

CHAPTER EIGHT

How often down through the ages man has sought a Higher Power than his own and has prayed time out of number "Thy will be done" and has claimed to believe in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you."

I cannot believe that any normal human being would ever pray for a crop failure or for a bankruptcy or for a mortgage foreclosure or for starvation for himself and family.

There is no doubt that those who formulate financial policy, thereby controlling economic policy and the policy of governments believe in the power of prayer. One cannot help but wonder why with so much evidence at hand to show that God's will was being deliberately thwarted and that we were by no means doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, so many could continue to follow these nonsensical and even diabolical programs.

While farmers prayed for rain and a good crop, governments paid them to raise less. A crop failure on a national scale would undoubtedly have been a great boon to such a government. To destroy the goods once they are produced and to deliberately prevent the production of needed goods is nothing short of sacrilege, yet while all these things were going on, we hypocritically went to church and sang praises to Almighty God.

How one could read the report of the London Chamber of Commerce which stated: "Ninety million destitute people and the means for satisfying that human need is either restricted or destroyed," and at the same time a report to Congress, U.S.A., by the Secretary to Congress which also stated:

"Eighty per cent of the population of the world are living below the poverty line" or a statement from the Advisory Committee on Nutrition under Sir John Orr which read:

"Twenty-two million people in Great Britain are suffering from malnutrition of a greater or lesser degree" and not he moved to try to do something about it staggers one's imagination. Instead, bureaucrats all over the world were endeavoring to gear the production of goods to the amount of money which flowed from the banker's pen and actually inaugurated systems of fines if producers dared to produce anything whatever in a greater amount than a bureaucratic edict allowed. In 1934 alone British farmers were fined over fifteen thousand pounds for growing too many potatoes.

The laws of every civilized country are such that children must be protected and cared for by their parents. On occasions we read in the press where a father has been thrown into prison or fined, or both, for not supplying his family properly with food, clothing and shelter, while capable of doing so. Child neglect is treated as a serious crime. It seems, however, that when this is done on a national scale by the action or the inaction of governments, when millions are deprived of food, shelter and clothing which we possess or can undoubtedly produce, and when our welfare rolls increase daily, and more and more people are dependent upon the state for a bare living, having lost their self-respect, we pat ourselves on the back and boast from the housetops about our moral and economic sanity.

According to Scripture, God gave man dominion over the birds of the air and the beasts of the field; he likewise provided their food. We have never yet heard of any of these creatures starving to death amidst plenty. This is only done by man, God's greatest creation and the highest form of animal life.

It was these conditions Mr. Aberhart was determined to eradicate once and for all. As he drove home his arguments he would often remind his audience of their personal responsibility by saying: "But, ladies and gentlemen, if you have not already suffered enough, it is your God given right to suffer some more".

Is it any wonder that the people of Alberta rallied around him as the "Moses" who would lead them to the promised land. As support for him and his program grew, so did the intensity of the attacks upon him. These attacks for the most part took the form of ridicule, rather than reasoned argument against his program.

Those who wished to deride him would often say on the public platform or in the press: "What does this school teacher know about economics"? or "How can you expect a Bible puncher such as he is to know anything about money and banking? His views on economics must be as 'screwy' as are his interpretations of the Bible." Such attacks upon him personally naturally backfired and there is no doubt that many thousands of people who otherwise might have paid little or no attention to his unorthodox views became supporters because they believed in fair play.

Among those who tried to dismiss the A plus B theorem of Major Douglas and the sincere efforts of Mr. Aberhart to bring about monetary reform, were many university-trained orthodox economists of that day. Surely they, of all people, should have known that the orthodox programs which had been advocated by them over the years were no solution whatever to the economic plight of that day. They, amongst others, cried "overproduction" and advocated that the Federal government pay the farmers to keep their land black. Such a program was carried out right in our own country and farmers were paid not to produce. This program seemed to meet with the complete approval of the Liberal and Conservative parties. The Socialists screamed for government ownership of the means of production, while at the same time the products of private enterprise were so great as to stagger one's imagination, and they too, joined with the Conservatives and Liberals in their ridicule of Social Credit and Mr. Aberhart.

