THE
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INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."
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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Ireland and Separatism.

Mr. J. H. Thomas's expected declaration of the British Government's attitude towards Mr. de Valera's separatist policy was made on December 5. *The Times* reported and commented on it on December 6, and also published a letter bearing on it from Professor Coatman (who wrote from the Reform Club). *The Times* drew attention to the letter in its leading article. The keynote of both was sounded in the word "friendly," coupled variously with such words as "association," "co-operation," "negotiations," "relations," in such wise as to compose minor chords of sorrowful regret suitable for the accompaniment to a lover's lament or, more appropriately, to a mother-country's tearful cry: "Where is my wandering boy to-night?" It was the keynote also of Thomas's speech and undoubtedly originated from a tap of a tuning-fork in the Bank-of-England studio. The theme suited Thomas's vocal style, which is that of a lachrymose yodeller.

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It was once flippantly remarked that the shortest text in the political bible was: "Thomas wept"—the allusion being to that gentleman's tears when the General Strike collapsed, and the renewed stream he let forth when the National Union of Railwaymen decided to dispense with his services. It is not improbable that he was taught to yodel by Solly Joel between the rounds of those boxing tournaments which those two cronies used to patronise. By the way, Thomas is to be glimpsed in the Movietone news-film of the Harvey-Petersen fight at the Albert Hall; and to see him there you would not suppose that the whoole of Oireland was in a state of chassis, or about to be. However, this was a friendly fight, as was proved by the fact that the combatants wore gloves, shook hands before they started, and shared up a purse after they'd finished. It is only a bare-fist fight for a principle that is really unfriendly.

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If you compare Thomas's two declarations on the problem you will see that whereas the first was a contingent threat of reprisals on Ireland in the event of separation, the second is a cloudy rhetorical dissertation on the advantages of union with the Commonwealth. Until Mr. de Valera asked for a description of the reprisals hinted at he was being tacitly treated as a would-be runaway apprentice liable to apprehension and punishment for breaking legal indentures: but now that he has challenged the Government to declare itself explicitly in that sense, he is now treated as a would-be wayward son whose departure would sever deep family ties and break his mother's heart. The situation recalls *Punch's* cartoon at the time of the Fashoda incident: "What will you give me to go away?" said the French organ-grinder to John Bull. "I'll give you something if you don't!" replies that personage. You never get two diplomatic contestants to be frank at the same time: whenever one wants to inspect the brass tacks the other wants to talk about the weather. Each chooses the plane of controversy which lends him the tactical advantage. It is not our business or our concern to discuss the merits of separatism except to say that they are irrelevent to the true cause of estrangement between Britain and Ireland. The controversy reminds us of a recent incident when there was a riot—a civil riot between Fascists at a public meeting, which broke out, not because any principle was at issue, but simply because someone in the hall shouted: "I object to that gentleman on the platform cleaning his nails in public." It may be, for all we know, that there is some manner in which the cleaning of nails may be invested with provocation designed to elicit the challenge: "Do you clean your nails at me, sir?" and leave an opening for the answer: "Not at you, sir; but I clean my nails;" but on the face of the story the operation seems to have been no more than in idle spark floating into a chamber of mixed gases. And so separatism—it is a sort of catalyst, harmless and inert in itself, and also in the presence of most reagents: but once bring it into contact with a certain pair of reagents, then up goes the balloon as the boys would say.

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Readers of our comment on Newfoundland last week may have noticed that the element of separatism was present in the Commission-of-Government now to be substituted for Dominion Government. The unsophisticated public will not distinguish it, for they are unable to tell the difference between the allegiance to the King

which is to be determined and the allegiance to a syndicate of bankers which is to be substituted. They are to be excused, for the King acts by the advice of Ministers who appear to have been elected by the subjects of the King; and when the King graciously acts on the "humble address" from Newfoundland they will look upon it as an exercise of clemency towards a distressed people inspired by a representative Government. They will be unaware that the Government is a Commission-of-Bailiffs nominated by the Bank of England, and that the Commission-of-Goverment granted to Newfoundland is a Commission-of-Brokers put in under a Norman distraint-warrant. With unconscious humour *Punch* published last week a cartoon on this ramp showing Mr. J. H. Thomas lying prone on a jetty and reaching down to lift a drowning Newfoundland dog out of the water. Thomas the Good Shepherd!

* * *

The Times asks who are the united people of Ireland in whose name Mr. de Valera demands severance from the Empire, and proceeds to analyse out the answer by reference to internal antagonisms between north and south, and to the presumed apathy of the Irishmen in general on the constitutional issues in question. Quite so, but one might just as cogently ask who are the united people of Newfoundland in whose name the Legislative Houses unanimously invited the Norman brokers in. Or one might ask who are the united people of Britain —ay, and of the "Commonwealth"—in whose name Mr. Thomas pronounces severance unthinkable. *The Times* forgets its own Correspondent's words when Mr. de Valera first took office, namely that his supporters would be sure to become disaffected as soon as he began to apply the provisions of the Budget which he had inherited from the Cosgrave Administration. That is to say, all Governments which subserve the ends of the bankers above become unpopular with the people below. So we get this curious anomaly, that while Mr. de Valera's mandate to carry out bankers' policies over the people's heads is quite valid notwithstanding what the people think of them, his mandate to carry out policies which the bankers don't like is presumed to be invalid even if the people have given a majority vote for them. That rule was applied in the case of Mr. Lang in New South Wales, who, though he took office with a clear electoral mandate, was dismissed from office for trying to carry it out. It will be remembered that the Commonwealth laws were modified so as to make his efforts illegal. What it all comes to is that there are certain questions which are treated as "reserved." Popular assent to them is exploited, but popular dissent ignored. That is what the boasted "elasticity" of the "unwritten" British Constitution really means.

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Now if Mr. Lang had begun by trying to remove constitutional checks, or to forestall the improvisation of such, on his monetary policy, he would probably have failed just the same, particularly if he had announced the policy. And he would have been obliged to announce something or other if only to make it plain to his supporters why he wanted these constitutional changes. Mr. de Valera, however, is not under the same obligation to propound a specific monetary policy to explain and justify to his supporters his attitude on the constitutional issue. Mr. Lang would not have been able to revive stories of "centuries of oppression" suffered by New South Wales at the hands of surrounding States. Mr. de Valera is so able, and as everyone can see, he can construct an overpowering emotional appeal for separatism solely by invoking the history of Ireland under the Act of Union. He hasn't got to tell his supporters what he wants to do in a Republican Ireland; they see quite clearly—or believe they do, which comes to the same thing—why he wants, and why he *ought* to want, to make a clean break from the connection with Britain.

* * *

Mr. de Valera's acts and demands could have been inspired by events in New South Wales. For instance, he has got a man of his own choice made Governor. The significance of that can be appreciated by reflecting that if Mr. Lang could have got rid of Sir Philip Game at the start, and put in his own Governor, he could not have been summarily dismissed. He would have been defeated all the same, but not that way, and not at that time. The bankers would have had to modify their methods and probably incur delay.

* * *

Another check which Mr. de Valera seeks to remove is the power of the Senate to delay legislation, a power which would amount to that of the veto in the case of legislation adverse to the interests of the Money Monopoly. Mr. Lang similarly tried to remove the check of the New South Wales Legislative Council on measures passed by the Assembly. It will be remembered that he got the Assembly to pass a Bill abolishing the Council. The Council, left to itself, would have rejected the measure practically unanimously, honestly and openly. But, by the advice of the Money Monopoly, it passed the measure against its convictions. Directly it had done so, two of its members challenged the constitutional legality of the vote, a challenge which judges in the High Court upheld. Whether all of the members of the Council were privy to this dishonest manoeuvre, or only the bankster group directing its deliberations, cannot be ascertained, and really does not matter. What matters is that it became a tool which enabled the banking community to get their own way by a method which deprived Mr. Lang of the opportunity to submit the issue to the electorate. Here was an example of what Mr. Benjamin Anderson, the American banker, described and defended not long ago in a speech to a bankster audience, as passing the buck. Many measures, he boasted, had been passed by the lower House in the United States only because of the knowledge that the upper House would reject them. This beautiful manoeuvre enabled Congressmen to voice and vote the will of the people in public while conniving at its frustration in private. In New South Wales the Assembly were not corruptible in this sense: they were newly returned on a mandate, and a clear majority of them wished to carry it out. It therefore became necessary for the bankers to pass the buck into the High Court. We do not charge the judges with conscious corruptibility, as we showed in our "Notes" of November 30 on "Cooking Justice." Undoubtedly the judges arrived at their decision through perfectly logical deductions from established constitutional principles. But that makes the swindle all the worse; for, postulating, as we are bound to, that the bankers foreknew what the Court's judgment must be, their policy was one of consciously inciting the Legislative Council to commit a breach of the constitution which they were appointed to uphold. This indictment does not rest on our word alone: it was delivered even more severely by Mr. Justice Piddington, the eminent and universally respected Australian judicial authority, when he retired a little while subsequently. His comments were discussed in THE NEW AGE at the time.

