

THE NEW AGE

INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART

No. 1979] NEW SERIES Vol. XLVII. No. 16. THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1930. [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.] SEVENPENCE

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The celebration at the Savoy Hotel last week of Miss Amy Johnson's interesting achievement in flying from England to Australia was not undertaken so much to applaud her exploit as to exploit it. Living, as we are, in a dispensation of international market-snatching, we have to view the event in relation to its bearing upon commercial competition and, behind it, military competition. The unanimous insistence of the Press on the lady's heroism is natural enough; it is in line with its established policy of taking every opportunity to magnify every feminine achievement traditionally associated with men. The object is, of course, to collect women's pennies and swing women's votes. But the real significance of the event lies, as we say, not in the achievement itself, but in the circumstances in which it took place. If anybody walks across Niagara Falls on a tight-rope, the example of courage is provided, but there will be no celebration. There would, however, be a very elaborate celebration if it happened that the nations of the world were in competition to sell tight-rope.

Now that the excitement is dying down some writers in the Press are suggesting that after all women's courage is quite as manifest in less spectacular acts than that of flying; and it is just as well that this should be said now, for the effect of the initial ungoverned adulation tended to make women dream of the air instead of tapping a typewriter. For instance, the *News-Chronicle* had said: Here is an "ordinary" British girl, with practically no training to speak of, who gets hold of a second-hand machine, and flies across the world. That word "ordinary" was intended for foreign consumption, and was not meant to be believed by the girls at home. Considered as a national advertisement of British skill and enterprise in designing and constructing aircraft it was just the thing: it created the impression that British machines were fool-proof ("a child can drive it")—which, by the way, was no compliment to Miss Johnson. On the other hand, insofar as the word "ordinary" created a world-wide impression that Miss Johnson was typical

of British girlhood—that her intrepidity was a random sample from the bulk of the breed—this would subtly strengthen the hands of British diplomacy abroad. This is not fanciful. The United States have, for years, been exploiting successes in sport for this very end; and our own War Office, not long ago, intervened to prevent the Football Association sending a team to Germany, objecting that the players selected were not good enough to represent this country. It all goes to show how fierce and close is international rivalry in these days for such intrinsically irrelevant considerations to be elevated into important factors in high policy.

What makes Miss Johnson's exploit of peculiar significance is that the aeroplane is an implement of sport, commerce, and war. It is the key machine of the age, and the country which can show superiority in its construction and handling attains a prestige beside which superiority in other directions takes a bad second place. No wonder, then, that from the King down to his humblest subject, everybody was "bucked" that Miss Johnson's daring adventure came off. There could not have been a more opportune and effective reply to the American slogan: "Britain is played out"; and its worth to this country would not be measured by a hundred times the £10,000 and other presents which this young lady has received. Our one regret is that the money was not a gift of the State. What our rulers were thinking about to let Lord Rothermere be the star in the piece we cannot imagine.

In the August issue of the *N.T. Post*, a local journal published by the Newcastle-on-Tyne section of the Union of Post-Office Workers, there is an article on the High-Value-Packet service which was referred to in a recent number of THE NEW AGE. The writer says:

The packets, which are prepaid with the ordinary registration fee of 3d. in addition to postage, receive special treatment in being signed for individually at every stage from postage to delivery. In short, the H.V.P. scheme is a restoration of the hand-to-hand check, with extra precautions. Postmen do not collect or deliver them.

In our office they are delivered to bank messengers across the counter. In London a sorter accompanies the

postman on his rounds to deliver them. Registered packets posted by other members of the public, even if extra fees are paid for insurance, are not treated with the same care.

In another part of the article reference is made to the public's registered packages which are "dealt with in bulk, irrespective of the fees paid, and handled, as has been stated by a London magistrate, 'like sacks of potatoes.'" The writer goes on to refer to a longstanding plea by the Union for a general restoration of hand to hand checking, and remarks that their claim has been brought a stage further by the introduction of the H.V.P. scheme. He refers also to the delay to the dispatch of ordinary registered correspondence which is being caused by the extra work laid on the staff. We have no comment to add to those we have already made except that the H.V.P. mail-bags will now be objects of the thieves' attention, and we do not doubt that the size of the prizes will call up more elaborate ingenuity on their part.

