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EVERY FRIDAY

THE NEW TIMES

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Now, when our
land to ruin's
brink is verging.

In God's name,
let us speak while
there is time!

Now, when the
padlocks for our
lips are forging,
Silence is crime.

Whittier (1807-1892).

Another Move Against Taxing Our Soldiers

Queensland Shire Council's Action

Recently there has been much more criticism of the anomaly of directly and indirectly taxing the meagre pay of members of the fighting forces. In some places (Adelaide, for example) there has been electoral, non-party political ACTION, particularly against taxing deferred pay. From Queensland comes news of another move which will add considerably to the rising tide of democratic pressure on the Federal Government. On March 20 letters worded as follows were posted to all Shire Councils in Queensland:

MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL

"Shire Hall, Charleville, March 20, 1943
"Sir,—I have been directed to solicit the support of your Council in a protest to the Federal Government against the taxation of members of the Fighting Forces, and of voluntary organisations such as the Australian Comforts Fund and the Australian Red Cross Society.

"The Charleville Branch of the Returned Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, the Warrego Graziers' Association, and this Council have all passed resolutions which are to be submitted to the Federal Government through the member for the district, and it is suggested that your Council take similar action if it favours the proposal. For your Coun-

cil's information, the resolution passed by this Council was:

"That this Council protest to the Federal Government against the taxation of members of the Fighting Forces, and of voluntary organisations working for the benefit of the Forces, and request that no taxation whatsoever be imposed on the pay or deferred pay of any member of the Forces, that no duty be imposed on the estates of deceased members of the Forces, and that no taxation of any description be imposed on any voluntary organisation, such as the Australian Comforts Fund or the Australian Red Cross Society, which is working for the benefit of the Forces.—Yours, faithfully, S. A. MACKLIN, Shire Clerk."

Danger of World-Currency

One of the duties of the Yaffle Brains Trust—writes "Yaffle" in "Reynolds' News" (London)—is to clear up after other Brains Trusts. Recently the B.B.C. one discussed the question: What are the chances of an International Currency after the war? They discussed every aspect of this currency except—will there be enough of it?

This curious omission was probably due to the popular notion that whatever is international must be good. It is apparently based on the assumption that the unity of several wrongs makes one right.

I don't know whether this theory extends beyond political and economic spheres. Do doctors think they can cure their patients by giving them all the same disease?

If fifty nations are starving amid plenty through lack of money, you can't feed them by simply putting the same picture and motto on their coinage. Faith has its limits.

The quantity of this money would depend on the kind of people who controlled it. We have had an international financial authority before. It was called the Bank of International Settlements. It was international all right. It was entirely free from narrow nationalist bias. Its policy was to get all nations into debt with absolute impartiality.

It is still in the flesh. The Government regards it with reverence, guarding its secrets from vulgar curiosity. Many legislators have expressed the view that it will be useful for post-war reconstruction. You have been warned!

A democrat should regard ANY international authority with suspicion, for the more widespread an authority is, the harder it is to control it. Democracy can only function successfully within small areas. Only among a limited number of people can each person know what is going on and exercise his influence and responsibility.

When the international bankers, by permission of the League of Nations, pushed the Austrian people back into starvation after they'd begun to revive in 1921, nobody knew anything about it. The public only read in the papers that "Austria's finances have been stabilised."

That couldn't happen in a village. If the parson pinched the sexton's Sunday joint, everybody would know all about it as soon as the pub opened, and the village could either feed the sexton or mob the parson. And the parson couldn't get away with it by telling the local paper that the sexton's larder had been stabilised.

To return to this question of quantity. Here we find authorities differing widely. On the one hand are people telling us that after the war we shall be able to abolish poverty and build cities surpassing the dreams of Christopher Wren? On the other hand are people like Sir Kingsley Wood warning us that because we can find enough money for war purposes, we mustn't think we shall be able to find similar sums for "beneficent" purposes afterwards?

Money is only paper and ink, and, however much wealth a nation produces, THAT nation can always issue enough money to distribute it. To say that the more money we spend in war time the less we can spend in peace time, is like saying that the more air you breathe in Llanfairfechan the less you can breathe in Yarmouth.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

TYPHOID TERROR: The unsewered areas of Melbourne suburbs, which were also connected with the outbreak of infantile paralysis, have now produced a typhoid plague, which has already claimed three hundred victims—for whom our public (communal) hospitals are incapable of providing accommodation. Our health authorities blame the milk supply, thus diverting criticism from the M.M.B.W., the public body responsible for sewerage, etc. This body in turn blames the manpower call-up for lack of garbage-removers and suspension of vital sewerage work in 1942. However, none of this "passing the buck" alters the fact that the sewers and other precautionary works could have been completed long before the war. During the bank-made depression an army of willing workers and abundant materials were not used—merely because we lacked MONEY: figures in bank-ledgers and pieces of paper or metal with numbers on them! Ye Gods!

C.C.C. CONCENTRATION

(CURTIN'S CAMP?): Commenting on the proposed stop-work meeting of all Victorian building-trade workers as a protest against the C.C.C. award, Mr. Thomson, the secretary of the Federation, said that "the Unions were having the utmost difficulty in keeping the men at work." This statement can only mean that the Union executives—who are the employees of the rank and file—are opposing their employers' wishes. (Unless the statement, is merely more Communist hypocrisy: pretending to oppose the strike, whilst at the same time secretly agitating for it; in other words, hunting with the hounds and running with the hare.)

THE BIG STICK: The daily press of March 16 reported the case of a father being fined for counselling his son to evade conscription. The son's application for enrolment as a conscientious objector had been refused, and he had already served three months' gaol sentence. After his release another summons was issued. The father stated that the area officer (Captain Ball) was hounding his son, who, on his father's advice, had disappeared. These incidents did NOT happen in Germany, they happened in Sydney.

COAL CRISIS: As expected by reasonably intelligent people, the dictatorial action of manpower bunglers in causing coal-miners to be imprisoned for absenteeism caused the stoppage of five mines, because the miners demanded the release of the men, and will not work until they are released. It is another illustration of the folly of would-be dictators failing to realise that compulsion is a very bad substitute for inducement. The sooner those in authority realise that we are fighting the war to abolish dictatorship—and not to implement it—the better for all concerned.

PARTY PRANKS: Angry scenes are reported by the press to have occurred at the Labor Caucus when Mr. Calwell suggested that Mr. Curtin "would finish up on the other side leading a National Government." Mr. Curtin is said to have regarded this as an accusation of being a

traitor to the Party. In the same issue, a U.A.P. move to oust Mr. Hughes from the Party leadership was reported. It will be remembered that Mr. Hughes once occupied the position that Mr. Curtin holds with the Labor Party. It would be ironical indeed if the two Parties now swapped leaders. Of course the electors' interests wouldn't matter in the least!