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Speaking of established constitutional principles it should be remembered that these must necessarily take their colour from the dominant influence in high-political counsels, that is from the Money Power. Then, as to the application of those principles to any given case, a study of Clarke's *Outline of Central Government* will show that the Money Monopoly's power of administrative control extends in an unbroken line through every functional institution of the State, so that all political fields of thought and activity are directed and limited exactly in the same way as economic fields of enterprise under a national electrification scheme would be entangled in the tentacles of the grid system. Readers who have the "Electrical Supply" supplement to *The Times* of December 5 will do well to study the map entitled "The National Grid," for he will see there a graphic repre-

sentation of what we mean. The impression intended to be produced by the map is that of, so to speak, a huge animal suckling an enormous progeny of factories and homesteads. That, however, is not the true picture. What you have to imagine is a huge vampire who, while suckling her progeny with the milk of energy, is at the same time draining them of the life-blood of initiative as to the manner of its use. The blood-sucking is accomplished by the twin processes of eliminating all alternative forms of power-supply and charging a national monopoly-price—that is, levying a compulsory tax—for the sole remaining electricity-supply. The power delivered measures what *can* be done, but the price exacted measures what *may* be done. For upon analysis it will be found that no one will be able to afford to pay the monopoly-price for his power unless he is using it for purposes approved by the monopolists. No orders are given to the users: it is not necessary: the disciplinary limitation arises automatically out of the interrelationship between loan-policy and established accountancy-procedure—or, in Social-Credit terminology, out of the "Flaw in the Price System." The blind man in the Gospel story, when his eyes were opened, saw men as trees walking. And those of us who have had our eyes opened might say that we see bankers as pylons walking. The thought in our mind here is derived from a recollection of the pictures in Wells's story of the Martians' occupation and devastation of the world, where these creatures were depicted as striding along on huge stilt-like steel structures destroying everybody and everything by means of heat-rays. It will be remembered that in the end these Martians, against whom no human being could stand, died under the attack of microbes to which human beings were resistant. Yes, and the same fate attends the Martians of the Money Monopoly in the midst of their seemingly irresistible progress on the pylons of their seemingly impregnable organisation.

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The third item in Mr. de Valera's policy of eliminating external checks on domestic legislation consists in depriving citizens of the Free State of the right to appeal to the Privy Council in London. This attitude, again, could have been inspired by the appeal of the two members of the New South Wales Legislative Council already described. For the High Court, which upheld the appeal, was performing the same constitutional function as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the difference being that the Court's jurisdiction was local, whereas the Privy Council's extends throughout the Empire and that the constitutional law administered by the Court was, and is, only one branch of the wider code interpreted and administered by the Privy Council. Thus it was that Mr. Lang had the right, which he exercised, of appealing to the Privy Council against Sir Philip Game's dismissal of his Government. Now, the more remote the court of final appeal the less does the interest and opinion of the appellant count in the deliberations. In one sense this ought to be so; but only where the deliberations are directed to the balancing of such interests and opinions against others on the same plane of conflict. It is quite another thing when, as we hold, the adjudicating authority is (whether consciously or not) a party to the disputed issue. It is true to say that what the British Treasury is to the Empire on matters of financial principles, such is the Privy Council on matters of constitutional principles. Financial principles are, as we have said, the foundation of constitutional principles; and financial law is the frame of reference in which constitutional principles must be interpreted and given direction as constitutional procedure. Now, we have it from the mouth of Mr. Montagu Norman himself that the Treasury and the Bank of England are "Tweedledum and Tweedledee"—they are convertible terms for one and the same authority. That being so, there is no reasonable answer to the proposition that the Privy Council, the Treasury, and the Bank of England are virtually one indivisible authority. Once grant, as nearly everyone does, that the technical premises of established financial theory are axiomatic, and take into consideration that no major issue can arise which does not involve questions of financial principle and practice, then it stands to reason that the Stewards of the Financial Axioms will be, and ought to be, the Stewards of Constitutional Law. The canon of financial soundness embodies the canon of political righteousness; and the guardians of the major canon must be the guardians of the minor. In a practical phrase applicable to the present issue, the Governor of the Bank of England must be the ultimate Judge-Appellant on British Constitutionalism. He is the nucleus round which must rotate juridical satellites such as Privy Councillors, State Governors, Upper Houses, Judges, etc., etc.

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Mr. Montagu Norman is even more than this. He is, in the eyes of the world, the chief repository of financial wisdom; and since that wisdom is assumed to be based on incontrovertible scientific premises it has to be accepted as having universal validity. Hence his moral authority overleaps the bounds of his administrative authority, and, though apparently functioning in and for the Empire as the public see him, he appears to the ruling classes among banking communities all over the world as the defender of their powers and prerogatives. These sophisticated people know that, underlying his immediate policies as revealed through the attitudes of British statesmen on Empire affairs, is the wider and ultimate policy of keeping the political world safe for financial ascendancy. Thus when they hear Mr. Thomas hoot at Mr. de Valera in the House they know that Mr. Norman has squeezed the bulb of the horn in Threadneedle Street: and, when they know that, they rightly deduce that he is about to press the accelerator of reprisals in all their interests.

* * *

We come now to Mr. de Valera's general policy. It can be summed up as that of getting rid of, or rendering impotent, three visible agencies customarily used by bankers to interfere with domestic policy without openly violating the spirit of the constitution as popularly understood. There are two conditions on which we should agree with it, namely:—

1. That his object, for one part, was to drive them into open methods of attack;
2. That it was, for the other part, to announce a domestic policy of such a nature that those attacks would appear indefensible to thoughtful minds inside and outside Ireland. That is, Social Credit.

There is no indication that he has such a policy. If he had, we should have expected him to convey a hint of it to potential sympathisers throughout the Empire (particularly in Australia and New Zealand) by announcing the intention, or demanding the right, to make his own nomination for the Governorship of the Bank of Ireland, or, failing that, to assume independent powers of banking. It is true that if he had made that gesture we should not have taken it as meaning much in itself; but it is equally true that his omission to make it has a definitely sinister significance. It suggests that he is in the state of mind of a ruler who might think that by cutting marine cables he could stop all telegraphic communications entering his country. Just as wires are no longer indispensable for transmissions of this sort, neither are official functioning persons and bodies for the transmission of financial interferences with domestic policy. There is such a thing as the precipitation of internal phenomena by, so to speak, wireless from outside, these phenomena having no ostensible causation other than the domestic policy in association with which they become manifest, and therefore misleading the public into thinking that they are the natural outcome of the policy. There is no policy which the bankers cannot discredit by this trick if they make up their minds to do so. Whether they do so or not is a matter of how soon they

want to defeat it; for, as Social-Credit technicians know, any policy run under the present credit-system will defeat itself sooner or later, because it can only redress old grievances by creating new ones.

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Mr. Emrys Hughes, in an article in *Forward* on September 9 described an interview which he had had with Mr. de Valera. In the course of the article occurs this passage:

> "He (Mr. de Valera) had given careful study to questions of currency and credit, and had come to the conclusion that the Douglas Scheme was no panacea for the problems of Ireland. It was not a mere question of credit and currency, but a question or reorganisation of the national life."

It would serve no useful purpose to analyse what is a paraphrase of Mr. de Valera's words. It may be generally observed, however, that the conclusion that credit-policy is no cure for economic problems involves the corollary that credit-policy is not the cause of them, and, hence that the private control of credit-policy need not be disputed, or even supervised, by the political Government. If that is Mr. de Valera's conviction he is lagging years behind President Roosevelt. But we doubt if he was so sweeping as that; or that if he was, he remains so. Without the spending of credit there is no reorganisation of "life" inside the economic system; and President Roosevelt has shown that he knows it. Reorganisation is of course not necessarily recovery, as he has now begun to discover, but the lesson is not that he did wrong to use credit as a "panacea"; it is that he used it in the wrong way. One unfortunate consequence of that is to deepen the popular impression that no way can be the right way unless the bankers approve it.

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The question might reasonably be asked: Why, if Mr. de Valera is innocent of the intention to interfere with banking prerogatives, should there be this sudden flare-up at Westminster? Part of the answer is to be found in the suspension of the Annuities, but not the whole of it. It does not explain why, after a comparatively long period of quiescence between the parties, there should be this sudden and intensified outbreak of polemical hostilities. The amount of money involved is small in itself, and represents only a fraction of the payments which Britain has ceased to pay the United States since Mr. de Valera ceased to pay Britain. On balance Britain is in pocket, irrespective of the proceeds of the duties imposed on Irish produce. We suggest that the rest of the answer has to do with recent developments in the United States. They involve a four-fold disturbance to international relations. The four aspects ars as follow:

1. Financial. President Roosevelt is disputing the control of credit-policy with the American bankers—that is, with the American branch of the bankers' "Sound Money" International, of which Mr. Montagu Norman may be regarded as the Director.