Mr. Aberhart continued to point out that we had production galore but that our people were suffering from underconsumption. "Technology has solved the problems of production", he argued, "but we are still trying to gear these new productive methods to an ox cart system of finance." These things the people could readily understand, especially as he spiced his argument with anecdotes. He often spoke of himself as a man who could produce a heavy beard, while at the same time being as bald as a peeled onion. He would amuse the audience by saying: "You see, ladies and gentlemen, there is nothing wrong with my production; it's the distribution that's bothering me."

While his critics may have gained some support for themselves by pointing out that Mr. Aberhart's background was not that of a financier, an economist or a politician, it was difficult, and even impossible, to argue successfully against the evidence of other men of contemporary or former days who spoke with authority on the same subject from practical experience. Examples of such authorities, both statesmen and bankers, were easy to find and they were being quoted on every hand by the monetary reform advocates of that day.

It was Abraham Lincoln who said: "The privilege of creating and issuing money is not only the supreme prerogative of government, but it is their greatest creative opportunity."

The Right Honourable Thomas Johnson, Privy Councillor and ex-Lord Privy Seal, in his book, *Financiers and the Nation* stated: "While the British nation struggled almost at death's door for its very existence, and while masses of our manhood were daily being blown into bundles of bloody rags, our banking fraternities continued to create for themselves a great volume of NEW CREDIT and to lend that credit to us at INTEREST, indeed, at progressively increased interest."

William Jennings Bryan, in "The Power of the Common People" states: "The money power preys upon the nation in times of peace, and conspires against it in times of adversity. It is more despotic than monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, more selfish than bureaucracy. It denounces as public enemies all who question its methods, or throw light upon its crimes. It can only be overthrown by the awakened conscience of the nation."

Mr. Aberhart was certainly one man who realized how true was this statement of William

Jennings Bryan.

It was Thomas Jefferson who said: "If the American people ever allowed private banks to control the issuance of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the corporation that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all their property, until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

Following the American Civil War, Lincoln stated: "As a result of the Civil War, (banking) corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavour to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in the hands of the few, and the Republic will be destroyed."

Lord Tweedsmuir, former Governor General of Canada, stated: "There exists a great and powerful world which the states do not control. It is the world of finance." And, similarly, it was Prime Minister Disraeli of Great Britain who said: "The world is governed by very different persons from what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes."

Even Napoleon was aware of the tremendous power wielded by the banking fraternity when he said: "When the government is dependent for money upon bankers, the bankers, and not the leaders of the government, control the situation.

Money has no motherland; financiers are without patriotism and decency. Their sole object is gain."

Incidentally, another statement of Napoleon's is worthy of our consideration at the present time. When asked what he thought about China, he said: "There lies a sleeping giant. Let him sleep, for when he wakes up, all the world will move."

The late Lord Bryce, in his book, *Modern Democracies* stated: "Democracy has no more persistent or insidious foe than the money power. That enemy is formidable because he works secretly, by persuasion or deceit, rather than by force, and so takes men unawares. He is a danger to good government everywhere."

President Wilson, writing in *This New Freedom* stated: "Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, know there is a power so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so persuasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it."

Further in the same book: "We have been dreading all along the time when the combined power of high finance would be greater than the power of the government."

When the Right Honourable Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain, returned from the peace conference which laid down the terms of the Armistice following World War One and reported on what he had seen, he referred to the international bankers who were present as follows: "They swept statesmen, politicians, jurists and journalists all on one side, and issued their orders with the imperiousness of absolute monarchs who knew that there was no appeal from their ruthless decrees. This settlement (the Dawes Reparation Pact) is the joint ukase of King Dollar and King Sterling."

