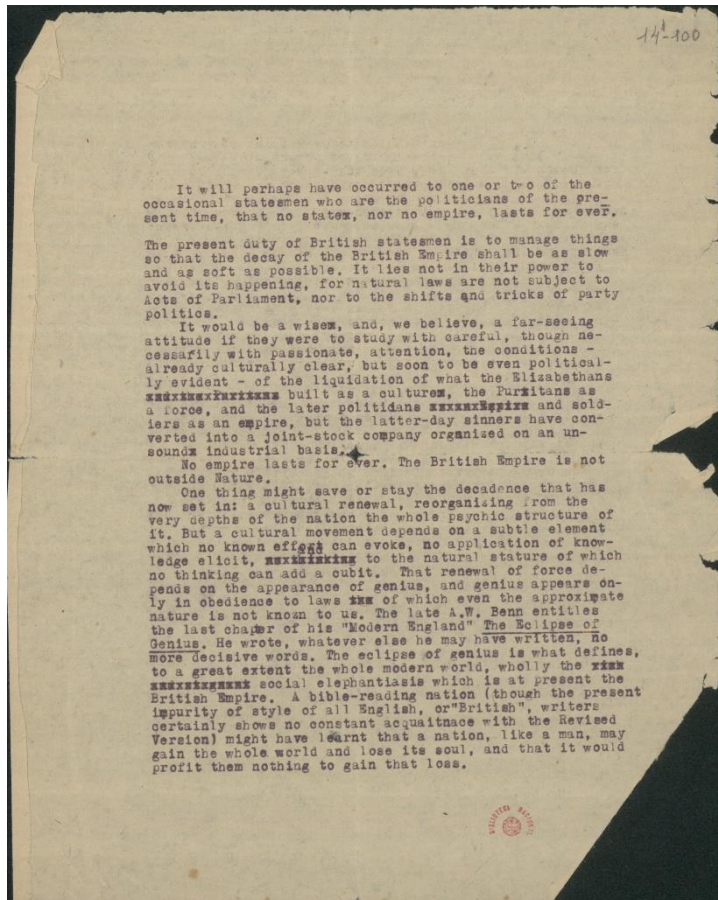


BNP/E3, 14<sup>1</sup> - 100<sup>2</sup>

Transcrição



It will perhaps have occurred to one or two of the occasional statesmen who are the politicians of the present time, that no statem, nor no empire, lasts for ever.

The present duty of British statesmen is to manage things so that the decay of the British Empire shall be as slow and as soft as possible. It lies not in their power to avoid its happening, for natural laws are not subject to Acts of Parliament, nor to the shifts and tricks of party politics.

It would be a wisem, and, we believe, a far-seeing attitude if they were to study with careful, though necessarily with passionate, attention, the conditions - already culturally clear, but soon to be even politically evident - of the liquidation of what the Elizabethans and the Puritans built as a culturem, the Puritans as a force, and the later politicians as an Empire and soldiers as an empire, but the latter-day sinners have converted into a joint-stock company organized on an unsound industrial basis.

No empire lasts for ever. The British Empire is not outside Nature.

One thing might save or stay the decadence that has now set in: a cultural renewal, reorganizing from the very depths of the nation the whole psychic structure of it. But a cultural movement depends on a subtle element which no known effort can evoke, no application of knowledge elicit, no thinking to the natural stature of which no thinking can add a cubit. That renewal of force depends on the appearance of genius, and genius appears only in obedience to laws the of which even the approximate nature is not known to us. The late A. W. Benn entitles the last chapter of his "Modern England" *The Eclipse of Genius*. He wrote, whatever else he may have written, no more decisive words. The eclipse of genius is what defines, to a great extent the whole modern world, wholly the rich and stagnant social elephantiasis which is at present the British Empire. A bible-reading nation (though the present impurity of style of all English, or "British", writers certainly shows no constant acquaintance with the Revised Version) might have learnt that a nation, like a man, may gain the whole world and lose its soul, and that it would profit them nothing to gain that loss.

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## DIREITOS ASSOCIADOS

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