2. Politico-Financial. If President Roosevelt is successful the United States will have renounced "Sound Money" Constitutionalism for "Unsound Money" Constitutionalism, and have set a precedent which other nations may feel like following. In fact the Committee for the Nation, which is backing Roosevelt, is circularising all the newspapers of the world with propaganda.

3. Commercial. The inflationary effects of this policy would make themselves felt by cheapening American exports in Britain and other foreign countries. The more loyal these countries were to the sound-money bankers the harder American competition would hit their industries.

4. Military. The answer to America would have to be (a) inflation after her example, or (b) tariffs steadily mounting in height as the dollar depreciated, or (c) war.

Policies "a" or "b" would lead to internal and external tensions sufficient to make war inevitable. Leaving other nations out of account and considering Britain and America the prospect of the above fourfold rupture in their relationships is a problem which must be attacked without delay by the British Government. Under head "3" Britain's relations with the Free State are already ruptured. Under head "2," although there is no evidence that Mr. de Valera's demand for political severance is connected with monetary policy, nevertheless in separating himself from the Empire he would be placing himself outside the juridical control of the "Sound Money" Constitution, and making himself free to follow the example of the United States as and when he thought fit. And, as we have suggested, the Committee for the Nation is probably plying the Free State with persuasive reasons why the "tyranny of the gold standard" should be smashed. Traditional Americo-Irish ties of sentiment would stimulate this incitation, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Montagu Norman would personify the tyranny of gold and the oppression of Britain to the people of the Free State. The way would be thus prepared for an alliance or *entente cordiale* between the two countries on a military basis, or, at the least for an understanding that the Free State would adopt the policy of benevolent neutrality in the event of hostilities between America and Britain. It will be remembered that when the dispute between the Government and Mr. de Valera was first debated in the House, Mr. Lloyd George placed all his emphasis on the strategical implications of the independence which Mr. de Valera demanded. It was not a new point of view; we had developed it long earlier, when Mr. Lloyd George was (probably) assuring the world alongside other blinkered statesmen that war was "unthinkable," when the financial marriage between the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve Board was being contracted, and Messrs. Norman and Strong celebrated the cementing of their life-long partnership by conferring Home Rule on the Bank of Ireland.

* * *

Under the Treaty the Free State has been garrisoned by military and financial forces; and whatever the reasons why this should have been planned by the British Government at the time of the Treaty, those reasons are doubly strong for continuing it to-day. Unless or until the writ of the "Sound Money" International runs once more in the United States the writ of the British War Office and Admiralty must run freely in Ireland. This may be resented by Irish sentiment as political injustice, but it should be recognised by Irish common-sense as economic realism. Unfortunately for Mr. de Valera his demands have been revived at a time when the authorities respectively responsible in Britain for the military security of the Empire and the financial security of the pound have been driven to adopt a common view-point, which is, that the Free State, like Belgium, must be prevented from affording a right of way for depreciated dollars and a harbourage for submersible war-craft from the United States. Under the operation of world-finance the interdependence of nations is a fact, and therefore the detachment of the Free State from the Empire could only result in the attachment of the Free State to another nation or group of nations. The kind of freedom which Mr. de Valera appears to visualise is beyond the reach of every nation in the world; and the reason is that the Bankers' International possess and withhold the only means by which freedom can be implemented.

* * *

Mr. de Valera's personal integrity and courage are genuinely recognised in this country, and that makes it the greater pity that he has left the science of means out of his plans for ends.

Major Douglas leaves this country for Australia and New Zealand on December 15.

American Monetary Policy.

By Arthur Brenton.

[The following article consists of extracts from, and additions to, a private communication recently sent by the author to a prominent supporter of President Roosevelt's policy in the United States.—Ed.]

From the political point of view I sympathise with your programme, but from the technical point of view I hold that it cannot be permanently successful in its present form. For the moment, however, your activities are useful because they are based upon the principle that credit-policy is the business of representative governments, and not a closed preserve for a group of private bankers. But, as you will realise, there is very little use in insisting upon depriving the enemy of usurped powers unless you have a clear idea how you are going to exercise them yourselves for the national purposes you have in view.

It is with the question as to how such powers should be exercised that THE NEW AGE concerns itself. It is a technical point related to the principle on which credit is accounted into cost. When the existing methods of cost accountancy are analysed the fact is revealed that the costs recorded under the present system grow faster than incomes are paid out by industry. The urgent problem to-day is to close this gap. You cannot close it by increasing the amount of money put into the production end of industry, because it does not depend on the quantity of money employed, but on the difference between the rate at which production-loans are retired by the banks and the rate at which the products are delivered to the consumers. This difference is not caused by profiteering, although it can be aggravated by it, but arises because the banks prematurely recall loans before the wealth created by them has been consumed, and therefore the accounting of prices has to be done in such a way as to get the money out of the people for the sake of the banks as and when the banks want it, whereas, as you will agree, it should only be retired as and when the people get possession of the goods.

Your instinct is right in trying to make it worth while for producers to produce; and your project of enabling them to secure higher prices is not in itself unsound. The trouble is that in the present system, as outlined above, your success in getting prices up for producers' benefit will be nullified by the inability of consumers to pay those prices. The explanation of the reasons is to be found in the literature of the Social Credit Movement.

You will have observed that President Roosevelt's main plan is failing at the *consumption* end, that is to say, "the people are not buying," as your newspapers are pointing out. That is because their personal incomes are not rising in proportion to the rising of the price-level, but are lagging below it. Unless this is corrected the price-level must inevitably fall, because in practice it is the consumer's ability to pay which fixes the level, and not the costs incurred by the producer. Most people hastily assume that the producer's expenditure (costs) becomes wholly and contemporaneously the consumer's income (revenue available to meet costs). The truth is otherwise; and the immediate causes why are (1) the mechanisation of productive processes; (2) the investment of incomes in that mechanisation. The operations of those causes have been fully described by (1) the technocrats and (2) Foster and Catchings, in works published in your country. The common underlying cause of both is, as I say, the power exercised by the banks to compel industry to repay loans before the goods are ready for sale, coupled with their power to refuse loans to producers who do not keep up to date with the mechanisation of their production. These disturbances constitute what the Social-Credit theorists describe as "the flaw in the price system."

The practical political import of the flaw is that while it remains uncorrected the bankers can exploit it to the discomfiture of the President's policy *without appearing to be interfering*. The way to block this is for the President to be aware of it, and to give the utmost official publicity to the fact that the flaw exists, and to the disturbing consequences to which it is bound to lead until corrected or compensated. Without going into reasons, it may be said that the principle of this compensation is that there should be an issue of money to consumers linked up with a price-limitation agreement with the retailers, so that the Government would secure for consumers the goods which otherwise would remain unsold and be a glut in the hands of producers. This can be done on a basis remunerative to the producers.

I know that in the heat of political controversy fundamental technical questions like this do not directly help the campaign, but since the success of the campaign depends entirely upon the soundness or otherwise of the technique of the new monetary policy with which it is to be associated, the leaders cannot afford to ignore it.

The Green Shirts.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

Six Green Shirts from Widnes visited St. Helens on November 25 in response to an invitation from a miner in that district. A good deal of Fascist propaganda has appeared in St. Helens just lately, and our friend from the pits was anxious to have this countered by the common sense of Social Credit. Our report says:—

> "We immediately had an audience of about 250, which we held from 9 p.m. to 10.30. Numerous questions were asked. Many people in the crowd were already familiar with the Social Credit proposals, and many of the questions were of a technical nature. These were answered as clearly as possible, and we took the opportunity of adding explanations that could be generally understood by the majority of the audience. We were asked when the next meeting would be held, and have arranged to visit St. Helens every Saturday night. Green Shirt Brooks is undertaking this work, while S.-L. Thomson is taking over Warrington.
>
> "At the meeting on December 2 the audience was about 300. A Communist who started an opposition meeting could not get a hearing and gave up speaking. Several recruits are being enrolled at St. Helens, and one of them is looking about for a suitable place for local headquarters."

A further report says:—

> "... There is evidence of keen enthusiasm in St. Helens. This is probably mainly due to the hostility towards the Fascists, who had to give up their meeting last week in the market place."

A Communist cannot get a hearing and the Fascists have to give up their meeting. It looks as though St. Helens has Gone Sane! Come on, the Green Shirts!