SENATE SNUBS: Commenting on the Senate rejecting six measures in quick succession, including "the vote for 18-year-old soldiers," Mr. Curtin said, "It was a clear case of 19 men trying to control 110 men. Strangely enough, he omitted to mention that the said 110 men are trying to control seven million people. The merit or otherwise of extending the franchise is a subject for public discussion and decision by the electors, not by their paid political servants. In any case, if it's justifiable for 18-year-old soldiers who fight for their country, it's equally justifiable for citizens who, at 18 and under, are taxed "for their country"—and taxed for the bankers.

GRAZERS' GROUSES: Now that the plot to reduce production in order to abolish abundance has hit the graziers, they, too, are commencing to see the folly of our theoretical planners. This is indicated in a comment by Mr. J. H. Patterson, president of the Graziers' Association of Southern Riverina, at the association's annual meeting: "I feel that we should ignore would-be economists and statisticians' figures and produce more and more. There is an acute demand for all meat, and I am certain that all wool produced will be needed; if not now, in a few years." It is a happy sign to note that this body has had enough of economists who as propagandists for the bankers' scarcity-mania have got us into the present mess.

TAX TRICKS: Taxation officials are reported to have detected extensive taxation frauds by aliens failing to lodge returns and operating only on a cash basis, which enables them to dispense with revealing documents. This is certainly not intended as an argument against revealing book-keeping, but it is possible that these aliens understand that over half of all "normal" taxation is used, not for Government purposes, but for interest payments to bankers, etc., and that on that account they resort to evasion by cash transactions which cannot be traced. Incidentally, the cash-and-carry idea is very popular with alien races—especially Jews.

PACIFIC PATTERN: A New York "Herald-Tribune" writer, commenting on U.S. Senator Tydings' loose talk about America's Pacific-bases plan, says: "Senator Tydings is so farsighted about the year 2039 that he cannot see 1943." That cryptic summing-up could well be applied to those

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Commons Debate On War Finance

Referring to the Debate of December 16 on War Finance and Borrowing Policy two days before it took place, an English provincial paper stated that some M.P.S. "are inclined to some of the ideas of Douglas Social Credit." During the debate a good many points of monetary reform were conceded, but the following series of extracts on subjects of policy not directly connected with finance show how unimportant to the final issue such concessions are:

Mr. Pethick-lawrence (Edinburgh, East):

"... If we can avoid both these extremes of inflation and deflation, then, with the power of production freed from the constricting Bed of Procrustes imposed upon it in days past by the gold standard, and with a wise national policy in foreign, imperial and domestic affairs, we shall be able to have full employment and use to the utmost the knowledge and technique which have been acquired during the twentieth century...."

Mr. Woodburn (Stirling and Clackmannan, Eastern):

"... What is to be the solution? It is that we must expand public enterprise to take up the lead. If we leave men and women standing and wasting their lives that is wasting something which can never be recovered. The purpose of the financial policy of this country after the war should be to direct the labour of those employable men and women into channels that will produce the things that this country and its people need...."

Mr. Graham White (Birkenhead):

"... I am not one of those who take a pessimistic view with regard to post-war problems, but it depends entirely on seeing our problems as a whole and upon our abandoning the idea that everything that can be

done is done without very hard work. Members have made reference to the Beveridge Report and to various other aspects of reconstruction... measures of international co-operation and a policy of full employment.

Mr. Craven Ellis (Southampton):

"... I feel strongly that the future prosperity of the country and the basis of full employment of the people is dependent upon some reform of our monetary and financial systems...."

Mr. Hely-Hutchinson (Hastings):

"... Broadly speaking, the Government deserve the greatest credit for their financial policy up to the present time. Their measures should be judged as a whole, and upon the success of the physical controls, rather than solely upon immediate financial results."

Sir J. Wardlaw-Milne (Kidderminster):

"... It is men and women, with their power to consume as well as to produce, who can give us real prosperity. That is why I am all in favour of these social schemes, provided that there is a proper financial policy capable of dealing with them. But it is no use giving the people in this country an idea that these proposals can be put into operation until we have decided, in consultation with others [other nations] what our policy is to be...."

BANKING RACKET-Vital Letter Suppressed

The following letter was sent to the "Glasgow Herald" in reference to a letter which might be construed as meaning that the Chairman of the Midland Bank (Mr. McKenna) refuted some of the arguments submitted by Major Douglas to the Macmillan Committee. IT WAS NOT PUBLISHED:—

Sir,—My attention has just been drawn to a letter in your issue of December 1, in the course of which the writer, Mr. George Blatch, remarks, "every loan made by a bank is a loan of cash, as was made clear by Mr. McKenna in his cross-examination of Major Douglas before the Macmillan Committee...."

I am still a little puzzled to understand why anyone takes the trouble to argue on this subject—there is no difference of opinion in responsible circles about it. The matter is put in perhaps its shortest form

in the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" in these words: "Banks create the means of payment out of nothing."

All Mr. McKenna did in the passage referred to by your correspondent was to insist that these credits created out of nothing should be called "cash." A good deal of his argument seemed, not only to me, but to members of the Committee, to traverse his own speeches, in which he repeatedly used the phrase, "Every loan creates a deposit, and the repayment of every loan destroys a deposit." I might refer anyone who has any doubts on the matter to the very simple mathematical proof in Section 13 of my Argument. This is followed by the remark, "It would, perhaps, be misleading to describe this ingenious process as wholesale counterfeiting, as since the Bank Act of 1928 the State has resigned its sovereign rights over Finance in favour of

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Russian Gallantry Without Communism

"The German attack upon Russia, which had begun on May 1, 1941, continued all this year well into September, by which date the Russians had been driven out of Poland, Courland, and the best part of Galicia. The Russians fought gloriously, OFTEN ALMOST WITHOUT ARMS, but were overwhelmed by the superior leading, organisation AND ARMAMENT of the enemy."

—General Repington: "The First World War."

JUGGLING WITH DYNAMITE

By L. D. BYRNE.

(A commentary on the Slaght-Isley debate in the Canadian House of Commons on July 15, 1942)

The debate precipitated in Parliament by Mr. Slaght's suggestion that the Federal Government issue 1200 million dollars additional "national currency" has been widely publicised, and, incidentally, it has some important lessons for Social Crediters and others.

According to Mr. Slaght's own testimony it was the first occasion upon which he had entered into a discussion of financial matters in the House of Commons. It was natural, therefore, that he should be unaware of the tricks of the game when it came to the issue involved being carefully side-tracked by the Minister of Finance.

The real issue raised by Mr. Slaght was not technical; he did not pose as an expert in financial matters. He very properly approached his subject from a common-sense angle—raising in a more specific form a question which many of his constituents and tens of thousands of people across Canada are asking.