In our issue of July 3 (Lambeth Conference Number) we discussed at length the question of the Vatican Coinage. According to the Paris edition of the *Chicago Tribune* of August 5 the arrangement for the coinage to proceed has now been settled.

"The sovereign prerogative of money coinage was insisted upon by the Pope in negotiating the Lateran Pact . . ."

"The Pope's coinage has no economic significance. Its principal function is to give tangible value to his claims to independent temporal sovereignty." (Our italics.)

With the exception of three centuries of interruption from the 11th to the 13th century the Holy See had coined money from the time of Hadrian I. until 1870. What the writer of the above passage means by saying that the resumption of coinage has "no economic significance" is not clear. There are, however, indications of its purport in the terms of the arrangement, which has been signed between the Italian Minister of Finance, Mosconi, and Governor Serafini of the Vatican City.

"The Italian Royal Mint will make the Pope's money. He can coin as much gold as he likes. His silver coinage, however, is limited to 750,000 lire, his nickel coins to 236,000 lire, and his copper to 14,000. The new coins will be denominated liras and will have free circulation in Italy and will be accepted as the coin of the realm. They will have the pontifical arms and effigy on one side and religious images on the other. The convention, which lasts ten years, stipulates that the Pope may not have more than 1,000,000 lire in circulation during the first five years and not more than 800,000 lire the second five years. To keep collectors from grabbing up all the money, a special series of coins will be minted." (Our italics.)

The hand of the credit-monopolist can be seen at work here. There is imposed a limit to the initial issue of currency, and there is imposed a reduction of the limit during the term of the convention. If the Pope begins by issuing 1,000,000 lire he will be obliged to resort to deflation during the first five years amounting to a reduction of one-fifth—a very steep fall even if it commences at once. If we were financial advisers to the Pope we should strongly emphasise the importance of his refraining from exercising his right to issue 1,000,000 lire, but of starting with, say, 250,000 and working up to the final limit of 800,000 during the ten years. This advice would not proceed from any definite idea of a credit-scheme that might be worked on the basis of the Pope's coinage (there may not be one: we have not given any thought to this at the moment) but would be based on the principle that any scheme which were adopted while the present general system of finance is operative would be frustrated by a subsequent diminution in the coinage. On the other hand, a scheme based on an initial coinage issue for which there was scope for expansion, would at least have a chance to succeed.

In this connection it is unfortunate that the *Chicago Tribune's* report does not contain any information bearing upon one of its headlines, which reads: "Pope Insists On Move In Negotiating Lateran Paper." Presumably the passage was cut out for reasons of space. It is a pity, because the Pope's policy about paper is an infinitely more important matter for discussion than his coinage rights. However, we must wait for the missing information to reach us from another source, which it is bound to do sooner or later. In the meantime we hope that efforts will be put forth to make Papal coinage and Lateran paper of "economic significance." Here is a chance for students of credit to exercise their ingenuity. For instance, is there any way in which the Pope could invest the Papal lire with more purchasing power than the Italian bankers' lire? It may not be technically possible within the restrictions which may have been imposed on him (for we may not have heard them all) but if any scheme should be technically possible it would be a fruitful matter of discussion because of the exceptional powers which the Roman Church has of securing the co-operation of the population in carrying out her policies.

We print this week the concluding portion of Mr. H. S. Lyons's speech to the Transvaal Landowners' Association in Johannesburg. We expect that our readers have already appreciated the significance of such a speech as this being made at an important company-meeting, a speech which almost explicitly adopts Social Credit principles and recommends them as a serious proposition directly related to the specific problems of a particular business enterprise. Its publication is, to us, symptomatic of some pretty thorough heartsearching behind the financial scenes in South Africa. Our Australian correspondent, who recently bantered us in London that Australia might yet teach us something in the way of "breaking through the opposition to Social Credit, will have to concede that South Africa must be also fancied for the race, even if not made joint favourite. Each can boast that it has stirred up a horse-nobbler of world-wide reputation to prowling round its stables—Mr. Montagu Norman in South Africa and Sir Otto Niemeyer in Australia. Sir Otto's visit is a formal business visit. Mr. Norman's visit is "entirely for a rest," according to the Johannesburg *Star*, who also says that he is travelling under an alias. It is possible to infer from this evidence that the bank-lords are slightly more nervy about South Africa. However, the betting is very close, and the outcome will probably be decided by the unpredictable factor—which horse will be better suited by the course. Mr. Norman arrived at Cape Town on July 14 in the "Arundel Castle." On the same boat was Mr. M. A. Janssens, a Belgian banker, who was formerly Belgian Minister of Finance and is now the head of the Société Nationale de Credit et d'Industrie. He was the Belgian representative on the Reparations Committee of the League of Nations. The Johannesburg *Star* reports him to be on his way to the Belgian Congo—whether on business or holiday does not transpire.

