

Tribute A R Orage

By the Very Reverend Hewlett Johnson DD

With the death of Alfred Richard Orage we lose a highly valued friend and a writer whose notes on current affairs had a grip which few equalled and none surpassed. It began with those arresting articles in the *New Age* in 1919, where Orage first interpreted and commended the Douglas analysis. For clarity of statement and passion of utterance we have never met their like: the greatest theme in the world of affairs had found an appropriate voice; the intricacies of the analysis had been grasped by one of the acutest minds of our age, and the resulting Social Credit Movement had enlisted for its driving force a passionate and genuine reformer armed with a very wizardry of words and images.

Orage compelled attention. There were reasons for it, reasons in character and reasons in circumstance. It was not for nothing that the small Alfred at school had saturated himself with the noblest English literature, or walked fourteen miles after hours of work to attend art classes in Cambridge: the artist was early awake. Nor was it for nothing that the small boy grew up in straitened circumstances and spent his early years amidst the hardships of an industrial town: the reformer grew out of wide sympathies and great compassions and advanced side by side with the artist.

Neither can we regard the meeting itself of Douglas and Orage as mere accident. Truth has a curious way of finding its fitting organ of expression, and what Douglas lacked Orage supplied. Could any other have supplied it equally well? When Social Credit wins the world, as win it will, in fact if not perhaps in name, then the world will recognize at last the debt it owes to Alfred Richard Orage.

Perhaps his passing, too, is less of an accident than we suppose. The cause of Social Credit which he loved and for which he died begins at last to move under its own steam; the passing of its earliest champion is a challenge to all who knew it to be founded upon truth. It bids us leave our leisure and security and follow where he led. His spirit seeks, and shall find, embodiment in us.