After showing that during two and a half years of war, the Government had borrowed some two and a half billion dollars at interest, and that during the current fiscal year the Government would have to borrow nearly two billion dollars more, Mr. Slaght pointed out that the Government could issue the necessary money, instead of issuing interest-bearing bonds to the banks and allowing them, in turn, to issue the money. He stressed that there was no fundamental difference between a bond and a dollar bill. Both are "promises-to-pay," backed by the credit of the nation, and if the Government could issue the one it could equally well issue the other.

He then proceeded to show that as most of the money obtained from the sale of bonds was provided either directly or indirectly by the chartered banks, it constituted the creation of new money. Consequently, if this was not considered inflationary, then it could not be considered inflationary for the Government instead of the banks, to issue the same amount of money. Therefore, he urged that the Government issue at least 1,200,000,000 dollars of the money required during the fiscal year to make good the deficit between expenditure and revenue from taxation, thereby saving the nation from going into debt to the banking corporations to at least that extent.

That presented a nasty poser for the Minister of Finance to handle, for its sheer common-sense could not be swept aside very easily. The only manner in which that honourable gentleman could meet the situation was by resorting to an old trick. This is to quickly change the ground of the discussion by raising technical arguments about which those present know little. And it should be noted that Mr. Isley did not wait to reply to the debate, but hurriedly intervened immediately after Mr. Slaght had resumed his seat. The ignorance of most Members on the subject of money, and their subservience to Party, ensured that the heterodoxy of a Government back-bencher, for all the prestige he enjoyed among his colleagues, would be swamped in the melee which followed.

However, in his anxiety to squash Mr. Slaght, the Minister of Finance had to place on record an indictment of himself which he will regret.

Mr. Isley made some very interesting admissions in the course of his reply. In the first place it seems plain that he is committed to a policy of maintaining the present financial system. No other inference could be drawn from his outburst that he would walk out if Parliament supported ideas like those of Mr. Slaght.

The second interesting admission was to the effect that he is aware of the hopeless inadequacy of his so-called price-ceiling—a scheme which emanated from the fertile brain of Bernard M. Baruch,

and has some unpleasant implications which have yet to be appreciated in this country.

However, the matter that should concern us is the ease with which Mr. Isley was able to palm off a pathetically futile counter-argument on an ignorant House of Commons.

The crux of the Minister's case was that if the Government were to issue 1,200,000,000 dollars national currency, to finance war expenditures, the money would become deposits in the chartered banks. This would provide the banks with a cash basis for issuing up to twelve billion dollars new money in the form of financial credit, thereby creating a tremendous inflation.

It will be observed that Mr. Isley was quick to take advantage of the loose use of the term "national currency" by Mr. Slaght, when it was obvious from the context in which it was used that the latter meant "money."

In effect, Mr. Isley argued that the Government dare not issue 1,200,000,000 dollars, because, under existing legislation, the banks had the real control, and could, if they wished, utilise their credit-creating powers to cause inflation and ruin the national war effort. In fact, he inferred that they would do so.

The only conclusion which can be drawn from this curious argument is that the Government is not prepared to alter the rules of the money game as it is played at present. And the rules are carefully designed not to permit the Government to issue the nation's money nor to control monetary policy.

(To be continued.)

THE "LAND FOR THE (CHOSEN) PEOPLE" RACKET

By C. H. DOUGLAS, in the "Social Creditor," England

(Continued from last issue)

The "owner" of minerals had no choice whether they should or should not be worked. He was obliged to grant a lease to a Colliery, on demand and at practically its price, but the Colliery had complete freedom as to whether or not it would work them. It is true that in many cases the Lease contained a "minimum rent" clause, usually about £1 per acre, but this so-called "rent" was afterwards deducted from the royalties, together with all bad coal, "faults," etc. In effect, for about twopence per ton, the colliery got control of all the coal without buying the surface and with the whole of the political responsibility and abuse directed against the "owner."

Now let us see what happens to the surface. In the first place, it becomes for a lengthy period unsaleable for building purposes, because of the danger of settlement, and this unsaleability causes a money loss probably greater than the total sums received, net, for the royalties. In the second place, miners, very good fellows as they are, are not regarded with enthusiasm by farmers.

They are inveterate trespassers and poachers; destroy fences, leave open gates, and produce an easily recognisable "ragged" air to the countryside, which is accentuated by the "planned" neatness of many modern colliery villages. The sulphur smoke from the pit chimneys hurts the crops. And, of course, by the almost inevitable destruction of the amenities of the district, its general residential value becomes restricted to those connected with the working of minerals.

Notice that the "owner" has nothing whatever to do with this state of affairs. He merely pays the taxes, is pilloried by the miner as battering on the virtuous worker "who produces all wealth" and hasn't sufficient experience to realise that the "wealth" he produces goes mostly, as an American manufacturer recently put it, to provide a quart of milk a day for Hot-tentots. That is to say, it is exported practically free, and goes to swell the thousands of millions of pounds of capital which have been lost in the last fifty years.

Anyone who will give a little unbiased consideration to the facts of Land Taxation and Legislation since, to go no further back, Mr. Lloyd George's Budget of 1908 must be driven to the conclusion that it has not been intended that "the Land" should prosper, neither has it been intended that the land should be "nationalised." Politically, it could have been, any time this past thirty years. While destroying every real right of property-rights, without which the proper administration of land is impossible, the titular "ownership" has been left in private hands, so that the international bond-holders might extract in taxation all the money possible, while the results of draining the countryside of liquid capital might be used to discredit the whole system of private property. A. very pretty scheme.

While fundamentally, of course, the financial aspect of the matter ceases to be of importance with the sabotage of private

ownership," it may be noted in passing that International Bondholding is doomed on the day that "ownership" passes to the State and the State itself would hardly survive. The rent and maintenance charges which would have to be collected to pay the Bondholders, of whom individual War Loan holders form a small part, would then be so impossible that, the private "owner" having disappeared, the real malefactors would be easily recognisable—to quote that professional maker of phrases, Lord Baldwin, during the past half century, the Government, whatever we may mean by that, has "realised" the ambition of the harlot throughout the ages—power without responsibility.

There is no room at all for difference of opinion as to the relative excellence of management by private ownership or by the bureaucracy by which it is being replaced. Leaving out of comparison such outstanding instances as the Buccleuch or Stanley Estates, there are still hundreds of small properties in which ownership is maintained by extraneous funds, which are immeasurably superior to the properties of Government Departments disposing of practically unlimited funds.

Was there, then, no room for complaint about the system? I think that there was. And, for the moment, there is every evidence that, so far from its defects being rectified by State Management, they will be greatly magnified.