On June 25 the *Star* and *Evening Standard* both made references to the announced retirement of Dr. Tom Jones. He has held the post of assistant secretary to the Cabinet since 1916.

"Although the outside world has seldom heard his name, he is considered among politicians as a power to be reckoned with, and has played some big parts behind the scenes, especially in connection with the coal strike in 1926 and various labour disputes." (*Star*.)

The gossip-writer in the *Evening Standard* says of the Cabinet Secretariat that it

"is an infant among the Departments of State, but in the few years of its existence it has evolved a manner of

its own. A sort of brisk adaptability, a cheery form of discretion, a hearty aloofness."

He also says that Dr. Tom Jones has written more speeches than any other Civil Servant. "No Prime Minister has dared to dispense with the historic utterances so neatly, so modestly prepared for him by Mr. Tom Jones. And now, I suppose, Prime Ministers will have to write large sections of their speeches themselves."

The *Star* says that he has served "with" (not under!) Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Apparently the Cabinet Secretariat was first instituted in 1916, when Mr. Lloyd George was in power, and it was he who recommended Dr. Jones, a brother Welshman, for the assistant-secretaryship. There was nothing in this man's previous career to mark him out for high political influence. He is interested in education and is a member of the Court of the Welsh University, and had been for many years a professor and lecturer in economics at various universities. Nothing is here to account for his becoming the "Mystery Man of Whitehall," as the *Star's* headlines tell us.

Notice the reticence of these two ostensible organs of publicity. The information they give amounts to nothing, and if it did, it is given too late to be made use of. If Dr. Jones was a power to be reckoned with by politicians, the time to tell us was while he was exercising his power. The only information about him which would interest us now would be what his job was and why he had to be "reckoned with." What, for instance, was the "large part" he played in the coal strike and "other trade disputes"—the General Strike being referred to under this category? Again, nothing is said as to whether he will have a successor. The suggestion is not, but there is no definite statement. Lastly, if the assistant-secretary has exercised all this power, what of the secretary?—who is he?—what are his powers? No information! And yet only a day or two ago the *News-Chronicle* was upraising the Bishops for sitting in secret and not allowing the Press to listen-in at their conclaves. What urgency is there about hearing how the Bishops are approaching the problems of marriage, divorce, and what not compared with the revelations which the Press could make if it chose of the methods by which this country is governed over Parliament's head?

For that can be the only interpretation of this "power"—"mystery" business. We would not be surprised to hear that the anonymous Secretary to the Cabinet was Mr. Montagu Norman himself. But he is a Mansion-House "observer." The Press references to Dr. Tom Jones's "large part" in the coal strike reminds us that the coal strike was precipitated by the Cabinet's withdrawal of the coal-subsidy. To quote once more *John Bull's* formula: "Powerful City interests made it known to the Treasury," etc., etc., and no doubt it was Dr. Jones's duty to announce to the Cabinet at that time that the City was going to boycott any more subsidies. Thereafter his duty would be to watch that the subsequent negotiations for settling the coal issue the Cabinet did not waver on the principle: "No Subsidy." In fact, it seems more and more likely the more we think of it, that Mr. Baldwin's contemptuous speech on the late Archbishop of Canterbury's suggestions was one of Dr. Tom Jones's compositions. True, it was conspicuous rather for its "aloofness" than its "heartiness," but we must allow for the provocation that high-finance policy (such as this was) to be received heartily.