. . . . . .

Two Preston Green Shirts went to Great Harwood to help the Blackburn Section on October 30. Despite unlooked-for rain and sleet an open-air meeting was held, the two Section-Leaders (Arthur, of Preston, and Carysforth, of Blackburn) and Green Shirt Jackson speaking in turn to "a brave little crowd of unemployed cotton operatives."

Preston Green Shirts attended a Labour municipal election meeting on October 31. Our report says:—

> "Although our question was framed in local terms, it was ruled out of order. However, we were told afterwards by members of the audience that we had got our point home."

On November 3 S.-L. Arthur and Green Shirt Proctor attended a Labour "League of Youth" demonstration and asked several questions. The speaker, a national party organiser, paid such marked respect to their questions, and granted so much of the Social-Credit case, that the audience was visibly impressed. The speaker also said: "Of course, whilst I have private opinions of my own, I am paid by the Party, am loyal to the Party, and can therefore only

put forward Party views"—inferring that he agreed with the Green Shirts more than he dared say, and proving once again the age-old dictum, "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

. . . . . .

Mr. Maxton, M.P., did his best to contend with Social-Credit questions when, on November 12, the Preston Green Shirts attended an I.L.P. mass meeting in full force. Our report says: ". . . Questions were asked with good effect. It is plain that no matter how speakers squirm and wriggle they cannot escape the logic of Social Credit. When a Green Shirt and several other people jumped up to ask questions, the chairman pointed to the former and shouted, 'A man in Green.' All eyes were turned towards the Green Shirts."

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Further reports from Preston:—

"Attended a Weavers' Mass Meeting on November 14, and on November 17 a National Government demonstration addressed by Lord Londonderry. At first we were refused admittance. Then four stewards came running after us. Wanted to know whether we intended to create an uproar. Assured of the discipline of G.S. methods we were admitted. Meeting sparsely attended. Demonstration a fiasco. Speeches showed that in ideas and policy the Government is bankrupt, and the complete absence of enthusiasm testified to the people's contempt of political gerrymandering.

"November 19, open-air meeting Preston Market Place. Our speaker drew the largest audience despite competition from the N.U.W.M., and the 'Economic Study Club' (financed by Northern industrialists and bankers)."

A Special Green Shirt Assembly was held at London Headquarters on Sunday, December 10, to consider the financial position of *Attack!* and other matters arising therefrom.

H. T. W.

News Notes.

GUERNSEY MARKET PLACE.

The *Daily Express* of November 24 contains a short account of the building of the Guernsey Market Place by means of home-made money. It is written by Lord Tankerville. A longer account appeared in a Guernsey newspaper a year or more ago. We gave the reference in THE NEW AGE at the time, but cannot locate it at the moment.

WÖRGL CURRENCY EXPERIMENT.

The latest reference to this experiment is in the *Daily Herald* of December 5. Previous accounts had suggested that the central bank had intervened to stop it, but according to this account it is still going on.

BANKERS AS MINISTERS.

In *The Times* of December 5 a certain Baron Frederic Koranyi writes to defend Hungarian banks against allegations made against them by some other contributor to that journal. The allegations concerned interest-rates and other items that don't matter. The point of the story concerns the fact that the Baron signs himself "Minister of Finance to the Central Corporation of Banking Companies," and also "Vice-President of the National Board of Credit." Each of these descriptions is an implicit admission of the blending in one man of public with private responsibilities. The Vice-President *of* the "national" (public) body is Minister *to* the "Corporation" (i.e., to a private monopoly). The "of" and the "to" show clearly where the dominant power lies. Of course we knew it all before. Scratch a Minister and you find a banker. "I am your Minister" declaimed Snowden at the famous bankster banquet. It had always been true of Chancellors of the Exchequer. And as the Chancellor of the Exchequer is virtually the dictator of the Administration, Parliament chinks comfortably in the bottom of the bankers' pocket. Ministers of the Crown are bankers' half-crowns, and Members of Parliament are bankers' half-pennies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is rightly described as the financial Skeleton in the political Cabinet. And the door of the Cabinet is locked by the Official Secrets Act. It is political death to any Minister who lets the public catch a glimpse of the corpses in Bluebeard's chamber. The recent agitation to tighten up the censorship of the biographical memoirs of political and social notabilities was inspired by the fear of such an accident. Nobody may pry into the Bluebeard mortuary, or rake among the ashes of the Landru crematorium.

Music.

Three Beecham Concerts. Royal Philharmonic Society, November 16 and 23; B.B.C., November 22. (Queen's Hall.)

Once more one has the monotonous and exhausting task of writing about Sir Thomas Beecham; monotonous in the sense that one is almost always bound to employ superlatives, and exhausting in the sense that, short of recourse to the admirable Roget's "Thesaurus," one has to fall back on the same adjectival crescendo that has so often done duty when writing of this master.

And write of him one must, for there is no other English conductor within measurable distance of Sir Thomas, and any concert in which he is participating necessarily dwarfs all others in artistic importance.

Not the least of his multifarious merits is his ability to get away from the beaten track trodden by the safety-first gentlemen, and to regale us with works that are not only unknown save to a handful of enthusiasts, but are also far from being mere museum specimens, and should definitely be in the repertoire of any enterprising conductor.

The Philharmonic Concert on November 16 opened with Manfredini's Concerto Grosso, which is not great music, but exceptionally grateful to the ear and a relief from some of the Handel examples in this genre. The strings of the London Philharmonic Orchestra (which body, I must remind readers, was formed and trained by Sir Thomas) were exhibited to advantage, and, under the conductor's loving guidance, gave a delightful performance, though I doubt whether it was really worth while importing a harpsichord for the sake of "period" effect.

One does not know who was responsible for the choice of the heavily overworked "Emperor" concerto: it has already been given a first-class rendering this season, and the soloist, M. Orloff, did not compare too favourably with his predecessor. His piano playing in itself was smooth and efficient to a degree, but his style was altogether too small, and he tended to feminise the music, which, of course, is fatal with Beethoven. On the whole, the balance of interest was on the orchestral side, with which Sir Thomas took great pains. Nevertheless, the "Emperor" is a work that one would like to see shelved for an indefinite period; it is not Beethoven at his best, and some of its repetitions, indeed, to some of us, represent the acme of tedium.

The Tchaikovsky "Manfred" Symphony, again, is perhaps not that composer at his best if one considers the work as a whole, but it contains a great deal of superb orchestral writing, with charmingly typical melodies that are treated with unfailing skill.

Only in the last movement did one feel that with the entrance of the organ an anti-climax had begun to set in, but this was decidedly offset by the magnificent playing of the orchestra, who were obviously galvanised by Sir Thomas's inspired direction. On this occasion he fairly let himself go, and the climaxes were colossal, but were never made for their own sake, and always as the culmination of an organic growth.

At the B.B.C. Symphony concert on November 22, Sir Thomas had charge of the orchestra for the first time since about 1929, and it may at once be said that one has never heard them play so well since the visit of Koussevitzky this year. The excellent Mozart Symphony No. 34, in C major (*not* the "Jupiter"), was given with infectious vitality, and was followed by Elgar's 'cello Concerto with Piatigorsky as soloist. The performance was in the main very good, but there were several points in each movement which proved that the music was not apprehended in the fullest degree by Piatigorsky, despite his rich tone and exemplary phrasing. This is a work that is emphatically English, and I doubt if anyone will improve on Beatrice Harrison's conception of it: everyone aspiring to play this concerto should make a point of studying her records made in conjunction with the composer.

Smetana's "Bohemia's Woods and Fields" may sound rather naïve at this time of day, but it is, at any rate, good fun (when done by Sir Thomas), and it prepared the way for appreciation of Delius's noble Ballad, "Eventyr," which was presented not as a succession of snippets, as I have heard others make it sound, but as a symphonic whole. The concert concluded with Tchaikovsky's "Francesca da Rimini," in which, as can be imagined, both the orchestra and Sir Thomas thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did also the audience. The concert was of particular interest in demonstrating what this orchestra really can do when in the hands of a master conductor, as opposed to the "safe" variety.

The next evening, November 23, Sir Thomas returned to his native territory, so to speak, and commenced with Beethoven's Second Symphony, not all of which is interesting, though ample amends are made in the finale. As usual, Sir Thomas contrived to persuade one that it is a much better work than it actually is, and then continued his good work of musical excavation, if one may so term it, by re-introducing Dvorák's Symphonic Variations, which have not been heard in this country for a very long time.

The work is well worth revival, though it might possibly gain by the excision of one or two variations; for the most part, however, there is freshness of invention at every turn, each detail of which was brought out with affection by Sir Thomas, who obtained from the orchestra the most subtly graded quality and quantity of tone, and in the allegro con fuoco coda turned on all his phenomenal rhythmic vitality with overwhelming effect.