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(Continued from last issue.)

gone too well. How he expected it to go well when the people of the world had had their money taken from them is more than I can understand. He said: "The most seriously disquieting factor in the operation of the Premiers' Plan is the stubbornly slow rate at which unemployment improves. There can be no doubt that the present number of workless men is a significant and disheartening climax to three years of effort and planning." We might well ask will effort and planning of the type of which he is capable, and of which we have already had some disastrous experience, produce any better results after the war than they did before the war? The reason for the failure of the Plan had been clearly given two years previously by his brilliant confrere, Professor Copland, who, speaking at the Economic Society in 1932, said: "I can make the confession now that the election is over that the Premiers' Plan has admittedly been a disappointment up to date. We relied on overseas prices rising, and I distinctly said so at the time, but prices did not rise. The Plan depended on it." Overseas prices depended on the policy of the Bank of England, and, as we have seen above, the policy of the Bank of England depended on the "behaviour of the dollar!" Prices did not rise because they were not allowed to rise, and unemployment was stubborn because there was no money to pay the workers. There was no shortage of work. There never is.

In the "Age" of 18th May, 1934 we were given a lengthy report of an address of Dr. G. L. Wood the previous day; the report opened as follows: "In a brilliant and provocative analysis of the cost of modern progress and its effect on the organic organisation of the community, Associate Professor G. L. Wood, of the Faculty of Commerce, astonished members of the Chartered Accountants (Australia) Research Society of Victoria at their first annual meeting at the Victoria Palace last night." The nature of their surprise, however, was not indicated, and perhaps it was better to leave it to our imagination.

Here is the sort of thing the "Age" described as "brilliant and provocative" but industry was being injected nutrient of various types, which was consolidated into that highly volatile thing called capital. Can you imagine a match being put to it? What a decent fire it would make, and the explosions would be terrific. "A depression meant that business was estimating the costs of progress and transitions were taking place." Evidently between 1933 and 1934 he had discovered that the stubbornness of the employment problem was not, after all, due to the failure of overseas prices to rise, but the fact that the business men were estimating their costs of progress. "The depression was serious, and it took time for the body economic to get convalescent and to regain its health." What an analogy! "This cost of progress could be measured by the volume of insolvency, and the amount of progress of which a country was capable could be gauged by the amount of bankruptcy it could stand." All I need to say regarding this is think it over. Men of normal intelligence, who have had personal contact with the realities of life, naturally lean to the view that progress depends upon our natural resources, and the ability of the people to make use of those resources. Apparently men of ordinary intelligence are all wrong in this regard, and what we have got to do in the future is to put ourselves in the position to stand a lot of bankruptcy! Every business man who goes bankrupt may therefore console himself with the knowledge that he helped in the progress of society!

And so one could go on. If Professor Wood says similar foolish things to students at the University it is to be hoped the students only laugh at him.

—Yours, etc., BRUCE H. BROWN, 189 Hotham-street, East Melbourne. 28/3/43

U.E.A. NOTES

(From THE UNITED ELECTORS, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.)

Literature: We have to advise that our stocks of "Victory Road" and "Victory Without Debt" are exhausted, and not replaceable.

Elections: The impending State and Federal elections will necessitate approximately 600 "Candidate's Undertaking Forms" being sent out. This is a costly but worthwhile procedure. The answers, or absence of same, provide useful information to electors.

Finance: Headquarters' rent and general finance is obtained from small profits on literature sales and donations from supporters (mostly the latter, from a few who realise that our fight cannot be carried on without finance). With this in mind, we make an earnest appeal to those who in the past have not helped to provide economic security for headquarters. To them we say: "Will you help us with a regular weekly or monthly donation? And will you do it now? Thank you!"

—O. B. Heatley, Campaign Director.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES

(From THE UNITED DEMOCRATS, of 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.)

Our President Mr. M. E. Dodd is away for a short vacation. We hope he returns with ideas for further moves to stem the tide of bureaucracy.

Quarterly Meeting: We are hoping for a good attendance for this meeting on Saturday, April 10, at 8 p.m. There will be much of importance to discuss, and the President will have some Electoral Campaign successes to report. The social side will not be neglected at this gathering. Members are invited to bring friends.

—M. R. W. LEE Hon. Secretary

THE "TALMUD" TEACHINGS

By BORGE JENSEN, in the "Social Crediter"

"It is necessary to face up to the fact of institutionalised Judaeo-Christianity, the official philosophy of England, Scotland and Wales, which is simply Liberal Judaism."
—C. H. Douglas in "The Big Idea"

At a time when Chinese thought had for centuries been safely chained to the Doctrine of Social Status the Jews were settling in small, closely knit communities along the Mediterranean round which were built what later became the chief cities of the Roman Empire. The Diaspora, the dispersal of the seed of Judah, had begun in earnest and the Roman Empire appears to have initiated in the West that system of government by Law and Finance which is associated with cities, secrecy and Jews. The numerous Jews, of whom Josephus is perhaps the best known to posterity (although the category might include the Jewish mistresses of Roman Emperors and Generals), occupying key positions in the administration of Roman Law, and, which is far more important, the similarities between the "books of rules" according to which the Jewish and the Roman populations were governed, afford evidence of such an assumption. The close connection between Talmudic, Syrian and Roman Law, the last of which is still officially considered the parent of European Law, has been shown by Mr. S. Rubin,* and Mr. Roth, the historian, is of opinion† that "it is indisputable that the parallels between European and Talmudic law go beyond a few vague general principles." Let us first examine some of the general principles of Talmudic law.

The "Encyclopaedia Britannica," which is edited in Chicago, and ought to know, informs us that "the Talmud is still the authoritative and practical guide of the great masses of the Jews," a statement which is all the more interesting when one considers that the mass of the Jewish people are led by "guides" who deem it necessary "that the Rabbinical ruling should be authenticated by its association with older authority . . . [with the result that] anonymous writings were attributed to famous names, and traditions were judged—as in Islam—not so much upon their merits as by the chain of authorities which traced them back to their sources."‡

While the scientific value of the chain-of-authority method is questionable, any intelligent graduate of Law, Economics, History, etc., of any University anywhere will acknowledge its usefulness in keeping questioning minds from losing themselves along slippery by-paths of giddy exploration, and the bias which is often noticeable in minds so trained is simply counterbalanced by a feeling of aloof superiority which is an indisputable —t for people who want to get on in a world of ever increasing demand for

*"Das Talmudische Recht," published 1936 or 1937 in Germany. For reference to this work see the "University of Toronto Law Journal," Lent, 1941.

† Cecil Roth: "Jewish Contribution to Civilisation."

‡ "Encyclopaedia Britannica": "Talmud."

diplomas and licences. We recall Lord Haldane's remark that Sir Ernest Cassel financed the London School of Economics to "train the bureaucrats of the future Socialist State."

The effect on the Jewish people of the legislation framed by the chain of legal authorities from Moses to Ezra would appear to have been much the same. In the foreword to his "Everyman's Talmud," the Rev. Dr. Abraham Cohen writes that the policy of Ezra was to keep the Jew distinct "not merely by a creed, but by a mode of living . . . even in the common acts of daily life there would be distinguishing features which would constantly recall his Jewishness. His life in every detail was to be controlled by the Torah."

