

# Can Alberta's New Social Credit Plan Be Made To Succeed?

Province Pioneers New Plan of Credit Untried by any Government In the World

BY A. C. BALLANTINE

ALGARY, ALTA: Will it work? That is the question which is being asked in Alberta by all but a few simple souls to whom William Aberhart, originator of the provincial Social Credit Plan, is a sort of deity to whom all things are possible.

Social Credit, undoubtedly the most venture some economic experiment of all time, is the subject of much speculation in this, the first province of Canada, and the first political unit in the world, to attempt it.

Although, of course, the government which was elected on a pledge to inaugurate the system has as yet "nothing to show for its money," plans are in course of preparation. The seeds have been planted. Into what manner of flower will it grow?

It might be going too far to say, as the Alberta attorney-general, Hon. John W. Huggill, says, that those who were opposed to Social Credit before the election are now "enthusiastic" over it, but certain it is that much of the early prejudice against it, not only in Alberta but in other provinces, is wearing down.

This is to some extent a case of bowing to the inevitable and the converse of the force which won the government its election—the suspicion that anything was worth a trial and even if a new government failed to inaugurate Social Credit it might still accomplish substantial reform.

Premier Aberhart acknowledges the inspiration of Major C. H. Douglas, the Scottish economist and originator of a plan of Social Credit for his country which, however, has never yet been tried.

The Aberhart plan differs slightly from the Douglas, but is based on the premise that it is the duty of the State to organize its economic structure in such a way that no bona fide citizen, man, woman or child, shall be allowed to suffer for lack of the bare necessities of food, clothing and shelter in the midst of abundance. The remedies he proposes are set out in his "Manual" thus:

"1. Basic dividends are to be given to every bona fide citizen in the form of credit (not money) to provide for his bare necessities of food, clothing and shelter."

(An impression that these dividends will range between \$25 and \$75 a month arises from the fact that Mr. Aberhart once mentioned the sums as a hypothetical figure.)



William Aberhart, premier of Alberta

"2. An automatic price control system will be introduced to fix a Just Price at which goods and services will be available.

"3. Provision will be made for the continuous flow of credit."

The estimated benefits are that business would take on new life, increased consumption would call for more production and, hence, more employment.

"DIVIDENDS will not be paid in money," Mr. Aberhart explains, "but issued in the form of credit much as banks now issue many of their loans, and this credit will be a charge against the natural resources of the province."

He is quite emphatic that this will not increase the public debt, nor will it resolve itself into a gigantic scheme of taxation, for the plan contemplates reduction in the spread between the producer's cost and the consumer's price, increasing the producer's cost so that he may have a fair turn-

## Limelight Destroys Island Tranquility for Kin of Famous Mutineer— Seeks Escape and Fortune in Big City

FLETCHER CHRISTIAN, swashbuckling, adventurous leader of the mutiny of the *Bounty*, in 1789 sought escape from civilization on far-off Pitcairn Island, a beautiful but lonely atoll in the South Seas. He married a Tahitian girl of royal lineage and lived and died away from his native land. Today, his great-great-grandson, Chester Christian, last of the line, chooses a great teeming metropolis in which to escape from a world that, following the widely-publicized story of the *Bounty* and his ancestor's part in it, made life a nightmare for him.

Young Christian was ideally happy on his tiny atoll until the romance of Pitcairn Island, which so gamorously rolled from the pens of Charles Nordhoff and Norman Hall, intrigued a bored world that was soon sending expeditions to the South Pacific. Motion picture cameras, photographers, writers—prying, inquisitive white men came. Strange people were constantly about. He must do this, and that, and the other thing, they told him. Even tourists came to demand autographs and snapshots.

On his treasure island, he had hunted wild pigs and chickens in the mountains; he fished, swam, and made love. He was without care—ideally happy. Then, the sudden exploitation of Fletcher Christian and Pitcairn, the forgotten isle! Strangers planned his life for him. He began to seek a refuge, but he could not escape in the islands, and one day found him boarding a San Francisco-bound steamer at the quay in Papeete.

TODAY he has found escape just as completely in a great city as Fletcher Christian found it on lonely Pitcairn. Singing the old "himenes" (songs) of the islands and performing the dances of days

over if the price is too low, or reducing it if it is too high.

Two years ago he became interested in the Douglas system of Social Credit which, he says, he received at first cynically; then, wondering if the Scottish economist's plan could not be adapted to Alberta, he proceeded to do so more or less for his own diversion, and almost before he knew what had happened his present plan had been evolved, swept the country and carried himself into the premier's office.



Chester Christian Today and—Yesterday

that, even in the South Seas, are almost forgotten, Chester Christian is making his living in a San Francisco cafe, living quietly and unknown. Few of the many people he entertains hear his name and those that do seldom connect it with Fletcher Christian, the mutineer.

Like Fletcher Christian, Chester, (still in his twenties), has ideas of accomplishments of his own. Duly proud of his hardy progenitors (he carries with him at all times a treasured picture of Thursday October Christian, son of Fletcher), he is not content to bask in reflected glory.

Is the youth happy in his new world? Perhaps as happy as his great-great-grandfather was in his.

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