Berlioz's programmatic Symphony, "Harold in Italy," will never, in all probability, receive a better performance than it did from Sir Thomas and Lionel Tertis, but I doubt if it will ever become as popular as the "Fantastique," and one can quite understand why it was not played by Paganini (who commissioned it), inasmuch as the solo instrument becomes of progressively less interest and importance as the work proceeds. Mr. Tertis, as was only to be expected, lavished all his art on what must have been an ungrateful task, and Sir Thomas turned his searchlight into every nook and cranny of the score, but one could not help wondering at the end whether the music, remarkable and even prophetic though it is considering the period in which it was written (1833-4), really deserved the expenditure of such a prodigious amount of time and trouble.

Lawrence Travers, Grotrian Hall, December 1.

From the aforementioned heights one descended to abysmal depths at the recital given by Mr. Travers.

His playing was one more stern warning of how necessary it is, as I have previously pointed out, to regard Continental Press notices with the gravest suspicion, and especially their translation into what one presumes to be English.

We were told on the programme that "Lawrence Travers' exceptional sure technique and superlatively refined sense of style warrant the finest hopes," but one can only assume that the writer must have been either deaf or an incurable optimist, for Mr. Travers' playing was so manifestly devoid of the smallest trace of musical insight or technical ability that I doubt if he would be allowed to appear at a public concert of any reputable school of music, at any rate in England.

One can excuse a great deal on the score of nervousness, indisposition, inexperience, etc., but I have previously heard Mr. Travers in a recital when his playing was of precisely the same weakly effeminate schoolgirlish order as in this instance, so I think the root of the matter may be safely described as plain, unvarnished unmusicality plus a complete lack of anything approaching self-criticism. Beethoven and Chopin Sonatas in the hands of Mr. Travers became pathetic parodies of the originals, many phrases were mangled beyond recognition, difficult passages were taken at about a quarter of the prescribed tempo, while rhythm and shape were literally non-existent. I do not know Mr. Travers, so my remarks are entirely unbiassed, but there are occasions when one must be cruel in order to be kind, and if Mr. Travers is rash enough to flaunt absurdly laudatory notices in order to induce a state of favourable anticipation in the minds of the public and the critics, then he must be prepared to be judged by the highest standards, and one is therefore bound to say that in his own interests it would be far better for him to refrain from further public appearances until and unless his whole musical outlook undergoes radical transformation.

CLINTON GRAY-FISK.

TO A BANK MANAGER.

Like Shakespeare I can Say I know a Bank—
And you, its Manager, are passing kind.
But does that matter now? Your noble rank
Is but the rubber stamp "They" let you mind

PORCEPIC.

The Theatre.

Two Revivals.

The Old Vic has been giving "Measure for Measure" for a three weeks' season ending on Saturday last, and at the Playhouse "The World of Light" was revived on the 4th, also for a three weeks' run. This spiritualist play, by Aldous Huxley, which was originally done at the Royalty, is interesting, out of the common, and well worth seeing. Aubrey Mather, Cathleen Nesbitt, Eric Portman, and Esmé Percy are among the cast.

Acropolis. By Robert E. Sherwood. Produced by Marc Connelly. Lyric.

As this play has already been withdrawn after the shortest run of any production designed to exploit the art of Gladys Cooper, my notice should, perhaps, be more aptly headed "Necropolis." Mr. Sherwood has again adopted the formula of his "Road to Rome"—a much better play—which is actually the formula of Shaw's "Antony and Cleopatra," and consists of putting contemporary ideas and language in the mouths of pre-Christian characters. Unfortunately, Shaw appears to have a monopoly of making the prescription work; his disciples give us words instead of actions, and lay figures in place of men and women. Mr. Sherwood is no exception.

"Acropolis" gives the impression of having been spoilt by hurried writing and complete lack of revision. It has a good enough theme—the contest between beauty and materialism, as heightened by the militarism of a war party that presses an elderly philosopher into uniform and is capable of using the marbles of the Parthenon as an improved form of sandbag. But the issue is left windy and indeterminate; the leading characters are in the main mere marionettes; and most of the dialogue is in the form of lengthy monologues, resembling the leading articles of the "Daily Mail" at its most reactionary, and sauced with a strong dash of Hitlerism. Here is a twofold responsibility; the author should never have written these long speeches, but since he did, the producer should have insisted on breaking them up. The Socrates of Hugh E. Wright, Eliot Makeham's Anaxogoras, and Ian Hunter's Pheidias succeeded in coming to life, for which credit belongs to these three most capable players rather than to Mr. Sherwood.

To say that Gladys Cooper's Aspasia failed to come to life is an understatement. Here was a very miracle and phoenix of miscasting. Aspasia, in case Miss Cooper should have forgotten, was a woman of personality and intelligence who was one of the attractions of Athens at the time of its greatest intellectual ferment and artistic achievement. Mr. Sherwood sketches her as a *grande amoureuse*, the keeper of the most fashionable brothel in the city, a politician, and the power behind Pericles. And what did Miss Cooper do with this part? She spoke all her lines with flat monotony, betrayed no semblance of emotion, gave an impersonation of near-Belgravia, and in general behaved like the senior canon's wife playing hostess at a tea party in a cathedral city.

Marc Connelly's production was bad. He emulated the talkies by the excessive and unnecessary introduction of a musical accompaniment—mainly inappropriate—that often swamped the words of the players. So did the noise of chisels and mallets and other sounds of the builder's yard in the first scene. During the monologues, most of the players save the speaker, remained frozen in unnatural attitudes, reminiscent of the decorations on an Etruscan vase, as seen through a distorting mirror. Aubrey Hammond's settings and the lighting effects were good.

V. S.

The Films.

General Release of the Week: Sound City Production. Directed by John Baxter.

This picture was reviewed on its first showing in June, when I recommended it on the ground that the British screen had "at last discovered that the world contains real people." This is not a great film, and it has the defect of a certain staginess, but it is a landmark in the history of the native industry, and should not be missed.

Film of the Week: "Red Wagon." British International Production. Directed by Paul Stein. Based on the story by Eleanor Smith. Regal.

Miraculous to relate, something good can come out of Elstree, even if it requires a Central European director, and stars from North and South America and Scandinavia. Actually, "Red Wagon" is a good picture judged by any standards of production, and technically it is the best English film since talkies inflicted themselves on the world. It is

admirably cast, directed, edited, and photographed; is definitely cinematic; and goes outside the studio into rural England. Its defects are that it is too long—the opportunities for cutting are as many as they are obvious—and that it lacks atmosphere. The framework is excellent, but it needed a greater director than Paul Stein to breathe life into the skeleton.

Greta Nissen makes an unexpectedly good come-back, and Amy Veness is also unexpectedly good as the wife of the German circus proprietor. Charles Bickford is competent, but it is difficult to understand why it should have been considered necessary to go to Hollywood for an interpreter of the not very onerous role of Joe. Only one role is miscast; Anthony Bushell's public school accent is out of place in the circus world.

Two high-spots stand out—the fight in the tiger's cage, and the arrival at night of the rival circus with the leading wagons hauled by a traction engine. The applause in the first of these sequences should spread to any audience. The real merit of this picture, apart from its being good entertainment, is that an English studio has at last delivered itself from the formulæ of variety theatre, musical comedy, and drawing-room drama, and given us movement of pictorial instead of theatrical quality.

For which relief, much thanks.

"L'Ordonnance." Capitole and R.P. Films Production. Directed by V. Tourjansky. Based on the story by Maupassant. Rialto.

Again, a technically superb production. Editor, players, and photographer could not have done better work, and the direction is, up to a point, equally admirable, but Tourjansky devotes too much time to incidents irrelevant to the main theme, and too little to the theme itself. As with "Red Wagon," the parts are greater than the whole. Yet "L'Ordannance" might have been a great film; the fact that it is not demonstrates yet once more that a film is made by its direction; Tourjansky is not big enough to handle this stark and sombre subject, which has in it the germs of the inevitability and poignancy of aeschylean tragedy. Yet he contrives to invest his treatment with atmosphere from the start.

Marcelle Chantal as Hélène, and Fernandel—known to English filmgoers as the Virtuous Isadore—dominate the picture. It is sparing in dialogue, and the technique, as is the case with all good films, is that of the silent screen, but some of the English titles are abominable. Music does not "swell up," and dinner is not "served up," on either side of the Channel.

But—go and see this film and "Red Wagon."

DAVID OCKHAM.

Gramophone Notes.

Between them, the Columbia and His Master's Voice Companies have issued so many major works in their December lists that I shall be obliged to defer my review of some of them until next week.