Many noted bankers and financiers were not only prepared to accept the criticism made of the banking system by others, but were outspoken themselves in admitting that the control of money as such has to be harmful to the interests of the general public.

One of the best known bankers of the Aberhart era was Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, appointed about 1920. To him are attributed two startling statements which

together indicate not only the power possessed by the banking institution but also give an insight into the operation of the banking system in time of war and makes it easier to understand the statement of the Right Honourable Lloyd George quoted above, "The Bank of England", said Montagu Norman, "is now so strong that we can allow or prevent a war and can quickly possess or control seventy-five per cent of all the property in the British Empire". And, again: "We have had to loan Germany" (and this is Hitler's Germany) "fifty million pounds. We may never get it back but what is the loss of fifty million pounds compared with loss to the world of Naziism."

What a revelation!

Vincent C. Vickers, previous Governor of the Bank of England, stated: "International finance and civilization cannot long exist side by side. Either international finance must be destroyed or civilization will be."

Mr. McNair Wilson in *Monarchy and Money Power* says: "Money is seated on the throne. For him who can at will bestow plenty or inflict starvation, holds a power that is like to God's."

The Right Honourable Reginald McKenna, one-time Governor of the Midland Bank, said: "They who control the credit of the nation, direct the policy of Governments, and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people." This statement is in keeping with that of Baron Rothschild who in 1790 said: "Permit me to control the credit of a nation and I care not who makes its laws."

Mr. R. J. Hawtrey, one-time Assistant Secretary of the British Treasury and himself a banker, stated: "When a bank lends, it creates the means of payment out of nothing."

Mr. Aberhart was ridiculed for making the same statement!

With evidence such as this constantly kept before our people by those who were monetary reform minded, whether as Social Crediters or otherwise, no one in Alberta appeared to be complacent in those days. Looking back now on two statements made by Major Douglas in 1934 to the Alberta Legislature, the history of these intervening years has shown us how correct he was. He referred to his appearance before the House of Commons in Ottawa in 1923 by saying: "Just as I told them in Ottawa in 1923 exactly what was going to happen in 1928 (the coming of the great depression) so I tell you now in 1934 that before 1940, if you have not changed the financial system it will change and probably eliminate you." And again: "There is no doubt whatever that the perfectly easily understood economic urge towards war comes primarily from the working of the financial system at the present time because of this necessity for overseas markets in order to provide purchasing power from these overseas markets. There is practically no room for discussion that the next war will almost inevitably destroy what we know as civilization. There is very little doubt that the next war is only two or three years ahead unless something is done to prevent it."

Speaking in Westminster, London, England, in March of 1936, Major Douglas closed his speech with these words: "We have done our best in the past twenty years to warn the world not only of what was coming but how the mechanism works that makes it come. I do not believe that work will be lost whatever happens."

There is much evidence today to indicate that the work of Major Douglas will not be lost.

During the earlier years of his writing many were converted to his views, who, in turn, published books on the same subject, which books are having wide circulation throughout the English speaking world. Marshall Hattersley and Maurice Colbourne are two of the better known of that day and more can be found today carrying on the same work, not only in Great Britain but throughout the English speaking world.

The path of the reformer is never a smooth one, regardless of his field of endeavor. As I write

this paragraph, Alan B. Shepard and Edgar D. Mitchell of Appollo 14 are walking on the moon. This tremendous feat is possible because of the work of men such as Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers and scores of others who, though laughed at and ridiculed, brought their great inventions into being.

When Edison said that he would make pictures that would move and machines that would talk, many so-called clever men of his day believed him to be "touched in the head" and when he stated earlier that he would make a hairpin burn in a bottle and light up the whole world, many people knew for sure he had to be crazy. Nevertheless, on October 1st, 1879, his first light bulb became a reality and burned for forty hours. This experiment cost him forty thousand dollars and untold hours of labor.

