foreword by Rear-Admiral G. B. H. Fawkes, C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E. (Hodder & Stoughton; 15s.)

Contraband Cargoes: Seven Centuries of Smuggling, by Neville Williams. (Longmans; 25s.)

If the U.S.S.R. has led in space travel, the U.S.A. is on top—to coin an Hibernianism—under the ice. Outdoing in actuality the fiction of Jules Verne, Commander Anderson and his brilliant company accompanied the North-West Passage under the pack ice from the Bering Straits to the North Atlantic. A voyage enough to freeze the marrow of the armchair mariner is here readably and modestly told. The introductory words of the British Admiral who for nearly a decade commanded the N.A.T.O. submarines in the Eastern Atlantic is in the best tradition of his Service and the sea.

Also recommended to readers and "boys of all ages" is Mr. William's racy yet scholarly story of smuggling, ancient and modern. Not even the old English runners of "brandy for the parson" were as romantic as all that. Not only did some of them fight the preventive men but they terrorized a peaceable countryside. Yet theirs was not so seamy a business as the white slave and drug traffickers of the nineteenth and present centuries.

METEOR

Lord Randolph Churchill, by Robert Rhodes James. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson; 36s.)

Mr. James, a talented employee of the House of Commons, has written an elegant life incorporating considerable new material not possessed, or not used, by Sir Winston in his own great work of filial piety or by Lord Roseberry in his faultless vignette. The author's courage in attempting a new study of Sir Winston's ill-starred father is rewarded with success and a book of value to the serious student will be enjoyed by the general reader.

NEO-THOMISM

On the Philosophy of History, by Jacques Maritain. Edited by Joseph W. Evans. (Bles; 15s.)

There are here reproduced four lectures delivered during a seminar in Notre Dame University, in the United States, in 1955.

Treading in the footsteps of St. Augustine, M. Maritain brings out with clarity the Christian truth that history is not a cycle but a linear movement. He shows that the judgment of God and of history are very different and rebukes the determinists who "think that the only evil is to resist history".

V.C.

The Only Enemy: The Autobiography of Brigadier Sir John Smyth, Bt., V.C., M.C., M.P. (Hutchinson; 30s.)

Men decorated "For Valour" are often very modest and very humble: "Jackie" (never John) Smyth is no exception.

This unassuming yet well-written and at times memoir is a story of courage, of the conquest of infirmity and of self. No wonder its author attracted the friendship and support of Winston Churchill.

Churchill for a while, Smyth for longer served an Indian apprenticeship. The Indian Army was one of the great unifying and civilizing factors of the old Empire: "I have often wished (Smyth writes) that some of my fellow Members of Parliament, who were only acquainted with the Indian and Pakistani politician, could have known and understood" the "unique relationship which existed between the Indian soldier and his British officers".

In these pages and in his work for fellow-V.C.'s, for the victims of Japanese prison camps, for all Servicemen, in unostentatious service of Crown and Commonwealth as Minister, backbencher and serving soldier, Smyth stands out a Christian and a patriot.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR

Glory Without Power: A Study of Trade Unionism in our Present Society, by Richard Clements. (Arthur Baker; 11s. 6d.)

The Shop Stewards' Movement and Workers' Control 1910-1922, by Branko Pribicevic. (Basil Blackwell; 25s.)

The author of the first of these books suggests that we are now facing a new crisis in labour and capital relationship and outlines the position of trades unions in present society and makes suggestions as to how present difficulties might be solved. He is not afraid to criticise where he feels criticism is merited, but he is a strong supporter of the movement which he considers "is perhaps the most important organisation which has developed out of the struggle for economic and social emancipation over the past hundred years".

In the second of these books, the author, who is a Yugo-slav, deals with the important formative period of 1910-1922. Professor G. D. H. Cole writes in the foreword that it "is a remarkable piece of work, the most reliable and comprehensive history of the subject it deals with, showing both a remarkable understanding of British conditions and a most acute judgment of the strength and weaknesses of the movement it describes".

The author uses the term 'workers' control' as meaning the replacement of the capitalist industrial system by a new industrial order in which the industries of the country will be controlled (partly or completely) by associations of the workers employed in those industries. He fully describes the impact of the three main schools of thought — Industrial Unionism, Syndicalism and Guild Socialism, and the effect of these ideas on the shop-stewards' struggle for control in the engineering work-shops.

BACK TO RUSSIA

It all Started with Marx, by Richard Armour. (Hammond, Hammond; 12s. 6d.)

Russia Explored, by John Brown. (Hodder & Stoughton; 16s.)

Richard Armour's book is a lighthearted satire and is described as "a brief and objective history of Russian Communism, the objective being to leave not one stone, but many unturned, to state the theories of Marx so clearly that they can be almost understood, and to show how these theories and many old friends were carried out by Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Malenkov, Khrushchov and others". Illustrated by Campbell Grant, it will give plenty of laughs to those who like this kind of book. Under the light-hearted satirical style there are some very shrewd thrusts.

Interesting though not very profound, *Russia Explored* gives the impressions of the Soviet Union of a seasoned traveller able to make comparisons with pre-war conditions. Mr. Brown found the food in the Soviet Union superior to the increasingly artificial diet of the urban Englishman.