Columbia has recorded a performance of the Schumann Quintet in E Flat by the Léner String Quartet with the addition of Mrs. Olga Loeser-Lebert at the pianoforte (LX266-269). This work is a general favourite amongst connoisseurs, and its characteristics are admirably displayed in these records. A pianist Schumann remained to the end, and although, I believe, he was the first to use this particular combination of instruments, it has been used by many since his time, but it may be questioned if ever with so great success, although it must be admitted that this work bears evident traces of the composer's familiarity with and affection for the keyboard. The performance is outstandingly good, and the recording deserves special praise. The Léner play the *Allegro brillante*, which forms the first movement, with a nice sense of the resolute rhythm intended by the composer, and the slow march which commences the second movement is played in vivid if mournful contrast which gives way to the syncopations of the rather violent section marked *agitato*. The *Scherzo* is always a joy, but on these records it is even more: it sparkles with zest and exhilaration. The *Allegro ma non troppo*, which is the last movement of the Quintet, is again, like all Schumann's works, strongly rhythmical, and excitement increases steadily to the tremendous fugal *Coda*. Altogether, a very brilliant and faithful performance.

Columbia LX538-9 are records of Handel's "Water Music," delightfully played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Hamilton Harty, and the Léner String Quartet has made an excellent record (LX261) of Wolf's Italian Serenade. This latter is in the nature of a breath of fresh air, and anyone who is feeling that life may not be too good after all should reconsider matters after hearing this record.

The H.M.V. records of the Grieg Concerto in A minor, played by the New Symphony Orchestra and Backhaus under John Barbirolli (DB2074-6) are also excellent. This Concerto is too well known to need much discussion here. Backhaus is almost unique amongst pianists—he plays so much of so many composers, and always with the impress of his own individuality. His treatment of this work is entirely charming and repays the most careful study.

DB1935 and 1936 are records of Elgar's Concert Overture "Cockaigne" and his "Pomp and Circumstance" March in G, played by the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra and conducted by the composer. As everyone knows, this overture is really a series of impressions of London at the beginning of the present century, and Elgar is usually deemed to have been remarkably successful in conveying to his audience the very definite programme followed by the music. The method is strongly that of Elgar and no one else, although the work bears the early opus number 40. On the whole, the performance is good, but there are one or two rather untidy phrases, especially the rapid semi-quaver first subject at the beginning, while, later on, the brass is perhaps a little inclined to stridency. Levitzki has made a record (DB1904) of Liszt's 12th Hungarian Rhapsody which seems quite undistinguished to me. The phrasing is not clean enough, and the attack is poor. The latest "revitalised" Caruso record is DA1349. Although the songs "For You Alone" and "A Dream" are of the slightest, the singing leaves nothing to be desired, and is as successfully recorded as that on any of the "revitalised" records.

H. G. B.

Reviews.

Modern Thought on Trial. By Kenneth Ingram. (Philip Allan. 8s. 6d.)

Readability, being the essence of good journalism in book form, and being present in this book in large chunks, establishes its claim to a place on one's bookshelf. The author is certainly of the present day, although he pretends to be middle-aged. When he was as young as the young people on whose behalf he writes, he would probably have been burnt at the stake for expressing approval of such opinions as he now so mildly commends. But times have changed, and modern thought will soon be old-fashioned. Twenty years hence Mr. Ingram will perhaps be wondering how he ever came to write such Victorianisms.

However, he knows his subject, and deals with it attractively.

L. S.

Filmcraft. By Adrian Brunel. (Newnes. 3s. 6d.)

Mr. Brunel, whose position in the world of film production is of growing importance, says frankly there are those who may dislike him for exposing the inside works to public gaze in this admirable little text-book.

Naturally, the professionals do not like the prospect that amateurs, sufficiently well instructed by Mr. Brunel, may invade their field through the private paddock of the home producer.

Here we see the full process of film production most excellently analysed, followed up, and detailed for the instruction of the least technical-minded. The author has solved the problem of writing a text-book in diverting and easily comprehensible language. Possibly the reason is that the original form of the book was a series of articles in a weekly journal devoted to the Home Cinema. The readers of that journal have been very lucky to secure such an admirable exposition of how films are made. Nothing is left unexplained. There are clear and clever diagrams, and the book as a whole is quite invaluable. True, it simplifies many things which specialists would like to maintain as mysteries; but that was just the job which Mr. Brunel set himself to do.

L. S.

The Empty House. By Francis Grierson (Butterworth. 7s. 6d.)

This thriller, by an author who always has a story to tell and keeps the traditional pace the whole time, is supplied with all proper excitements.

Here is a story to take on a railway journey, when the country is bleak and cold, or to forget while in bed in the throes of a cold. The story is there all the time—to the end of the journey, or the finish of the patient.

L. S.

Cricket and I. By L. N. Constantine. (Philip Allan. 7s. 6d.)

It is a pleasant thought that while cricket remains our national game, its interest is chiefly dependent upon personalities. They alone preserve the freshness which is threatened by the miasma of body-line wars and county average battles.

Of all the picturesque figures in present-day cricket, L. N. Constantine, the tall negro all-rounder from Trinidad, is quite the most attractive. One finds him, for example, a much more attractive figure than the dismal Hobbs, the irritable Jardine, or the tactless Fender. Now he has written his life, which means his cricket life, and the book makes very jolly reading.

Constantine is essentially modest in outlook and expression; but one feels that the delight he takes in his success is in great part due to the realisation that it means so much for the prestige of his race in the mixed community of his island, where white and brown, and black and mid-way shades all jostle each other, but it is the very devil of a job to cut any ice unless you are pure white. Even in the West Indies, where the negro race has a history of many generations, it is not a light task for a black man to secure recognition as a representative sportsman of the Islands. One may be sure that Constantine needed to be a good fellow, as well as a good cricketer, before he could bring off a social as well as a cricketing triumph.

Needless to say, he became a favourite over here as soon as the sporting public got a good look at him. He had no colour prejudice to fight in a country where there is no colour problem. All the more remarkable then, that he did not come back to Trinidad suffering from any quite understandable but injudicious exuberance which might have made people think he could not carry his oats.

A few words of dignified introduction by Neville Cardus, that scholarly Cham of cricketing journalists, adds flavour to an excellent little volume.

L. S.

Southampton D.S.C. Association.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

New Headquarters of the Association and the Area H.Q. of the Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit:

24, Carlton-crescent, Southampton.

Note.—Communications for the attention of the Correspondence Committee should be sent to:

L. D. BYRNE,
342, Winchester-road,
Southampton.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Birmingham.

December 13.—Central Hall, Corporation-street, Birmingham, the Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, on "Leisure and Plenty for All." Time, 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow.

December 21, Thursday. Lecture by "R. L.," at 160, Bath Street, Glasgow, under the auspices of the Green Shirt movement. (Time not stated.—Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN.

Sir,—May I call your attention to a misprint which appeared in the "New Era," and was reprinted in your columns on November 30. "305 religious bodies" should read: "305 representatives of religious bodies of almost all denominations."

R. J. SCRUTTON.

GREEN SHIRT POLICY.

Sir,—The letter from P. M. is so gentle and so gracious that it would be almost ungracious not to take up two of the points in it. They are: (1) that "rousing popular passion against bankers as a class, and (2) a demand for a National Credit Office seem premature."

Dealing with the first point: the word passion usually means any strong or intense feeling or emotion. Pope's lines express the popular belief regarding the supposed conflict between emotion and reason:—

"The ruling passion, be it what it will,
The ruling passion conquers reason still."

It does not follow that a human being without any strong or intense feeling or emotion (without passion) is, on that account, one whose reasoning faculties are acute. Strube's personification of the Little Man, for instance, reveals a mass-type in which passion is at a very low ebb. This Little Man appears to have no ruling passion, he merely finds himself compelled to accept a set of rules imposed upon him (as I think we must agree) by another personification, this time of a minority type, called The Banker, whose ruling passion seems to be power and nothing else.

It is a lack of intense feeling or strong emotion—any ruling passion—that "conquers (Social Credit) reason still." This lack is felt as general apathy and inertia. It is clear that if that reason is to conquer apathy and overcome inertia it must generate its own ruling passion.

When the intellect can find no escape from an idea, it is, so to speak, in a "logic-trap," and this can, and frequently does, create the most intense emotional drive towards an attempt to put the idea into action—to "try it out" and "see if it works." Social Credit is just such an idea. There is no escape from the logic of it. That is why it begins to generate its own emotional impetus.

P. M., however, uses the term "popular passion," by which he must mean some intense feeling or emotion made manifest in a great number of individuals—mass-passion, in fact. Another commonly held belief comes into play here. The very word passion has come to mean, not temper, but only raging hysteria. And so "popular passion" means mass-hysteria. Therefore, to "arouse popular passion" against anyone or anything is held to be foolish and unreasonable. This is a confusion. Hysteria is not passion.

