

Douglas Sees Utopia Here In S.C. Plan

Says if Credit Available
Without Restriction,
Poverty Vanishes

"A BLESSED LAND"

By A. C. Cummings

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LONDON, Sept. 17.—"If the credit of a rich province is made fully available to its people without artificial restrictions of any kind there will be no poverty. Everyone will have enough to eat, a decent house, opportunities for recreation and adequate leisure. That, I believe, will happen in Alberta if the new government sticks to its policy."

Major C. H. Douglas, world-famous exponent of Social Credit, has been telling the British press what he thinks of the Alberta elections. He makes it clear that there is no disagreement between Premier Aberhart and himself and he insists that in "15 months from now Alberta will be a blessed land". In time, he is convinced, it will become "one of the show places of the world."

Major Douglas, as all his friends know, is a shrewd, keen, practical man of affairs, a successful engineer, a highly-competent accountant and a clear-thinking economist, led by nothing but facts as he finds them.

He Offers Remedy

He does not contemplate revolutionary changes. He simply insists that he has discovered where and how the financial machine has broken down—why in a world of

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plenty there is poverty—and he offers his cure as a severely-practical proposal. So when he says that all that he fears will happen Alberta is not a run on the banks, not a fall in exports, nor a shortage of foreign exchange, but rather an influx of immigration which "may reach formidable dimensions and may be difficult to control," he is making statements which he believes are strictly accurate.

"In Alberta," he says, "you have a vigorous people and a land with immense natural resources. Sixty per cent of the production of the province is agricultural, chiefly wheat. Five per cent consists of manufactures and 15 per cent minerals. You have, therefore, a reasonably balanced economy. In time, if my ideas work out, the proportion of manufactures will increase and the province will become largely self-supporting though this is by no means essential to the success of my proposals.

"The men who have been elected to office, are capable of tackling the formidable task which confronts them.

Blames Distribution

"The cause of our trouble lies in a breakdown in the system of distribution. In Alberta there is a great hoard of wheat left over from last year's harvest. In New York and Manchester and China, and even in Edmonton and Calgary, there are men and women without enough to eat. The reason for this deplorable statement of affairs is that the monetary system of the world has failed to adapt itself to modern conditions."

Major Douglas then goes on to explain how modern money consists of two things, cash and credit, and how credit, by far the more important, is controlled by a few individuals whose interests frequently conflict with those of the community and who work for their own interests, namely the bankers. But as the credit of the community represents the total wealth of that community and that wealth consists of all the goods produced or producible by its members, the wealth of Alberta is in reality very great, only its people have been denied it by "an antiquated money system."

"Mr. Aberhart, the new prime minister, is a man of magnetic personality," says Major Douglas. "He is a magnificent orator. In the heat of the election he went rather beyond any proposals that I have made, but it is entirely false to say that I am in disagreement with him. I admire him greatly. He was a successful headmaster of a school in Calgary. He is a deeply religious man and a fine rugby footballer. Above all, he has a flexible and receptive mind."

Hopes Bonus Higher

"Now he intends to challenge the present assumption that the banks are the owners of credit backed by the natural wealth of Alberta and he intends to administer it himself as a trustee for the people of Alberta. He promised during the election to pay to every Albertan \$25 a month. I hope and believe that, once his plans are in full operation, that figure will be substantially raised.

"There are various methods by which this could be done. Mr. Aberhart is, to some extent, controlled by the provisions of the Canadian bank act. In order to circumvent that act he proposed at the election to issue non-negotiable certificates to the population. These notes could only be used once. A man would draw one from a bank or post office and buy a certain quantity of goods from his grocer or butcher with it. The shopkeeper would then return it to the treasury and receive a fresh note which he could use only once in exchange. By this method the exclusive right of the dominion government to issue money would not be infringed."

Major Douglas thinks it will take 15 months to put the plan into operation and he expects that period to be one of "bitter strife." The vested interests of the bankers and financiers will not relinquish their monopoly without a hard struggle. However, there is one important factor, he thinks, in favor of the Aberhart government — the dislike and distrust of banks that has grown up all over North America.

They are regarded, he says, "as institutions that have abused their stewardship of the people's wealth."

Claims Huge Backing

"The psychological atmosphere in Alberta," he declares, "is favorable to our operations and I should say that more than 90 per cent of the population is on our side. That is very fortunate for if the majority were smaller, the majority might be tempted to resort to bloodshed and to civil war in defence of their privileges without understanding that no reasonable privilege is challenged."

Major Douglas can see men and women pouring into Alberta from all parts of North America once Social Credit is in full working order there.

"Fortunately," he says, "the country is large and fertile and the population at present small. Perhaps before the rush becomes too intensive, other provinces will have profited by the example of Alberta and the system of Social Credit will have been established elsewhere."