BENI ISRAEL

A Journey Through the Old Testament, by M. A. Beek. Translated by Arnold J. Pomerans. (Hodder & Stoughton; 21s.)

The Past Present: A Year in Afghanistan, by Edward Hunter. (Hodder & Stoughton; 18s.)

Written with a light touch and excellently translated, Professor Beck's *Journey* is one which can be comfortably undertaken by unadvanced students of the historical and archaeological roots of Holy Writ. Popular ignorance of the Old Testament will be dispelled as also surviving illusions that scholarship, science and the spade disprove the Bible story. Rather do they substantiate it.

Some have discovered Israel's Lost Tribes in the mountains to the North West of Pakistan where Mr. Edward Hunter found the past still present. He tells a most readable tale with a most convincing atmosphere. It is informative though not profound and there is some odd spelling; thus, "Tarjik" and "Farci".

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SHORTER NOTICES

Business Forecasting, by Elmer C. Bratt. (McGraw Hill; 58s.)

Written by an authority in the field of business forecasting, this book provides a thorough treatment of methods used based on experience in the U.S.A. After discussing the methods and uses of forecasting the author goes on to analyse the adequacy of forecasts and concludes "that successful general-business forecasting has been principally limited to relatively stable and prosperous times".

Educating one Nation, by John Sharp. (Max Parrish; 12s. 6d.)

The author writes in a lively and controversial style and deals in this book with education in England as

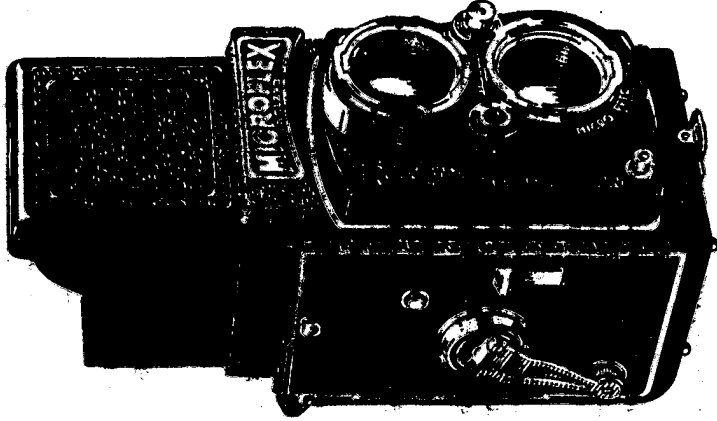
distinct from the United Kingdom as a whole. He gives a constructive analysis of the Secondary system as it exists today and suggests that we are too ready to accept a position of 'educating' our children on the cheap!

The Staple Food Economics of Western Tropical Africa, by Bruce F. Johnson. (Stanford University Press, London; Oxford University Press; 48s.)

This study presents a broad picture of the staple food crops of major importance in African agriculture and diets and relates these to the problem of increasing productivity and enlarging food supplies which are of critical importance to the future economic development of tropical Africa.

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The Theory of Public Finance: A Study in Public Economy, by Richard A. Musgrave. (McGraw-Hill Book Co.; 97s.)

The author is Professor of Economics in the University of Michigan. In this volume he presents a comprehensive treatment of fiscal theory in modern economics, the basic theme being to integrate the classical with the Keynesian aspects of the problem.

AFRICAN CONTRASTS

Central African Witness, by Cyril Dunn. (Gollancz; 21s.)

The Africa of Today and Tomorrow: A Continent on the Move. (The Royal African Society, April 1959; 5s.)

The cheaper of these two books is the better. Mr. Cyril Dunn might have used the four years 1954-58, during which he was *The Observer's* African Correspondent to have gained a more balanced view of Central African problems. His ideas and conclusions are admirable; but in his presentation of his facts he shows signs of the mental colour bar in reverse.

The lectures given during the two day course held at the Livery Hall, Guildhall, on the 28th-29th January, 1959, are by contrast scrupulously fair, even by *apartheid*, the case for which is argued by Mr. Nelson E. Mustoe, a South African Q.C. Now particularly valuable is Mr. F. J. Pedler's elucidation of some of the complex policies and movements in French Africa.

★ FOR REFERENCE ★

Items in this Section will be kept for one year. Any of our readers and any member of the Economic Research Council who wishes to refer to any of them is invited to apply, citing the appropriate number or numbers (given in brackets after each item).

P.E.P.

Agricultural policies in Western Europe. Occasional Paper No. 3. P.E.P.; 3s. 6d. (1980)

E.C.S.C.

Seventh General Report on the Activities of European Coal and Steel Community. Feb. 1959. (1081)

U.S.S.R.

Great Plan of the Soviet Union. Soviet Booklet No. 49. Target figures for the economic development of the U.S.S.R. from 1959 to 1965. (1082)

O.E.E.C.

Economic Condition in Member Countries and Associated Countries of the O.E.E.C.

Spain: Examines trend of Spanish economy of last five years. (1083)
Turkey: Covers 18 months period to end of 1958. (1084)

European Productivity. No. 31. Feb. 1959. *European Productivity Agency of the O.E.E.C.* (1085)

The Work of the O.E.E.C.
A report by the Secretary-General. April 1959. (1086)

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