The fact is that popular passion can be aroused and used to obtain purely logical and beneficial results, or it can be whipped into a frantic whirlpool of mass hysteria that turns things wrong side up or upside down in a lunatic fashion without solving any problem.

It is not difficult to show that without popular passion (without intense emotional feeling) amounting to something near akin to religious fervour, Social Credit reasoning will be conquered still; not, it seems, by some other ruling passion of the populace, but by sheer apathy . . . by sheer lack of any sort of passion.

(Here it may be well to point out that the Green Shirts make no attempt to arouse popular passion "against bankers as a class," but always against bankers in their functional capacity, as bankers.)

It is suggested, however, that any such attempt to arouse feeling against those who manipulate the credit power of the community is premature.

That involves the whole question of Time in relation to events.

It is clear that our aim is to intervene in time (in more senses than one), and the time flow in which we wish to intervene is what Dunne calls "time 2," the future. In order to have any effect upon the future it is necessary to act now, in the present. Any action "now" must be premature. Except perhaps in dreaming, there can be no jump from the present three-dimensional-plus-time present into the future. Only by acting now slightly-over-the-edge of the future moment (s) is it possible to intervene in the future. This time overlap of present-into-future can seem to be premature, as, of course, from one point of view it is.

A blob of frogspawn is premature: the tadpole with external gills is premature: the tadpole in its fishlike stage is premature: the tadpole with hind legs only is premature: the tadpole with tail and four legs is premature: the tadpole-frog complete but still retaining its tail is premature: the young frog in its final stage of development is—mature? At every moment this frog-life is making an effort (a passionate, throbbing, emotional effort) to push into the future, and at each moment it is, in a sense, before its time—premature.

There is no escape from this time-logic. Everything is premature and everything is "prematuring" moment by moment. The future depends upon now, and those who wish to intervene (to shape) the future in the smallest degree must intervene "now"—or never. The fact that someone else may intervene in order

to counter our intervention has to be taken into consideration by " putting ourselves in the other fellow's place," as the saying goes, and our action adjusted accordingly.

Agitation on behalf of Social Credit does not depend upon " what the bankers would do in face of a widespread demand for Social Credit or an attempt to set Social Credit going," because what the bankers might have wished or may wish to do in the future has been and is being modified or changed in its possibilities (in however small a degree) by Social Credit action taking place now, at each moment.

We must recognise that " now " was the future a moment ago, and that we are always acting (to paraphrase the well-known petrol advertisement) in this-is-the-future-moment-that-was—or, that's the future moment, this is!

Social Credit action depends upon what the bankers can do (and what they actually do) now. They are *now* faced with an embryonic, or incipient, " widespread demand for Social Credit."

We are bound to note that P. M. does not rule out the necessity of " arousing popular passion, etc." The key-word is *premature*, and he uses it in such a way as to imply (1) that before the " arousing " some other action should take place; that the " arousing " is out-of-place in time (too far ahead of " now ") to be effective when the time comes—or (2) that the attempt to " arouse " now could make things difficult (could queer the pitch?) at a later date.

The logical reply to the first suggestion is: *if it can be done now, the fact of being able to do it now proves absolutely that there is no time-" gap " and no " gap " in the sequence of events to be filled in.*

It is always difficult to know beforehand what can be done " now," and sometimes it turns out that you can do now what (a moment ago) you thought could only be done in some far distant " now." Also, it is quite easy to take a flying leap and try to do now what cannot be done, in which case you may find yourself much " before your time." It is just as easy to be " behind your time."

As regards the second suggestion: it is possible to defeat your objective in the future by taking wrong action now, but fear of taking wrong action now can put a stop to all action, thereby delaying the achievement of the objective. Stricken by such fear, a man cannot act; he can only be acted upon.

There is but one available method of determining an effective line of action towards a given objective, and that is to attempt to forecast the future by considering the past and by taking into account the forces in play at the present moment.

It is suggested that " a demand for a National Credit Office " is also premature. Of course it is. Any demand for Social Credit put forward in whatever form, whether as a general demand for the application of its principles, or as a scheme in which those principles are embodied, is premature, and must remain premature until the demand is so widespread and so insistent that it cannot be ignored.

We have good reasons for formulating as our first point the demand for the establishment of the National Credit Office, but I think I must have overrun the limits of space.

I should like to say how much I appreciate P. M.'s letter, not only as regards the several points raised, but also the " tone of voice " in which they were put forward.

JOHN HARGRAVE.

SOCIAL CREDIT AND RELIGION.

Sir,—An element of pleasure warms my request to you to let me reply to the Vicar of St. Peter's, Coventry, and to Mr. Maurice B. Reckitt.

On the practical economic side we, all of us, long for dividends for all (especially for " working-class " mothers), public regulation of prices, dedication of industries to public needs, and just pay for service in them, and the ultimate death of taxation. The Christian part of the Bible (as in the parables of Lazarus, " Unto this Last," etc.), points to a noble economic adjustment; though I am sure the twelve Apostles would be greatly puzzled if they could now be challenged to pronounce a verdict on Douglas's *Economic Democracy*. I most readily agree that the finer souls of the medieval Catholic Church (among whom stands my favourite poet, Dante) loved the Just Price, hated the spirit of usury, and insisted on the property-owner's responsibilities. As to the Christians of 1933, I rejoice to see them kneel or march or chant in response to the chime of the Social Credit bells. What I vehemently object to is a way of placing Social Credit issues before the public which seems to imply a special monopoly of Christian Divine Inspiration. I have had personal contacts with Jews, Parsees, Confucians, Shinto-ists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Atheists, and Christians, and I want Social Credit to bless them all. When they pray (prayer being the universal need pleading with the universal conscience), I hear, not a sectarian cry, but the cry of one heart. It is a religious cry, in the sense that, to me, religion means obedience and enthusiasm toward the Best in nature without and human nature within.

The doctrine of the Social Heritage appeals to all; that is, the doctrine of our Debt to the Past (which ought to be an essential and even passionate force in the people's education in all countries)—our debt to the labour, invention, and service of our forefathers in agriculture, mining, exploration, commerce, machine-making, beauty-making, science-making, and morality-making during the age of pre-civilisation, and of the conscious civilisation of the last 7,000 years. In brief, the universal religious voice is a common voice expressing a common need in the name of a common inheritance of a common wealth, and in desire of a common union.

FREDERICK J. GOULD.

Armorel, Woodfield Avenue,
Ealing, London, W.5.

Dear Sir,—I have not yet read Mr. F. J. Gould's article in the Literary Guide to which you referred in THE NEW AGE of November 29, under the heading of " Christianising Social Credit," nevertheless, assuming that your précis of it is correct, I feel competent to suggest a correction of his point of view, from an aspect not explicit in other correspondence on the matter. He holds, you say, that the Social Credit Theorem is too deep, and in its implications too wide to be vested in the stewardship of any religious organisation. This is a sound tenet, provided the emphasis is laid on the word organisation; but there is a common fallacy, not confined to writers of the Rationalist School, which consists in confusing fundamental Christian verities with the current versions of them put forward by the Christian organisations, and even with those organisations themselves.

Mr. Gould maintains, you say, that Social Credit should not be pushed at the adherents of Buddhism, Confucianism, and so on, as a Christian proprietary article, but here again it is the emphasis that matters.

Deep and of wide implication as the Social Credit Theorem is, infinitely deeper and of vastly wider implication is the truth of the Christian event: the greater truth includes the lesser as the whole includes the part, yet the part is no proprietary article of the whole, for the offspring of the spirit have individual existence. Apart from what may be believed as to the hidden and still unknown effects of the Christian impulse, one clear and expanding conception has arisen out of it: that of the unique value of the individual man. The philosophy of Social Credit is based on an acceptance of this doctrine, but did not discover it nor invent it. That doctrine, together with the correlatively necessary doctrine of love, are essentially Christian, and must be at the basis of the new social order.

In an interesting article in the *New English Weekly* of November 28, Mr. C. Daly King, M.A., in order to account for the antagonism between Jew and Gentile, puts forward as a useful hypothesis that the difference between them is in the main that between the " appetitive " and " love " types. Now the love which distinguishes the second type is that which transcends even the natural affections, and is creative in its activity; and unless this love type becomes predominantly effective within the Social Credit State, that State is doomed to decline from the moment it is set up. The Jew may be taken to represent the ancient pre-Christian world in so far as he draws his religious concepts from it. Living as he does in Christian times, he cannot escape the ego-freedom of the present era, but his religious concepts are not commensurable with this freedom, and his ego takes on the appetitive soul nature without antidote or corrective. The religious concepts of the Rationalist are even less adequate, and so, though Mr. Gould may be right in thinking it dangerous for the Social Credit theorem that it should be adopted by the Christian Churches, yet it is no less dangerous for it to be launched on the world by those whose interest in it is merely technical or rational, or by those who believe that the bodily life is all. Those responsible for the propagation of the theorem are in duty bound to find a grounding for it in the spiritual part of man: otherwise they are experimenting in the dark, with the unknown. Such grounding may be found in the essence of Christianity, and I believe is to be found there alone.

