

until his last few pages the explanation of *why* the Canadian Government embarked on its programme of killing the eskimo by back-handed socialistic kindness. As the book title suggests, the root cause was land. The traditional lands of the eskimo are today "re-discovered" in a frenzy of activity redolent of the days of the American frontier. Huge reserves of lead, zinc, oil and gas lie beneath the Arctic surface. But to get at them the eskimo of the hunting grounds must be removed. And if, at the same time, he can be induced or manoeuvred into providing labour for these operations, then surely he can have no cause to complain?

But one who does complain is Hugh Brody. His compassion for the eskimos drips from his pen on virtually every page.

Yet he is under no illusion about the uniqueness of their plight. He regards their predicament as embodying "the destructive processes and social deformations that colonialism everywhere entails."

For the truth is that the forces destroying the eskimo in the twentieth century have been crushing primitive peoples—and many not so primitive—since civilisation began. Once separated from their lands their economic subjection becomes only a matter of time. Perhaps the underlying message of this book is that even beyond the tree-line, amid his blizzards and his ice-flows, the eskimo has not been safe.

ALEXANDER STILL GREAT

Roy Douglas

IT is not always possible to commend a writer's work wearing as it were, two different hats. But, then, S. W. Alexander is no ordinary writer. Beyond argument and doubt he has given more service to Free Trade than any other Briton alive. He argued that cause against all the mythologists and heresiarchs who so often took up cudgels against him and against each other: Beaverbrook and Rothermere; Boothby and Neville Chamberlain; Beveridge and all the "planners"; be they Tories, Socialists or so-called "Liberals."

The core of "Alex's" message will startle nobody who knows him: other policies may deal with symp-

toms; Free Trade in the broadest sense of the term goes to the core of the disease. Discover some malfunction in the economy; discover some palpable example of social wrong; and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the root of that malfunction or wrong lies in some restriction which has been imposed by governments upon the people—and the cure lies in less government action, not in more government action. This was ever the authentic "Alex" message: allow people to live their own economic lives as they wish, not as others choose for them. Dear old Diogenes in his barrel told another Alexander that the best thing a ruler could do to help people was to get out of their sunlight!

So, for those who falter and forget the Free Trade arguments, and for those who are not sure which weapons to use, let me recom-

Analysis and Prescription

LESS than a century ago, Britain was the most important industrialised nation in the world. Now her economy is teetering on the brink of collapse.

Is this the fault of recalcitrant trade unionists? Is it the fault of greedy businessmen? Is it the fault of a lethargic people? The answer to each question is "no". The blame and responsibility lies with the politicians. They do not know how they led us here: even less do they know how to lead us out of the mess. Without a clear understanding of the political decisions that caused the existing malaise, it is not possible to recognise the opportunities that were discarded on the way, nor how they can now be recaptured.

One purpose of a new book by Oliver Smedley* is to enlarge the political and economic debate, at present constricted to narrow issues of degree. The public are protected from the larger questions of direction. So much of the economic wisdom of the day is now gleaned from the statistical outpourings of government departments that, by sheer weight of paper, presentation of their view must prevail in the media.

Whether you are a serious student of economics or an interested layman, this book offers the rare

mend "Alex's" latest booklet. "*Montagu Norman versus Beaverbrook, Keynes, Boothby and the Political Pygmies.*"* Yet let it be commended for another very different reason too. All too often, fossilised political polemic is passed off to succeeding generations as authentic history. Pick up any but the very best history books, and you will find them littered with what are really superficial judgments of old-time propagandists, but are dignified now as a factual record of the past.

Before Keynes and all the rest of them attain final apotheosis; before Montagu Norman is consigned to the nethermost pit; let me enter the hope that historians will bother to consult this remarkable man, S. W. Alexander, who has known them all.

*20p post free from S.W.A., 44 Speed House, Barbican, London, E.C.2.

opportunity to widen your vision on the vital issues of the day; to see current industrial, political and economic events with far deeper insight. Oliver Smedley, in his lucid, original and readable style, pinpoints the wrong decisions in our history that have led us towards national disintegration.

Without a return to traditional policies there can be no solution. Early in the book you are faced with the horror of the inevitable outcome if we sheepishly continue with our present economic policies. You will also be shown the exciting prospects should we choose, as we must, to realign our policies with the three fundamental dimensions of economic well-being, Free Trade, Sound Money and the Taxation of Land Values.

Oliver Smedley mistrusts the capacity for leadership of those who seek "middle-of-the-road" solutions on a road leading only to the left. In so far as he seeks to mark out the right-hand kerb his book will provide an intellectually coherent philosophy for those whose instincts draw them away from Marxism towards the radical right.

**What is Happening to the British Economy?* (March 1976), £2.95. Reliance School of Investment, Neville House, Wendens Ambo, Saffron Walden, Essex.