(To be continued.)

C. H. Douglas on Scottish Hydro-Electric Report

The following letter appeared in the "Scotsman" of December 19—

Sir,—It is not necessary to analyse in detail the report on this subject which has just been issued and which Mr. Thomas Johnston states is accepted "in its general conclusions by the Government," to recognise that "the Government" has learnt nothing, and forgotten nothing. By way of bringing into relief the real issue—perhaps the main issue before the world—perhaps I may quote:

"In the year 1859, three events took place which were to be the crystallisation of our own century's beliefs. Darwin's MS, "The Origin of Species," was accepted by a London publisher. Karl Marx published "The Critique of Political Economy," Richard Wagner completed "Tristan and Isolde." On three fronts, this trinity of remarkable men presented the idea of mechanical materialism which prevails in our thinking to-day. The Darwinian, Marxian, and Wagnerian world which resulted from this doctrine was alien, cold and uncomfortable. The individual had no value in the scheme of things. His feelings were illusory, his will was powerless. Everything in the Universe was reduced to material fact."—M. Jacques Barzun.

Under a thin veneer of park-preservation, the report exhibits the implacable determination of the international "Capitalist" (the "Big Idea") to press forward the industrialised structure of the world in the teeth of any or all opposition. "No vested interests will be allowed to intervene to delay"—this vested interest. That is a clear challenge. Is there anyone in Scotland who will answer it?

—I am, etc., C. H. DOUGLAS.

THE HAWTHORN MOVEMENT

A special general meeting of this non-party movement was held at the Hawthorn Town Hall on Monday evening, March 15, to adopt the constitution, some details of which were reported in the "New Times" of March 12. The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic. Representative citizens from other electorates were present. After general discussion the constitution was adopted unanimously.

After the adoption of the constitution several short addresses were delivered, emphasising the urgent need to promote clean politics by the non-party method of mobilising and expressing public opinion in each electorate to serve as an authoritative guide to the appropriate Members of Parliament.

Mr. Martin Hannah, ex-Labour M.P. for Collingwood, and now a member of the Coburg Electors' Group, said that after forty years active association with the Labor Party he was completely satisfied that party politics would not solve our present difficulties, but that the principles enunciated by the Hawthorn Movement, and outlined in its constitution, offered the only means of uniting all classes to secure a functioning democracy in line with Christian principles.

The woman's point of view was ably expressed by Mrs. L. Eckhardt, a resident of the Kew electorate, and an executive member of the Movement. She said the fact that the constitution laid it down that both the general committee and the executive committee "shall have equal representation of the sexes" augurs well for the future of the Movement, as the women, she believed, could, if organised, have a tremendous influence on the political life of the community.

Mrs. Eckhardt emphasised the many ways in which women could play their part in the campaign to mobilise and express public opinion. She said that while our men were away fighting, and so many of the younger women were playing their part in the services, those left at home had an added responsibility to put our own house in order. One simple yet effective way was for women to open their homes, arrange drawing-room meetings, and let the movement supply the speakers. In this way women could play a big part in terminating the intolerable political conditions now existing.

Another member of the executive committee and a resident of the Hawthorn electorate, Mr. F. L. Edmunds, said that we had a sacred duty to all those gallant men and women in the services to secure a func-

tioning democracy before they returned. Because he felt so strongly the circumstances which gave rise to the Movement, he had formally resigned from the Young Nationalists and the United Australia Party, thus severing a connection which went back nearly twenty years, and now proposed to do all in his power to promote clean politics by the non-party method.

The Member for Hawthorn, Mr. L. H. Hollins, who enunciated the principles which gave rise to the Movement, said that he thoroughly endorsed what the other speakers had said, not only because he had been completely convinced for many years that party politics was destroying democracy, but his experience in the House over the last three years had demonstrated beyond argument the futility of expecting results from party politics.

Mr. Hollins said that he was certain that this Movement would grow apace, because it was based on fundamental democratic principles. Although the Movement was in its infancy, the interest shown by citizens in other electorates indicated the very real dissatisfaction with existing political organisations. He believed that there were thousands in every electorate who would be glad to join branches of the Movement.

The principal speaker at the next public meeting, which is to be held in the Hawthorn Town Hall on Monday next, April 5, at 8 p.m., will be Mr. S. Blackwell, an American sociologist and lecturer. His subject will be: "Will Our Democratic Institutions Survive the Present Crisis?"

The honorary secretary of the Hawthorn Movement is Mr. J. H. Edmondson, of 41 Robinson's-road, Hawthorn, E.2 (Phone: WA 2853)

PERSONAL

Mr. H. Bell, who is well known as an indefatigable campaigner in Newport Workshops, has been ill at home for some time. We join with his many friends and his fellow-campaigners at Newport in wishing him a speedy recovery.

A BRITISH M.P.'s DILEMMA

By NORMAN F. WEBB, in the "Social Crediter," England.

"As far as I can gather from them" (the planners), "their idea of a revolution is simply . . . exchanging the tyranny of wealth which exists at the present moment, for the tyranny of the frozen hell of Socialism."

—Mr. Arthur Hopkinson (M.P. for Mossley).

Mr. Hopkinson's speech in the Debate to the Address is worth reading very carefully. Not only as an example of the phenomena which these little "once-great" Islands can still produce, but also as a useful object lesson. Its outstanding characteristic is Mr. Hopkinson's courage—saying things that as he admits are difficult to say. One hopes he receives some encouraging response inside the House; enough at least to induce him to persist. Certainly the daily press is too busy giving publicity to the Archbishop of Canterbury's secular programmes to report such sincerity. Mr. Hopkinson represents something fundamentally big, striving to express itself. Attempting to find a voice for his innate, and essentially British feelings about men and things, he just fails (though with immense credit to himself) to be articulate. Would it be taken amiss if one tried by analysis to discover the reason?

Here is a Christian man, in the real, biological sense of the word rather than its official significance, who is not particularly interested in his party or his reputation; nor is he concerned to shout the current jargon, whatever it may be, louder than his aspiring neighbours, in the present competition of stridency and assertion that is so very un-English, to say the least of it. Instead he attempts to keep his ear to the ground; to the body of "This England" that the publicity boys find so handy for pep radio talks, to catch if he may through the racket the real voice of its people. This is without doubt a very proper position for a "representative," however little appeal it may have to episcopal planners. In the almost overwhelming spate of the "materialistic" propaganda that goes out as public opinion to-day, he is concerned to find expression for an alternative formula, both for himself and all the unfortunate to-be-planned—especially the rising generation that has to carry the lion's share of the present fighting. He sees truly that all these millions of average, British people are dimly conscious that they are being "got at"; but that they are altogether too confused (as it is intended they should be) by the stridency and noise of the unabashed publicity stunt now being conducted for Socialism and all its frost-bitten enticements, to put up an articulate resistance.