F. BUNCE.

Disley, Cheshire.

NIETZSCHE AND SOCIAL CREDIT.

Sir,—In an article in THE NEW AGE of October 26 last Mr. W. T. Symons showed the close affinity between the philosophies of Douglas and Nietzsche, and this affinity is revealed as much in Major Douglas's public utterances as in his writings. For instance, speaking at a public meeting on October 9, 1932, he said:—

" There is a delusion in some circles that there is something virtuous about weakness. A thing which is right is strong. If it isn't strong, it isn't right. That is the engineer's way of looking at things. If it is weak it must be redesigned."

Nietzsche himself could not have expressed it better.

Replying to a question put by Professor Gregory, referring to the unemployed, before the Macmillan Commission, he answered:—

" I am not interested in the unemployed in the least. I am merely interested in the getting rid of the product of the manufacturer."

In view of the second utterance, the politicians show intelligence in disassociating themselves from Social Credit, for they know that its fabric will not take the dye of any party; neither will it take the dye of any creed—a fact which some parsons do not appear to realise.

" ALSO SPRACH."

" A + B " AND " CONTINUOUS PROCESS."

Sir,—If you are prepared to continue this process a stage further, may I hope that, in spite of a measure of agreement over B. I., Ltd., when considered as moving with uniform velocity, Mr. Baker will not assume that this illustration exemplifies the A + B theorem any more than did his own illustration of the tanners.

What that theorem shows is that, if the community served by B. I., Ltd., with a week's income in their pockets, attempted to buy the output *of that week* at the prices at which that output is entered in the departmental ledgers of B. I., Ltd., they will find themselves seriously short of purchasing-power, whether B. I., Ltd., is moving with uniform velocity or accelerating. To see why this is so, we shall have to invade B. I., Ltd., and investigate its various departments, each with its B payments—thereby " exemplifying " the theorem.

I know Mr. Baker's reply. He will say that it is not necessary that the community should be able to buy that amount of product, and will refer me to p. 199, et seq, of " Money and Prices." No space which I might reasonably request in your correspondence columns would suffice to deal adequately with that argument, but there is one observation which I should like to make in conclusion.

I get the impression from Mr. Baker, and other economists, that they would consider the end and aim of the economic system to be accomplished when consumers in the aggregate can buy all the goods and services flowing on to consumers' markets at money cost prices, including fair and reasonable profits. That will not satisfy the Social Creditor. He requires that, at all times, consumers should be in a position to indent upon the industrial organisation up to the limit of its capacity to produce the goods and services which they want. Not, be it noted, up to the limit of its capacity to produce goods for export without equivalent import, or to produce capital equipment in excess of requirements (providing the missing purchasing power in the process), but up to the limit of its capacity to produce the goods and services which they want here and now.

If this be denied, then the Social Creditor and his critic differ on a fundamental issue which no technical discussion can resolve. If, on the other hand, it be granted, then it is up to the critic to show how this can be done under any conceivable wage and salary system, unfortified by issues of non-repayable consumer credit.

The orthodox economist can easily provide consumers with sufficient incomes to meet the prices on their own markets. It has been done before, and it could be done again. But he cannot do this, in any modern community, without piling up costs on industrial markets, and loans in bank ledgers, on a crescendo scale.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. COLEMAN.

JAPANESE CONDITIONS.

Sir,—In *The Listener* for November 1, there was reported a broadcast talk by Mr. Barnard Ellinger. *Inter alia,* he said (p. 653).—

" What are, for instance, actually the conditions existing in the cotton mills of Japan? Eighty per cent. of the operatives are females, and of these the great majority are young girls between the ages of fourteen to eighteen. They earn, reckoning the yen at 2s., the rate before both countries left the gold standard—about 10s. per week. There are many girls of this age in this country earning little more in various trades. For instance, young girls of fourteen and upwards have been placed recently in industry at the following wages: Furniture stainers, 9s. 9d.; packers, 8s. 10d.; bookbinders, 8s.; rug makers, 8s. 6d.; shop assistants, 8s. to 12s. Lest it should be thought that these are ' sweated ' wages, I will add some of the Trade Board rates for girls of fourteen. Boot and shoe repairing, 5s.; corset trade, 7s.; dressmaking, 5s.; milliners, etc., 6s.; linen piece goods, 9s.; and even in the cotton trade, some girls of fourteen start at 7s., and do not get more than 15s. until they have reached eighteen years of age."

He then refers to Mr. Arnold Pearse, who, in 1929, said that he doubted whether many girls in expensive boarding schools in Europe were better cared for or had more freedom than the girls who work for the cotton combines and " live in," and to the report of the International Labour Office, 1933, on Industrial Labour in Japan.

HILDERIC COUSENS.

" Christmas Revels! "

SOCIAL CREDIT RALLY AND HOUSE PARTY.

At the request of many Social Creditors, a not-too-formal conference and Christmas house-party has been arranged at " The Cottage of Content," Brede, East Sussex. This will consist of a happy blend of " work " and play, and—of course—at least an approximation to an " age of plenty " in other directions. Lord Tavistock has kindly promised to speak, and other speakers are arranged for. A variety of Social Credit literature will be on sale.

The setting for the occasion is a characteristic Sussex timber-framed and oak-filled house, about 300 years old in the midst of beautiful country. There are many beautiful walks, and a frequent bus service goes to charming old-world Rye, six miles to the east, and to Hastings and St. Leonards—nine miles to the south.

PERIOD.—The Rally commences on the evening of Friday, December 22, and continues until the morning of Wednesday, December 27. Those who cannot manage the whole period are welcome for so long as they may be able to spare.

HOW TO COME.—Train from Victoria, Charing Cross, or London Bridge, to Warrior Square, St. Leonards Station, and then No. 30 motor bus (quarter past each hour) to the door. Those travelling from S.E. Counties may find better trains via Ashford to Rye and then No. 30 motor bus (also at quarter past each hour) to the door, or motor coach from London either to Rye or Hastings. (No. 30 motor bus leaves Hastings at 10 minutes past each hour.)

ACCOMMODATION.—Visitors beyond the number who can be conveniently accommodated in the house will be given comfortable sleeping quarters in the village nearby. Those staying at the Cottage of Content will share dormitory rooms.

APPLICATION.—In order to ensure accommodation, your application should be sent in to the Rally Secretary on or before Monday, December 18.

All applications which cannot be accepted will be at once so notified by telegram and deposit refunded provided a sufficient postal address is given. Your application should state:—

(a) First meal required and last meal required;
(b) Indication of sex, because of dormitories!;
(c) Whether accommodation required for own car (there is plenty of *open* park free);

TERMS.—15s. per day inclusive. Your application should be accompanied by a deposit of 10s., and should be sent as soon as possible to The RALLY SECRETARY, The Cottage of Content, Broadlands Row, Brede, East Sussex.

SPEAKERS.—One or two further speakers are required, and the Rally Secretary will be pleased to hear promptly from such as are free, giving dates, subject of talk, and whether they propose to stay any time at Brede.

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The Social Credit Movement.

Supporters of the Social Credit Movement contend that under present conditions the purchasing power in the hands of the community is chronically insufficient to buy the whole product of industry. This is because the money required to finance capital production, and created by the banks for that purpose, is regarded as borrowed from them, and, therefore, in order that it may be repaid, is charged into the price of consumers' goods. It is a vital fallacy to treat new money thus created by the banks as a repayable loan, without crediting the community, on the strength of whose resources the money was created, with the value of the resulting new capital resources. This has given rise to a defective system of national loan accountancy, resulting in the reduction of the community to a condition of perpetual scarcity, and bringing them face to face with the alternatives of widespread unemployment of men and machines, as at present, or of international complications arising from the struggle for foreign markets.

The Douglas Social Credit Proposals would remedy this defect by increasing the purchasing power in the hands of the community to an amount sufficient to provide effective demand for the whole product of industry. This, of course, cannot be done by the orthodox method of creating new money, prevalent during the war, which necessarily gives rise to the "vicious spiral" of increased currency, higher prices, higher wages, higher costs, still higher prices, and so on. The essentials of the scheme are the simultaneous creation of new money and the regulation of the price of consumers' goods at their real cost of production (as distinct from their apparent financial cost under the present system). The technique for effecting this is fully described in Major Douglas's books.

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