

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND LECTURERS OF ALLIED COUNTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

AS the established bodies for intellectual collaboration were obliged to cease their work owing to the War, universities being in many cases closed down in the occupied countries by the invader, scholars, professors and lecturers from all over the world gradually made their way to England, where they now have their headquarters and are living and working in all parts of Great Britain.

This assemblage seemed to present a unique opportunity for men of mutual interests and intellect to come together and form an Association. A few professors of different nationalities, headed by Prof. Stefan Glaser of Poland, decided to start an Association, the aims of which are the reconstruction of universities in the occupied countries after the War, the development of an academic fraternity between allied university teachers and research workers now in Great Britain, the consideration of all academic problems both during the War and in the post-war period, collaboration with any other bodies which may have similar interests, the examination of problems referred to it by any of the Allied Governments or by any other appropriate official bodies.

The first general meeting was held on May 11, 1942. From the very first there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm and an organization was formed under the title of "Association of University Professors and Lecturers of Allied Countries in Great Britain". There are at present 225 members and twelve countries are represented, besides India and the British Dominions.

As the whole subject of post-war reconstruction and education is a long and very complex one, it was furthermore decided to get in touch and collaborate with other associations of similar interests. Contacts were made with the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the British Association of University Teachers, and the American University Union. Several neutral countries, which may have representatives as guests, have been approached, and all the vice-chancellors of universities in Great Britain have been informed of the programme of work.

Since the Association has to deal with different domains and subjects, it was decided to form separate sections in order that members should be able to collaborate on subjects of mutual interest. There are at present twelve such sections:

(1) Contact and collaboration with British scholars; organization of lectures of Allied professors in Great Britain (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. P. Vaucher).

(2) Collaboration with other international bodies; international research centre in Great Britain; international review of science and learning (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. J. Timmermans).

(3) Reconstruction of science and learning in the occupied countries (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. S. Glaser).

(4) Re-education of youth after the War and alleviation of moral damage; future collaboration (elaboration of common programmes of teaching, improvement of existing programmes, exchange of students and teachers, acknowledgment of Allied diplomas in Great Britain and so on); elaboration

of main principles of the future social order; international university (*Provisional chairman*, Mr. Randall Lane).

(5) Law (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. A. L. Goodhart).

(6) Science (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. A. Photiades).

(7) Economy (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. J. A. Veraart).

(8) Modern humanities (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. L. Genissieux).

(9) History (*Provisional chairman*, Dr. Yuen-li Liang).

(10) Technical science and engineering.

(11) Medicine, as distinct from general science (*Provisional chairman*, Prof. J. Skladal).

(12) Philosophy.

The executive committee consists of sixteen members, namely:

BELGIUM: Prof. Jean Timmermans; CHINA: Dr. Yuen-li Liang; CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Prof. Vladimir Klecanda; FRANCE: Prof. René Cassin, Prof. Paul Vaucher; GREAT BRITAIN: Sir Alfred Zimmern, Prof. B. Ifor Evans, Prof. W. Entwistle, Prof. R. Douglas Laurie; GREECE: Prof. Alexander Photiades; NETHERLANDS: Prof. J. A. Veraart; NORWAY: Prof. A. Sommerfelt; POLAND: Prof. Stefan Glaser, Prof. B. Helczynski; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Prof. A. L. Goodhart; YUGOSLAVIA: H.E. Prof. Milan Grol.

The officers of the Association and of the executive committee are: Prof. Stefan Glaser (president); Prof. Jean Timmermans (vice-president); Prof. B. Ifor Evans (secretary-general); Prof. Paul Vaucher (treasurer).

The second general meeting as well as a meeting of all sections will take place on December 16 at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, at 4 p.m. Information concerning membership or details regarding the work and aims of the Association can be obtained from the Secretary for the Association, 40 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

By D. CARADOG JONES

"SOMETHING to Look Forward To"* is the title of an ingenious pamphlet by Lady Rhys Williams in which a new form of social contract is outlined, capable in her view of providing security and a fuller home life for the ordinary men and women of Great Britain "within the framework of our democratic constitution, and without destroying or even greatly altering the present organization of industry, finance, and the machinery of Government". She does not agree with those who maintain that economic security for the worker is only possible subject to the nationalization of the chief sources of production. If it can be proved that, under private enterprise and the profit motive, the system which has prevailed and made Great Britain relatively rich in the past, it is possible to preserve liberty and to banish want, then it would be unwise, argues Lady Williams, to scrap this old system and substitute a new one which at best is bound to be a gamble. She

* Something to Look Forward To: a Suggestion for a New Social Contract. By Lady J. Rhys Williams. Pp. 54. (Cardiff: *Western Mail and Echo*, Ltd., 1942.)

offers such a proof and supports it with statistics. While it is possible to check her arithmetic—one error may be noted in the total under A(4) on p. 40—the fundamental figures on which her estimates of cost are based are given in the form of averages and it is not clear how these have been determined.