"Gaw!"

Mr. Wells has written another book of fiction.* There are two main characters in the story: Mr. Parham, an Oxford don (subject: history) and Sir Bussy Woodcock, a very wealthy self-made big business man (who says "Gaw" to everything).

Mr. Parham, who stands for Flag, King, Patriotism and Established Law and Order, wants to "wangle" Sir Bussy into starting a new weekly paper. Sir Bussy is not having any. He stands for the New Things—Big Business, Science applied to Industry, and New Ideas displacing the worn-out standards of yesterday. Sir Bussy is a "thruster." Mr. Parham is a "gentleman" through and through.

The story tells how Sir Bussy becomes interested in spiritualism, and Mr. Parham (against his will) is drawn into several spiritualist seances. During one of these Mr. Parham falls asleep and dreams that he is the ectoplasmic outpouring of the medium; a new being, an ectoplasmic man, the Master Spirit as he is called in the book. Mr. Parham becomes a dream Lord Paramount, a dictator who starts the Duty Paramount League, dramatically closes the Houses of Parliament, and goes bald-headed for the Next Great War. The Next War is shown vividly in a bust-up between the American and British fleets. They just about sink each other ship for ship. (Mr. Shaw in his *Peace Conference Hints* has already forecast this conflict.) After that everything depends upon a very special and deadly poison gas—Gas L. But Sir Bussy and the chief chemist, Camelford, will not supply Lord Paramount with Gas L. They "rat." They do not believe in all this patriotic stuff. They hold up the supplies. Lord Paramount (Parham dreaming about himself) and the chief military man, General Gerson, make a secret raid on the place in Cornwall (at the tail-end of Land's End) where Gas L. is manufactured. They find Sir Bussy and the chemist-bloke clad in the holy white overalls of the sacred scientific worker. General Gerson, whose policy is "shoot 'em!" shoots the chemist, who falls into the huge re- tort and so the whole place—and the story—blows to smithereens.

And then Mr. Parham wakes up, and that is the end of the book.

Mr. Parham is the Mr. Wells who wrote certain parts of *God, the Invisible King*, and the awful patriotic blood-and-hope slush at the end of *Mr. Brillling Sees It Through*.

Sir Bussy is the Mr. Wells who wrote *Tono Bungay* and *Kipps*, etc.

Lord Paramount (the dreaming self of Mr. Parham) is the Mr. Wells who wrote *The Open Conspiracy*, *The Undying Fire*, etc.

This book shows Mr. Wells, J.P., the hopeful patriot; Mr. Wells, B.Sc., the Scientist (with one eye hopefully on the Big Bugs of the Industrial Combines); and Mr. Wells the serious historian, the schoolmaster, author of *The Outline of History*.

I am not concerned with the clever characterisation, nor with the artistic development of the story, nor with the easy flux of vague wordiness that oozes and slides and drifts in the well-known Wellsian idiom. I leave all that to those who feel inclined to approach this book as a piece of "creative art" and—all that sort of thing. . . .

I shall deal only with the social-economic outlook made known in these pages; the general trends and tendencies of a sociological and economic nature that drift about in the story. They are general because

* "The Autocracy of Mr. Parham," by H. G. Wells. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

Drama.

Prunella: Everyman.

For the present revival of "Prunella" the authors, Mr. H. Granville Barker and Mr. Laurence Housman, have added another act, which some of those with memories long enough to recall the original production consider superfluous. For me the present production is the first, and my recollection of reading the play is already dull, except that I remember it as very, very light and much more a masque than a play. In this production the piece did not seem nearly so light, partly because the stage was not big enough to allow the necessary flowing, dancing movement, partly because some of the actors did not achieve lightness within to compensate for the constriction without, and partly, I suppose, because masque produced never was or will be so unworldly as masque imagined. To read a masque is to etherealise it beyond the reach of flesh and costume.