The practical difficulty of countering all this blatancy and drum-banging and of getting any hearing at all for an alternative, arises from the fact that the Christian role is an essentially humble one—at best "woodwind," while all the "brass," both of orchestration and "neck," is to the Opposition. In short, it is the role of the Shower, rather than that of the "Announcer." Through all Mr. Hopkinson says one can sense that genuine, Christian desire to learn what "the other man" wants, not from any sycophancy, but because it is just that that is interesting; is knowledge; is, in fact, what is meant by the Voice of God, in contradistinction to "London (City) Calling," to the accompaniment of a £2000 cinema organ!

But, as an engineer, Mr. Hopkinson is bound to know that there is a correct technique for everything that has to be done. That he has not yet discovered what he is looking for in the present instance is possibly due to the fact that, though he is generally aware of the nature of the forces

arrayed against him, he has not yet brought himself to the point where he is able completely to objectivise them, or to identify the technique of those who follow the Black Arts as applied directly to himself.

Before touching on this matter of hypnotism it is necessary to be reminded that its employment is not only an acquired art, but an instinctive one as well. In other words, there are the conscious adepts, "the few," who use it to tempt and influence "the many" to practise it. Now the principal strategy employed by the hypnotist, who in the final analysis is just one that wants to get control of someone else's volition and is out to make you do what he wants you to do, is to obliterate, as far as possible, all traces or suggestions of any alternative course of action to that which he wishes you to take. In the absence of unbiased discussion, and by reiteration through all the channels of publicity, an arbitrary and entirely artificial plan is made to assume a character both of inevitability and "naturalness." In fact, the victim can be made to evolve its detail himself—by "voluntary compulsion." (See Board of Trade.)

The voice of the hypnotist, issuing from Broadcasting House, and the Press, and a hundred and one semi-endowed organisations, all "inspired" from the same centre, becomes for the hypnotised indistinguishable from what is understood as the Voice of God—so much so that even Archbishops jump to it!

The propagandist's avowed philosophy, or life lays him open to the severest censure to be found in the New Testament, and that is no watery brand! To attempt to control the will of another for one's own ends, no matter how well-intentioned, is to be guilty of "the sin against the Holy Ghost." It is obstruction of the "natural" course of events, whatever they may be. What has happened in Mr. Hopkinson's case, and it happens to all of us who are not forewarned, and so fore-armed to resist, is that his "associations" (to borrow a term from the embryo science of Semantics) are being tampered with. A study of Mr. Stuart Chase's book, "The Tyranny of Words," on this subject, would help him enormously to an appreciation of the unfailing recipe employed by the Black Artists who deal in these mysteries. Their method is to attach what they want (mentally, that is, by suggestion) to something else which for you is a "natural" necessity. This might be termed the art of quid-pro-quo, carried to the nth degree, and it is by this means that the individual is robbed of his elementary Christian right of "freedom to choose or refuse one thing at a time."

(To be continued.)

Mr. John Dugdale, British M.P., thinks that platoon-commanders, who instruct their men on "current affairs" and "who may be very intelligent men" but for all that are "ignorant of the basis of the current affairs which they have to teach," should be qualified by a "course of instruction" on current affairs, reconstruction, the Beveridge Report, and all. (This will enable them to regurgitate it to their soldiers in a nicely standardised fashion unobscured by any original or realistic outlook.)—"The Social Crediter," England.

PARTY DICTATORSHIP MUST GO

By ERIC D. BUTLER.

Many predictions are being made about the Federal Elections, to be held some time this year. Many of these predictions are concerned about Mr. J. T. Lang, a man who has caused certain people a lot of trouble in the past, and who may yet cause a lot of trouble to these same people in the future. Mr. Lang has announced his intention of endeavouring to win a Federal seat at the next Federal Elections.

Now, unlike his former friend, Mr. J. Beasley, whose Ministerial job seems to have caused him to forget all his anti-Bank of England and anti-conscription talk of the past, Mr. Lang appears to be very uncompromising. The junta controlling the Federal Labor Party are definitely concerned about Mr. Lang. Surely all real democrats were astounded to learn that a powerful move has been made to "discipline" Mr. Lang, culminating in his expulsion from the Labor Party. No, his electors didn't do this. The move was made by the New South Wales A.L.P. executive. Now we learn, according to one political correspondent at Canberra, that the Labor Government would find a "snap election" beneficial: "A snap election would prevent a selection ballot in Reid, and thus squeeze Mr. Lang out." In other words, democracy is believed to be in such a parlous state in the Federal Electorate of Reid, that a few Party dictators can choose the man to "represent" the electors. I have no doubt that there is good reason for the Labor Party dictators to believe that the electors will blindly vote for the man they select. If democracy is to function completely in Australia, the people must start to say what THEY want, and only support representatives who will take orders from their electors, not from party bosses.

Mr. Lang should immediately seek the

views of the electors of Reid, and inform them that he will represent them irrespective of any disciplinary moves by party bosses. No doubt such refreshing realism would wake the electors of Reid to their responsibilities.

It is high time that the Party system was discarded in the interests of real democratic government. The majority of people in this country want similar results from their institutions; but the Party system has divided them up into warring groups, all arguing about matters of little importance or of a technical nature, and forgetting all about the results desired by all.

In a strange burst of realism, the Melbourne "Argus's" political correspondent wrote on February 13 "Members of Parliament are representative of the people, and if they are to carry out their duties properly they must be guided by public opinion so far as they can assess it. The only alternative to that is resignation."

The electors, in any electorate, can easily help their Member of Parliament to assess public opinion by stating in letters just what results they require, and in what sequence. If they are determined to obtain results, their Member will be forced to fight for them. If he doesn't, there will be no need for him to resign. The electors will remove him at the next election. Yes, and without consulting Party dictators!

CENTRALISERS OPPOSED IN BRITAIN

On December 3 there was held in London a mass meeting of members of small paint firms, which the Government wish to "concentrate" in the "National interest." The following excerpts are from an address given by Major H. A. Proctor, M.P. for Accrington (who has been a tower of strength in helping the cause of the "small man," both inside and outside Parliament, and begs members of ANY trade in Great Britain who are being imposed on by this policy of concentration to write to their M.P.'s and place the facts before them; also to send a copy to a new organisation, provisionally known as the "Manufacturers and Traders Association," London):

"I congratulate you on the great meeting which you have organised, showing that you protest against the paralysing hand of Government officials taking away your means of life; and not only your livelihood, but the livelihood of the men who work for you. . . . For this reason, when one of my constituent's works was attacked. . . . I decided I would put on the war paint and co-operate, as far as possible, and direct, as far as possible, from my Parliamentary experience, how, at least, we could arrest what had already been decided on. No one can touch my constituency without touching me."

