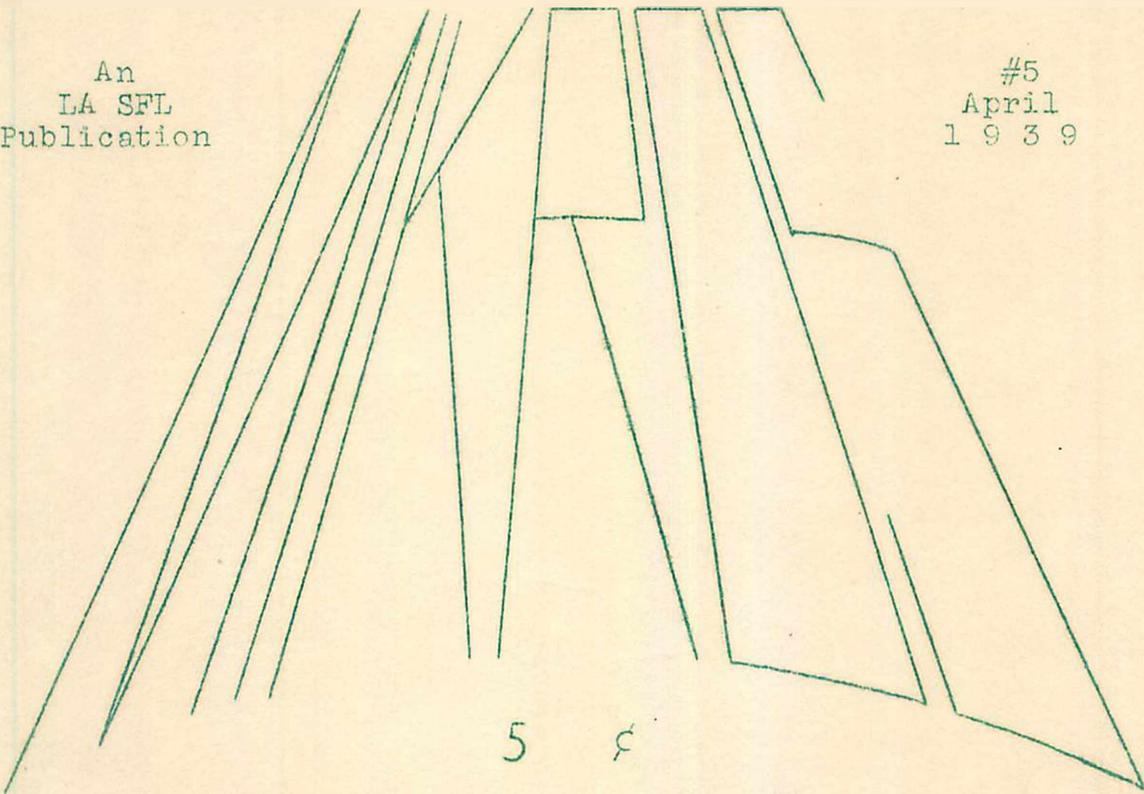


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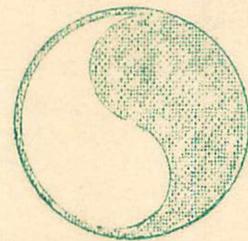
SCIENCE FICTION'S

by

CHANCE to

T. BRUCE YERKE

LIVE!



THE MONAD
Official emblem of
Technocracy, Inc.

Scientifictionists have been, for the past few years, looking around for means whereby they could express their ideas which were not of a scientific nature. We've had articles on atheism, politics, Communism, Socialism, and everything else. In fact we have even had a Committee for the Political Advancement of Science Fiction, which advocates something between Communism, Socialism, and a state of mind.

However, with all this scientifictionists, apparently, have not paid one bit of attention to, or spent one bit of time in thought over, the one thing which actually stimulates the ideals of science fiction more than any other type of ideology on the

market today. The one organization that is actually doing something to bring about the Scientific Civilization which we have often read about---a world governed by science and not by pompous and ignorant politicians---is probably something that you don't know a damn thing about; which you, and also myself, are and were against only a short time ago. I refer to TECHNOCRACY. Recently I was saying: "Technocracy, Hell!", and all the time I was working out a plan for a scientific government of my own, which was practically a copy of Technocracy, even tho I knew nothing of the latter. In this article I shall relate a few of the proposals of Technocracy; proposals that are close to the heart of every reader of science fiction on this continent. I shall also mention a few of the causes of present day conditions, and how Technocracy intends to act on them.

