

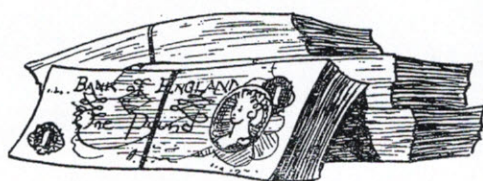
Glossary of a Simple Man

(M to P)

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MATERIALISM: crude belief, typical of spoilt children and adults who never grow up that happiness is to be found in material things, self-indulgence and idle amusements rather than in outmoded virtues such as independence, self-respect and worthy achievements; and as governments today treat people as children, protecting them, guiding them, spending their money for them and mollifying by donations those who kick up most noise; and as by the planned economy people are taught that the ideal of human life is to raise the gross national product it would be surprising if materialism did not increase; moreover, as adults treated as children become perverted children they seek amusement in vice, and catering for this amusement becomes so profitable that the interests concerned exercise a major influence capable of representing toleration of vice as evidence of progress. Although clerics sometimes denounce materialism, as they do not expose the unpublicised injustices which by their consequences make obedience to one's conscience almost impossible, their denunciations shed no new light on the problem and are regarded only as formalities necessary to their vocation.

MERGERS: the outcome of competition by large corporations having more privileges, with corporations with less privileges, so that it is easier for the latter to join them than fight them, giving out that centralised bigness means more efficiency; a process greatly fostered by protection because the full advantages of excluding foreign competitors cannot be enjoyed unless internal competition is organised, *i.e.*, restricted. So, as he predicted, what Marx called capitalism discredits itself by its tendency towards concentration.



MONEY: originally material, usually metal, found by experiment to

be best in the circumstances to facilitate the exchange of goods and services, but now a meaningless paper promise to pay. As money may easily be confused with wealth, governments since early times have adulterated the metal and in later times substituted paper, thus robbing the public without the public being aware of it; furthermore, in advanced societies where ordinary citizens are not conversant with the complex mechanism of exchanges, government experts can represent the manipulation of money and credit as a method of increasing wealth and solving difficulties of trade and employment, succeeding so well that they convince the public that others, and not governments, are responsible for inflation. Governments thus appear to demonstrate that dishonesty is the best policy, and moral authorities such as the Church appear to agree; but as the basic injustices that cause the difficulties remain untouched, and rents and prices quickly adapt themselves to inflation, the same difficulties recur and a fresh dose of inflation becomes necessary.

PARASITES, ILLEGAL: persons, usually educated at public expense, who seek to gain by direct robbery or fraud—a practice increasingly popular as it requires no paper qualifications, escapes monopolies, official restrictions and tax penalties, and thus provides an outlet for personal initiative; moreover, if unsuccessful, it incurs only comfortable accommodation at public expense. A simple stooge might think that if the penalties and indignities imposed on honest work were removed crime might become less popular; but as the stooge has no qualifications in criminology, psychology or the modern economics which governs taxation, and he represents no special interest, such an ignorant view would be unsuitable for mass communication; moreover, if taxation were

reduced a large section of the legal parasites could not be maintained and if taxation were transferred from penalties on production to the simple process of collecting economic rent the whole basis of our monopolist society would be shaken. Fortunately the Great Taboo saves us from such a catastrophe and the rising crime figures become so familiar they are regarded with the same indifference as ever-rising prices.

PARASITES, LEGAL: the vast number authorised or permitted by authority to exploit the general public, whether as land users, consumers, producers or taxpayers; included are owners of economic rent, all engaged in protected, subsidised, nationalised and closed-shop industries, and government employees engaged in activities not necessary for the legitimate exercise of authority.

PEACE, INTERNAL: economic war waged by organised industrialists, professional associations, closed-shop trade unionists, etc., against unorganised citizens; political pressure; economic fallacies and strikes providing the main weapons, truth being the first casualty and the elderly poor on fixed incomes the principal victims.

PEACE, INTERNATIONAL: economic war waged by national governments against each other at the expense of their own and other peoples, using tariffs, quotas, currency manipulation and in-fighting at conferences as the main weapons; occasionally rising to armed conflict, usually in poorer countries where landlord oppression is most blatant, thereby "creating employment" in the armament industries of richer countries, but kept from all-out war not by considerations of justice or wisdom, only by naked fear of the Bomb.