In the same way ridicule was heaped upon the heads of the Wright brothers while they were trying to prove that a machine heavier than air could fly. So-called intellectuals knew that the law of gravity would never permit it.

These inventors, however, were not deterred by such public criticism and because they possessed that precious, though elusive, thing we call freedom, they were able to bring to mankind such blessings that the lives of all people have been beneficially changed.

According to the laws of aerodynamics it can apparently be proven conclusively, I am told, that it is impossible for a bumblebee to fly on his tiny transparent wings. However, being totally unaware of such laws, he is entirely unperturbed and goes about his business of flying many miles a day to produce one of man's most beneficial foods.

Such people as I have mentioned are dedicated to a cause and nothing can influence them to deviate one iota from their determination to prove their point.

In the battle for monetary reform, any dedicated man or woman will undoubtedly be subjected to more unjust criticism and harsh ridicule than is the case with an inventor. Entrenched finance, controlling as it does, all the major news media, is in a position to constantly bring their opposition to the minds of an unsuspecting public, so busy with making a living under the adverse conditions created deliberately by these same people, they have little time to give serious thought to monetary reform.

The critics of the would-be inventor, enjoying their own bigotry, are nevertheless secretly hoping the invention will succeed, while those who ridicule the monetary reformer are undoubtedly determined that everything they can do will be done to prevent his work from being brought to fruition, as his success would most definitely interfere with, and actually destroy their monopoly.

Thomas Edison, one of the greatest geniuses of our time, and a man who revolutionized our way of life with his many inventions, also had something to say about our money system. Not necessarily noted as a monetary reformer, his statement made during the great depression is nevertheless as logical as are his hundreds of inventions. He wrote: "The only dynamite that works in this country is the dynamite of a sound idea. I think we are getting a sound idea on the money question. The people have an instinct which tells them that something is wrong and that the wrong somehow centers in money.

"Don't allow them to confuse you with cry of 'paper money'. The danger of paper money is precisely the danger of gold—if you get too much it is no good. There is just one rule for money and that is to have enough to carry all the legitimate trade that is waiting to move. Too little and too much are both bad. But enough to move trade, enough to prevent stagnation on the one hand and not enough to permit speculation on the other hand, is the proper ratio.

"If our nation can issue a dollar bond, it can issue a dollar bill. The element that makes the bond good makes the bill good also.

"It is the people who constitute the basis of Government credit. Why, then, cannot the people have the benefits of their own gilt-edge credit by receiving non-interest-bearing currency—instead of bankers receiving the benefit of the people's credit in interest-bearing bonds? If the U.S. Government will adopt this policy of increasing its national wealth without contributing to the interest collector—for the whole national debt is made up of interest charges—then you will see an era of progress and prosperity in the country such as could never have come otherwise."

The Right Honourable Ramsay Macdonald, Labor Prime Minister of Great Britain, discovered shortly after taking office the power wielded by banks, causing him to remark: "Finance controls the sluices of every stream that runs to turn the wheels of industry and can put fetters upon the feet of every government in existence. Governments are only in office and not in power."

When the Right Honourable William Gladstone was Prime Minister of Great Britain, he made the following statement: "From the first time I took office as Chancellor of the Exchequer, I began to learn that the state held an essentially false position as to finance. The hinge of the whole situation was this: the government itself was not to be a substantive power in matters of finance, but was to leave the money power supreme and unquestioned."

President J. A. Garfield of the United States also realized the tremendous power wielded by financiers when he said: "He who controls the volume of money in any country is the absolute master of its industry and commerce."

Henry Ford Sr., when analysing the economic system which saw governments destroying goods and paying farmers not to produce, made the following statement: "Never has a surplus of any good thing been produced. The cry of over-production is a money cry. It is never a human cry. Ask any housewife how much more she would buy in the way of food, home furnishings, attire, schooling, health, recreation and travel if she had the money."

Social Crediters have always maintained that Alberta's economy can expand only if the mass of its citizens is able to buy everything our industries and farms can produce.