First we'll occupy our time with present day trends. Technocracy was founded in 1910, by scientists, engineers, and technicians, including the immortal Steinmetz. The purpose of the organization, then known as the "Technical Alliance", was to make intensive research into the conditions brought upon our every day life by the universal application of mechanization and technical developments.

The facts discovered proved to be a revelation, but all were facts, all were verifiable, and all were important. One of the most important, which led to the founding of Technocracy as a popular movement, was the undeniable fact that the present financial system of the nation, and perhaps the world, is heading for a complete breakdown, by or before 1945. This is backed by the fact that every depression in the past has been 30% lower in total deflation than the one immediately preceding it. The depression of 1929 arrived, accompanied by some 2 million unemployed, and came within 30% of hitting rock bottom. The next one will come as a close aftermath of the present so-called recovery period, when there is no more money to spend on relief, and will start out with some 20 million unemployed. In comparison, 1929 will be a picnic.

The whole trouble is with the present "price system", in which an artificial scarcity has to be maintained in order to create a basis of value for capital. In a land of plenty we have to make money a scarcity so that it will have value, to buy that with which the land is overflowing. Because of lack of purchasing power within the nation, private capital has to ship American products and machinery to foreign nations to keep the wheels of industry turning over. That's the trouble with the price system, private business must continue to turn over, or go bankrupt. You will note that the automobiles for 1939 came out as early as September 1938, so that turn-over could be maintained. All the goods on the market today are made so that they may wear out as soon as possible, but not quite as soon as their competitors.

However, the Technocracy Study Course explains all the causes that led to the present illusion of recovery, so we shall now discuss the problem of what Technocracy proposes to do, and.....

LIFE UNDER A TECHNATE

Technocracy proposes to orchestrate all the industries of this continent into approximately 100 functional divisions, under which the individual is classified. Since there exists enough and more

raw materials and technical experts on this continent, and since there exists only a small portion of the population the continent can comfortably contain, why then should some people work throughout the entire year, others work only a short while, if at all, and go hungry, and a small minority not work at all and enjoy more luxury than either of the other two divisions combined?

To operate the machinery of North America in its present technological stage, it is only necessary for each capable individual to work four hours a day, four days a week, for 165 days a year. Abolishing the price system and private ownership completely, each individual would receive the equivalent of 20,000 1929 dollars per year for life. Furthermore, to divide the work evenly for all, one would only have to work from the years of 25 to 45, with a non-interrupted education before 25, and the prospect of complete retirement after the 45th birthday.

From the age of 25 each individual would have the same amount of purchasing power throughout his lifetime, this distributed in the form of energy certificates, or distribution certificates. These would have no value, and could be used only once, and would be valid only to the person to whom issued. They are, in reality, only receipts for goods issued. Immediately a transaction is made, a record of said transaction is forwarded mechanically to the headquarters of the functional division where it is registered electrically on a chart, thus giving at all times an accurate check of all goods moved in all parts of the continent.

After the Technate has been set up (probably thru a two-third majority vote) a vast reconstruction program will begin, which, after a few years, will have transformed the continent. Population, except for major centers such as seacoast towns, will be de-centralized, so that centers of over 15,000 will be unusual. Housing will consist mainly of blocks of four large apartment buildings, each housing ten to thirty families in perfect comfort, including all modern conveniences. In the center of each building will be a large patio, or open courtyard. Midway between the four apartments forming the block will be the food distribution center, and also the garages. Another novel convenience will be the method of shopping for food. An arrangement resembling a cross between a telephone and a cash tube, such as we now use in large department stores, will connect the block food center with each apartment. One simply dials the number corresponding to the staple desired, and presently it arrives, without the necessity of leaving the apartment.