The new act is inserted after Prunella, caught by the glamour of the freedom of the strolling players, has run away from her aunts, Prim, Prude, and Privacy, and left behind all the trimness and primness of their strictly ordered household. The wanderers are crossing a heath, but the new queen of the Bohemians, instead of rejoicing in her escape from the restraints of mundane civilisation, is already pining for a permanent address, with a bath-room, mirrors, mats, knick-knacks, and all the other despised, familiar symbols of a home. At once Pierrot, Scaramel, and the players provide what she sighs for—in the form of a play. The scene is put up, and the company, acting the parts of Prunella's aunts, the maid, the gardeners, and the scarecrow, cruelly burlesque her dream of home. Ashamed and angered by their mockery, she lets them proceed on their journey without her. The new act is well worth its place, but its insertion ought to have been accompanied by a thorough editing of the rest of the play to cut away all that twenty-six years of life and experience rendered no longer necessary, which the extra length would easily permit, and of which there is considerable.

Perhaps the most serious criticism of this very light philosophical verse-masque is the reason why it cannot be called a harlequinade, that is, that there is no Harlequin. There is no place for a Harlequin in the scheme, yet no Pierrot and Pierrette problem was ever soluble without one. The world in which Prunella had been brought up differed from that of the wandering players more than earth from moon. But the presence of a Harlequin might have made either world at least habitable. As it is, poor Prunella is an outcast from both worlds, since Philistines, although they may envy Bohemians in their dreams, may not mix with them, while Bohemians may not even envy the comfort of Philistia. But Love does as well as a Pierrot.

In this production the appearances of the players *en masse* were ragged, too much like crowd scenes, and too little like the gay moon-people on holiday. The three aunts and the maid were excellent. But the gardeners gave a sensation of heaviness. Miss Joan Harben's Prunella was lightly and beautifully performed. She alone seemed able to furnish the catalyst in the presence of which all could become light, and the subtlest flavours of the verse, music, and plot be thoroughly mingled and enjoyed. Mr Ernest Milton's Pierrot had some of the qualities required. It certainly belonged to an entirely different world from that of Prunella's aunts. It also convinced one that the effect Mr. Milton was producing was precisely what he intended to produce. But his Pierrot did not belong to the world of Granville-Barker's and Laurence Housman's vagabond-players. The world to which Mr. Milton's Pierrot

belonged was not created until after the war, and it compares with the pre-war world as half a dozen balls of string tangled compare with as many balls of string. All modern complexity is in each of Mr. Milton's sentences. His languorous, detached-from-life Pierrot may have come from the moon, but if it has, there must have been a moon-war too. There will not be a Pierrot for Mr. Milton to perform unless Mr. Aldous Huxley does with the harlequinade what he has done with the novel. When he does, I should like to see Mr. Milton in it.

PAUL BANKS.

Oil.

By Arthur Brenton.

SCENE I.

On the virgin oilfield.

Student.—And what are you good people doing?
 People.—We are sinking an oil-well.

S.—What for?
 P.—We live on oil.
 S.—How long will you take to sink the well?
 P.—Ten weeks.
 S.—And what will you do then?
 P.—Oh, we shall live on the oil and sink another well.
 S.—How do you share the oil?
 P.—Oh, we get permits from the manager.
 S.—What do the permits do?
 P.—Every permit entitles the holder to one portion of oil.
 S.—How much is a portion?
 P.—That's not fixed; it depends on how much oil there is to be shared every week. Suppose there were 100 gallons, and the permits amount to 100 portions, then each portion would be one gallon.
 S.—I see; so when you get two wells sunk, your portions will be twice as much?
 P.—Yes. That is why we go on sinking wells.
 S.—That seems to be an admirable arrangement?
 P.—Yes. We think it is.

SCENE II.

Ten weeks later, at the site of the first well.