"It did not need extensive consideration to realise that after all this was a national issue. There were fundamental principles at stake. I have seen first of all the attack made on the small trader, and I am glad to say that we scotched the Craig-Henderson report. . . . The next attack came on the amalgamation of the small police forces into the larger areas, which was putting into the hand of one member of the Executive the powers that might be usurped by a future Dictator to get anything he wished."

"I can see here all these concentrations, all these regulations and controls of industry under the name of war, and I

do not hesitate to say there is no man here, no small manufacturer or small trader, but what would willingly sacrifice his business to win the war, provided that the big men also should make the same sacrifice. (Hear, hear.) That is justice."

"I am not criticising concentration, or anything else necessary for the war, but what I am criticising is the way in which concentration is being done. When Government officials and bureaucrats start into business it is like children playing the piano with a sledge hammer. They have a different type of mind; they always want to pass the buck. . . . The commercial success of this little island has been built on small men taking risks, and we cannot afford for this characteristic of our moral fibre to be destroyed, so we are carrying this fight, which was started here, a step farther. I am trying to get a debate on the Floor of the House on the whole question of concentration, controls, and regulations. I have already got the promise that on the first free day I shall have the opportunity of dealing with the larger issue of concentration, and I hope that I shall use the paint trade as an illustration. . . ."

[As reported last week, these moves have already met with some success.—Ed.]

ARTFUL ARTIE'S ADDLED ADDING

Artful Artie Fadden gave another rendition of his favourite theme-song, "The Dangerous Path of Credit Expansion or Inflation," over the Brisbane radio on February 21. It is admitted that the theme of this number is now quite threadbare, yet there is something quaint in the way Artie does it. For instance, he is reported to have said:—

"Where the wage earner could clothe and feed four members of his family before the war, the same amount of money now provided for only three. This was deliberate imposition of a flat rate tax of £1 in £5 on workers." . . . "The best method of safeguarding the workers' money from inflation was by taking his excess spending power from him by taxation."

Rendered in prose this meaningless abstraction gives an illusory impression that somewhere, vaguely, it has meaning. However, when rendered in mathematical formula, the number is ruined and Artie's artistry is reduced to addled adding.

Take 100 as the index of incomes and prices at the outbreak of war, the position to-day then reads:—

	Incomes	Prices
1939.....	100	100
1943.....	100	122.5

This is inflation. It is a dangerous position. The workers are making sacrifices, etc., etc.

Now under the Fadden Plan the workers would have been safeguarded from inflation by having their excess (?) spending power taken from them by taxation, and the position would have been:—

	Incomes	Prices
1939.....	100	100
1943.....	77.5	100

Thus prices would have remained stable. This would have been a safe position. (Safe for whom?) The workers would not be making undue sacrifices, etc., etc.

Thus Artie's taxation-to-avoid-inflation argument is just so much blah.

Another way of rendering this masterpiece would be . . . blab-blab-blab-blab-blab-blab-blab-blab-blab . . . with a sustained BLAHAHAHAAAAH at the close of the last stanza. It would not make a bit of difference to the meaning, although one has to admit it would not sound as good.

—L. S. Bull.

ACTION—OR ACADEMIC ARGUMENT?

Neither the dynamo, nor the internal combustion engine, nor even the steam engine, nor London Bridge, so far as we can see, was first enshrined in an elaborate literary, or musical, or plastic tradition before it came into being. They burst upon the consciousness of mankind as current for electric light bulbs, jolting four-seated conveyances cut short without horses in front, puffing iron monsters pulling more than one coach at a time, a dry road to cross the Thames.

This thought was suggested by reading a novel by Ronald Fraser. Its name is "Financial Times." Anyone who knows that Mr. Arthur Ronald Fraser has written eleven other novels is as likely to be surprised by the book as anyone who knows that he has been a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George since 1934, is an Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade and has participated in important political and economic discussions since 1923.

The "hero" of "Financial Times" is a swine called "Titian." Many terrible stories have been written about the poor little artistic genius, the desperately ugly duckling, born unpropitiously into a family of brutish philistines. Titian's plight is far worse. Unwisely (see Samuel Butler) he has chosen for his parents one William Longfellow Woolacomb, the Royal Academician, whose famous cows adorn even the walls of the Public Art Gallery of Galashiels, and the Painter's Wife, Ella, the poetess, widely known as Love-in-a-Mist when she was eighteen. Twelve very different beings (beings, indeed, who "took after" their almost perfect parents) were sent to try Titian, and did. They were Leonardo, Perugino, Rubens, Carpassio (or Carp), Holbein and Raphael, besides, six girls, Veronese, Francesca, Gentile, Claude, Ingres and Lippi—Titian's brothers and sisters.

To the shocked but scarcely tolerant amusement of the whole lot he made his own arrangements to go to school to learn useful things such as commercial arithmetic. "That the head master, and all the other masters, had no skill in teaching didn't worry him at all. He wasn't conscious of it. He was there to learn, and he learnt notwithstanding; with the consequence that the masters were a good deal surprised and slightly awestruck at their own powers."

Yes, Titian became a banker. And thus

Mr. Fraser is able to publicise certain views on Finance low and high (whichever is which).

"'Good-bye, my boy,' his father said. 'In a sense, you are now entering a wider world. You will have a greater responsibility in the application of the broad principles of banking, which are, to lend to every man who has any proportion of his own money, to charge him an exorbitant rate, to invest the proceeds in property for the aggrandisement of the bank, to reward the directors ever more richly, and always to extend your activities, geographically I mean and not morally, with a view to obtaining a stranglehold over the life of the nation. . . . In other words,' the Painter continued after a thoughtful pause, 'the great principle of banking is, where there are already resources to participate and where there are not to destroy. Whereas it should be the function of a bank to provide those who have no money with funds. . . .'"

"'Good-bye, father, he said. 'I can bear no more.'"

This is not now very significant. Nor is it quite accurate. It might have been more important a few years ago, before the "Times" and the "Economist" had learnt to say much the same thing, punctuated by the evidences of their different varieties of economic and philosophical indigestion. But there's more and better in Mr. Fraser:—

"'All Utopias are tragic,' said Iris. 'Some of them are revolting as well, like those ones we hear about with more and better gadgets and everyone all modern. . . . But Michael could take an argument like this in his stride. 'I have no objection to science,' he said, 'when it applies itself to improving musical instruments. . . .'"

"This is most interesting," said Charles Wilbraham. "You don't want a mechanical Utopia. You don't want the sentimental communism of William Morris. What do you want, if I may be so impertinent as to ask?" . . . "It isn't that one wants anything. . . . 'But you must have an

"SCIENCE WITHOUT SOCIAL CREDIT IS SHEER SUICIDE"

By ERIC D. BUTLER

It is reported that Professor Soddy, the famous British scientist, has recently written that "science without social credit is sheer suicide." Just what Professor Soddy means by "social credit" I am not in the position to say. But he did write in the English "Cavalcade," of November 15 1941: . . . On the other hand, a growing and progressive civilisation demands, as the Social Credit Party advocates, the continuous issue of new money to consumers—not as a loan or debt, but as a gift. This the writer unreservedly endorses."