The automobile problem is solved in a unique and sensible way, and makes it possible for everyone to have the use of a car of every style made. Under the Technate one does not own an automobile, but has one at his disposal at all times, wherever he happens to be. If one wishes to shop in person, one checks a car from the block garage, and drives to one's destination, where it is checked in. The shopping done, one drives a car home again. If for a particular reason the original car is desired, it is reserved for the return trip. If the whole family should wish to go out, then a sedan, or even a truck, may be obtained. Local transportation is, of course, gratis, and should one wish to go to another city, then, naturally, the train is used, for that is the most economical means for the Technate to transport an individual over a long distance. Upon

arrival, one would check in at a Temporary Lodging House, where automobile privileges are immediately available. Under the Technat, cars would be made to last up to 25 years, whereas today cars are made to breakdown within five years. People have often innocently remarked that the old cars lasted longer than the new ones. One soon learns that this is just another means of preserving the tottering price system.

In concluding this sketchy article on Technocracy, fellow fans, I make a plea for all scientifiction fans to forsake their futile searching for some sort of political theory, and forget such ineffectual schemes as the CPASF and other political-fan organizations. Technocracy is the only thing that I can conceive of that will appeal to scientifictionists. It embodies all the ideals that we have read about, and it leaves out all political theories and squabblings. It is in truth "The Revolt of the Scientists"! Science built civilization and it is now up to science to save the animal to which it gave the knowledge of greater things. I urge every fan to go to his nearest Technocracy section and find out for himself. Here is your chance to help in the great changes that are to come about. If Technocracy is enacted, and creates for us a sound, smooth running scientific civilization, then it is in truth---Science Fiction Come To Life!

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MATHEMATICIANS

emcamp

Full meed of praise is given to those men
With giant intellect who map the stars,
And tell the world what forms of life have been
Considered possible on dying Mars.
Their mathematics is a mystic code
The average man may never hope to read;
He gropes his way along that unknown road,
Compelled to follow where he cannot lead.

Mayhap he follows blindly, yet 'tis he
Makes certain use of theories and laws
Taught by the Masters. Hence we often see
Effects, but do not analyse the cause.
We calculate unconsciously the line
Of danger, and to various ends can train
A sort of mathematics and some fine
Instinctive estimate of stress and strain.

The billiardist employs arithmetic
With plane geometry. His game is planned
And studied well - To make those ivories click
By careful stroke of elbow, wrist and hand.
He knows the proper angles, 'tho it's true
The curves of Cosmic Space to him are flat;
Yet he can make his educated cue
Massé a billiard ball around a hat!

Witness the golfer, whose ingenious score
Would puzzle Sarazen. But he's ahead,
And boldly claims the round in seventy-four.
He adds with iron, but subtracts with lead!
There is the fisherman with meager creel,
Who squares, then multiplies and boasts that he
Has far out-numbered, with a rod and reel,
The Draught of Fishes on that ancient Sea.

And doubly gifted must the player be
Who sits all night at cards, and coolly makes
A pair of Jacks reverberate like three
Triumphant Kings, and thereby wins the stakes.
Then, creeping home at dawn with watchful care,
Can quickly calculate, ere he be lost,
The known trajectories of kitchen ware;
And dodge a skillet accurately tossed.

Your tired business man, who seldom goes
To scientific forums, still is keen
For anatomical research. In shows
Where shivering chorus girls both stout and lean
Cavort in mad abandon, he will scan
Amazing contours, areas and arcs
Whose wond'rous curves, uncharted yet by man
Engender awe - along with some remarks.

My brothers! I am proud to call you such -
Altho' some prouder men will doubtless say
That heroes of these lines are out of touch
With higher things - I still persue my way,
And dedicate to you this halting verse.
Small wonder, as I write these lowly rhymes
I know, deep down, that you are none the worse -
I've done these things myself, so many times.

COMING UP!

The second issue of that highly praised (we blush to admit it) Voice of the Imagi-nation. Soon now, at 10¢!! MIKROS #6 will bring you Joe Hatch's "Cigaret Characterization"---crowded out this time. If we guess correctly, some o' youse guys will try to pick Bro. Yerke's article apart---we hope! If so, pro and con will appear in coming issues. Don't miss them! At 5¢ per.

The Greeks had a word for it, and feeling that they would not seriously object, we've done a little borrowing. "MIKROS", meaning "small", we think just about fits these occasional publications that the Los Angeles Chapter, Science Fiction League, is issuing in lieu of IMAGINATION!. These leaflets have been given various names in the past, and we feel it's high time they were bestowed with a little dignity. Therefore the above. We hope you like it. Other LA SFL publications are: IMAGINATION! (suspended) and Voice of the Imagination. Address: Box 6475 Metropolitan Station, L. A., Calif.