The author believes that, although there would be no intrinsic difficulty in distributing to all men on an equal basis the goods which already exist, the incentive to production would quickly disappear if that were done. Nor would this difficulty be overcome by an extension of national insurance. Already, with our pre-war rates of benefit, many an unskilled labourer with several children could do better on the dole than by a hard week's work for wages. The solution proposed is in effect the free offer of a dole to everybody (though to call it bare maintenance sounds better) irrespective of their income or state of employment. This, it is claimed, would at least have the merit of not placing those who are out of work at an advantage over those who are in work.

Perhaps the term "free offer" is scarcely fair. Those who accept would be expected in return to follow their normal occupation, to register at an employment exchange, and to accept suitable work in their own line. If unemployed beyond, say, twelve months, training for a new trade would be provided or assistance in removal to another part of the country where work might be available. This is the essence of the contract.

The nature of the maintenance scheme is best illustrated by a practical example. Consider the case of a man earning £4 a week, with a wife and two dependent children. This family would get allowances for rent, fuel and light, and food in the form of non-transferable coupons valid only between certain dates, the cash value of the coupons depending on the size and composition of the family. They would be exchangeable into money, either at a bank or at the local office which issued them, by the landlords and retailers to whom they would be paid by the householder. In the particular case chosen the allowance for rent would be 7s. a week in respect of the householder and 3s. 6d. in respect of each dependant, or 17s. 6d. in all. The corresponding allowance for fuel and light would be 1s. 6d. a week for the man and 1s. 3d. for each dependant, or 5s. 3d. in all; and for food 8s. for the man and 7s. 3d. for each dependant, or 29s. 9d. in all. In addition the man would get a cash allowance of 3s. 6d. a week and each dependant would get 2s. 6d., making 11s. in all. Thus the cash value of the total benefits payable to this household would amount to 63s. 6d. We must offset against this a flat-rate tax of 7s. 6d. in the pound, which it is proposed to levy on the first £250 of all incomes, or 30s. in this case. Hence the net weekly gain to the family would be 33s. 6d.

Certain supplementary benefits are proposed covering health, education, and funeral costs. All these would be a clear addition to wages, military and nurses' pensions, and other forms of retirement pay. But old age and widows' pensions, also benefit under the Health Insurance Acts, would be superseded by the new scheme. Unemployment benefit, on a reduced scale, would still be paid to those out of work through no fault of their own; but unemployment assistance and public assistance, apart from exceptional cases, would cease.

The flat-rate tax mentioned above is estimated to provide roughly four fifths of the money required (£2,070 million) to finance the scheme, the balance to

come from savings on existing social service expenditure and economies due to bulk-purchase of food-stuffs, to which are added the benefit of present food subsidies and a grant of some £100 million from the Exchequer.

The idea of providing free State maintenance for the poorest section of the population has attracted many thinkers, if only as a means of tidying our conglomerate social services by a clean sweep. It will be interesting to compare Sir William Beveridge's solution of this problem, not made public at the time of writing, with that of Lady Williams. Before her interesting plan receives serious consideration, no doubt the question will quite reasonably be asked whether it is really necessary. Admitting, as she apparently does, that the machinery of production, if fully utilized and directed to the satisfaction of human needs, is capable of providing "undreamed of prosperity", should not such full utilization provide employment for all, and should not wages, salaries, and profits rise in step with production—without any drastic change in the economic system—granted that enough (but not too much) credit is always made available to circulate the goods? Nevertheless, the proposals contained in the pamphlet provide refreshing food for thought for all who are interested in the major question of the future: the disposal of surplus production.

SHIPBUILDING AND RESEARCH

THE seventeenth report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure, dealing with merchant shipbuilding and repairs, points out that the rate of output of merchant ships has been greatly increased since the beginning of the War. The programme of merchant shipbuilding which was set for 1941 was substantially attained, and in the first six months of 1942 the programme was slightly exceeded. The arrears of repair work have been cleared off, partly as a result of a decline in the amount of repair work, but partly also because of improvements in organization. The output per worker has greatly increased and has probably never been higher. In one region it increased by one half between February 1941 and June 1942, and the evidence is that in spite of American advantages in labour supply and the absence of black-out restrictions, the output per man in tons of steel in the American yards is about half that in the British yards.

In the view of the Admiralty the greatest difficulty is in obtaining sufficient labour, and the Select Committee concurs in pointing out that for a larger shipbuilding programme further measures will be required to provide the necessary labour, by the recruitment and training of new workers, better utilization of the labour force and improving the output of each worker. Riveters present a special difficulty, and the establishment of training schools for riveters in the main shipbuilding areas is recommended under the management either of the Ministry of Labour or of private shipbuilders in their own yards. Inquiry by the Ministry of Labour into the experience gained of the employment of women in other heavy industries, as well as in shipbuilding, so far as it is available, is also recommended, to decide what trades can be carried on by women and under what conditions, and what standards of health