Professor Soddy, therefore, does endorse the fundamental proposition that there can be no freedom, in the real sense of the word, until every individual in the community is receiving a regular weekly income, irrespective of whether he works in industry or not. An income which will allow him to choose whether he will work on some project, and on what terms.

Now, the above brings me to the main point of this article: A correspondent asks me to explain the difference between the banking "system" and banking "policy." I think that it will be agreed that the sole object of invention, the amassing of technical knowledge, and the building up of various institutions, is to improve the life of the individual; to make him free of all unnatural restrictions in order that he can develop his personality to the full. Science in itself is amazing. Science has been responsible for man's conquest of food scarcity; it has allowed man to fly through the air and sail under the sea. There is nothing wrong with science. Scientists have done a marvellous job. But has science served the individual as it should have? No. To-day it is being used for destruction. Why? Because the policy of certain individuals—Hitler is only one of them—has been to use science in an, anti-social manner. Our talk is to show the people how, in association, they can make

their policy prevail. Because the aeroplane can be used as a bomber is no reason why aeroplanes should be abolished. The same applies to banking. The banking system is a convenient system devised for complicated modern society. The cheque idea can hardly be bettered. The modern money system is a matter of accurate book-keeping. But, like science, the banking system has been used to dominate the people. The policy of those controlling the banking system at present is debt and taxation, poverty and misery. The people should associate and inform their paid Parliamentary Representatives what they want—i.e., state their policy. The banking system can give them those results—it can give them dividends as easily as it can rob them through taxation; just as science can give us nitrates for food production instead of T.N.T. for destruction. It's all a question of policy—whose policy?

The banking system, like science, must serve the individual. But the individual must associate with his fellows to demand that he get service instead of oppression. The banking system "without social credit is sheer suicide." Let us concentrate on results, the results of our social credit. Banking officials can make the people's policy effective, just as easily and efficiently as they now make the policy of private groups effective.

EASIER TO BECOME A "BRITON"?

Under the existing law, says the "Social Crediter," England, a man may be a British subject either because he was born such or because he has acquired a certificate of naturalisation, in which case he has the same full rights of a natural-born British subject. Broadly, we base British nationality on a territorial test rather than on a test of descent: if a man was born within the areas governed by the British Crown he is a British subject at birth. The full operation of this rule is modified in some cases: for instance, there is a statutory provision that, even if an individual was born abroad, if his father was born on British soil, he also is a British subject.

The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill, which received its second reading in the House of Lords on December 8 modifies the existing law in several not unimportant directions.

In 1922 it was provided that by registration of his birth at the appropriate Consulate a child, though born abroad, if of a British father, could acquire British nationality. The precise conditions of time and place laid down in this Act were found in practice to be unduly severe, and Clause

1 of the new Bill gives more latitude of such registration.

Clause 2 of the Bill secures that the child born to a British father in the British Protectorates, which are not in the fullest sense British territory, shall be in the same position as a child born in a British colony.

Clause 3 amends the wording of the existing law so that the meaning is clearer.

Under the general law, in normal cases, certificates of naturalisation are only granted to suitable applicants if they have spent five years out of the last eight in British territory and have resided for the last twelve months in the United Kingdom. Service under the Crown abroad, whether in a military or a civil capacity, is treated as though it were, for this purpose, residence in the United Kingdom. Analogous regulations apply to naturalisation of applicants to the different Colonies. Now Clause 4 of the new Bill provides a special power to grant certificates of naturalisation to French nationals, if they desire it, if they are serving in His Majesty's Forces, without these conditions of residence, etc. It applies only to French citizens serving in the British Forces, and they must satisfy the usual conditions with regard to character and so on. In introducing the Bill, the Lord Chancellor commented that this clause was the fulfilment of a promise made by the Prime Minister on July 4, 1940, soon after the French collapse. It concerned about 500 people, and would not, of course, affect the position of the Frenchmen who are fighting in French units.

Clause 5 provides that certificates of naturalisation granted under laws of the Dominions in consideration of services rendered at any time during the present war period in connection with the prosecution of the war shall be treated in this country as equivalent to the grant of a certificate of naturalisation in this country (Great Britain).

There was little discussion of the Bill (which had not yet been to the Commons) at the second reading, but Lord Wedgwood rose to remark on its omissions. He thought that as well as French citizens all Jews of foreign countries should be included under Clause 4. Lord Strabolgi wanted to know how Clause 2 would affect the position of Palestinians. The Lord Chancellor replied that it did not affect Palestinians as such, but it would apply to the children born in Palestine of British subjects.

NOTES ON THE NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

global-minded people who are so world-minded that they cannot see the needs of their own country. It is worth noting that the so-called internationally-minded countries, bent on managing other countries' affairs, have a most appalling record of mismanagement in their own countries.

OVERDRAFT ORDERS: "Hansard" for February 26 indicates that the bankers are calling up overdrafts. The following question by Mr. Badman, M.H.R., and the answer to it illustrate the point, and may be of interest to those in the clutches of the debt merchants: "Is it a fact that the Commonwealth Bank has instructed the trading banks to reduce all overdraft limits by 25%?" Mr. Chifley's answer, "Emphatically NO," is not only interesting and perhaps useful, but it illustrates the inadequacy of the Bank Control Regulations: the bankers are still able to ruin their victims by calling up overdrafts—there is no provision in the Regulations to prevent credit call-ups.

—O.B.H.

THE BANKING RACKET

(Continued from page 1)

the international private organisation known as the Bank of England."

If by "cash" your correspondent means "legal tender" then his statement is certainly incorrect.

—I am, etc., C. H. DOUGLAS.

[Presumably, the "Glasgow Herald" and its big advertisers have large overdrafts! —Ed. "N.T."]

idea what happiness consists in.' 'Happiness?' Charles was baffled. 'When I was a young man,' he said, 'which seems about four million years ago, but it isn't quite forty, we all had ideas about how we would rebuild the world. 'Wouldn't that be rather an impertinence?' Iris inquired. 'Mightn't other people have other ideas?' They do, I believe. And wouldn't that lead to a struggle, and one set of people imposing themselves on another? Like teetotallers? Or Fascists? Or anti-Fascists?'"

We can leave it at that. The dreadful thought crosses our mind that we should

prefer to see Social Credit than to read the "Social Credit Philosophy" in a book, or see it in a picture, or hear it in music. ("Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.") We have no wish to see Social Credit poured into the bottomless pit of letters. —"T.J." (condensed from the "Social Crediter").

"Look out, boys," warns the "Social Crediter," England, "The Ogpu-Gestapo is going round in comfortable cars to see that you haven't charged your hen-house. (Ministry of Works and Planning Dept.)"