S.—Oh, you are a new lot of people; you were not working here when this well was being sunk.
 P.—No. That is not our job.
 S.—Then what are you doing?
 P.—We are capping this well.
 S.—Capping it? What does that mean?
 P.—Putting a cap on, to keep the oil from coming out.
 S.—And for doing that you get permits to take oil home, I suppose?
 P.—Yes.
 S.—Do you get enough?
 P.—Well, we could do with some more, but we mustn't grumble, because we are in a Trade Union, and our Secretary has got us a basic wage of three portions a week, which is more than the well-borers get.
 S.—How much is a portion at present?
 P.—Oh, just about half a gallon.
 S.—That seems small. When I was here last they told me something about one gallon as a start, and more to come every ten weeks.
 P.—Yes, we have heard something about it. But we were not here then: we have only just come on the job.
 S.—Will the work be permanent, do you think?
 P.—We hope so; and the manager says he believes so.
 S.—How long does it take to cap a well?
 P.—A week.
 S.—I see. But there must be ten times as many chaps boring wells nowadays if you are going to keep in regular work at that rate.
 P.—No, there are not so many.
 S.—Well, but how—?
 P.—There's a well-boring machine they're using which bores one in a week with fewer hands.
 S.—Where are the hands who have left work?
 P.—Oh, they were lucky enough to get jobs in the boring-machine factory.
 S.—Well, thanks. I think I'll go and have a look at it.

SCENE III.

At the well-boring machine factory. Five minutes later.

S.—I am told you people can make a boring machine that will sink a well in a week.

P.—Quite right. But you are a bit late hearing it. We are now making machines that will do it in a day.

S.—As quickly as that? And how long does it take you to make the machine?

P.—A week.

S.—And how many wells will it sink before it wears out?
 P.—Fourteen. It will last a fortnight.

S.—But then you must be out of work every other week if you get one made in a week.

P.—So we have been. But the boss has taken on making caps for the wells, so we have begun to put in some time at that job. It will speed up the capping of the wells.

S.—I see. Then the faster they sink wells the more employment for the well-cappers and you fellows. Very interesting.

P.—Yes; it's all right at present. But we hear the boss is going to bring in a machine to make well-caps; and then some of us won't be wanted.

S.—Ah, yes. But now I see how to overcome that. Those of you who are turned off will be able to go and help make the machines which make well-caps, won't you?

P.—You may be right; but somehow employment all around, as you might say, don't smell so lively as it might do.

S.—By the way, what are those fellows doing over there?
 P.—Don't know. They must have come up this morning.

S.—Ah, well, I'll go and inquire.

SCENE IV.

At the site of the Oil Pool. Three minutes later.

S.—What are you chaps doing?
 P.—We're sinking an Oil Pool.

S.—Don't you mean an oil well?
 P.—No: an oil-well is deep; this pool's got to be shallow, or else we might strike oil.

S.—But isn't that what you want to do?
 P.—Oh no: this pool is to catch oil that's been struck already. The oil's running to waste from the last few wells.

S.—What has caused that?
 P.—It's this latest machine for boring wells. It's been boring them faster than they can cap them.

S.—Can't they slacken off the boring a bit?
 P.—That's what they're doing for the moment, but they can't stop for long, because the borers are going short of oil-permits. Besides that, there's a new machine can be made every week, and that work's got to go on, or else the machine-makers will be out of work and will lose their permits.

S.—How do you suppose the difficulty will be overcome?
 P.—Well, we do hear there's a new invention going to be introduced: it is a machine for capping wells. They say it will cap wells twice as fast as they can be bored.

S.—Ah, that is a most satisfactory margin of safety. But when it happens, what will you fellows do? They won't want any more oil pools, and you'll lose your jobs.

P.—Yes; our Union Secretary has been thinking about that. But he says that we mustn't be downhearted, because he knows an engineer who says he's designed a super-machine that will bore wells faster than the new machine will cap them. He's only waiting till they begin to use the capping-machines, and then the makers of boring-machines are going to adopt his invention. They've promised him.

S.—Splendid. And you will go ahead with your oil pools?
 P.—That's it. We shall save our jobs.

S.—Good. And, of course, when the pools are full you'll be able to take home a lot more oil with your permits.

P.—Oh, no! That oil is not to take home. Where would be the sense in making an oil pool if you could take oil out of it? If that was the object, they could take it direct from the overflow at the wells, and not have a pool—and then where would our jobs be? No; the oil's got to be saved.

S.—Yes; I didn't quite see it that way, and I'm not sure I get the hang of it now.

P.—Oh, it works out good sense in the long run, for there's no getting away from the fact that oil is being struck faster and faster; and, seeing that we all live on oil, our life is getting to be safer and safer. That's the real point.

S.—I see that you are given to serious reflection on this subject.

P.—We can't say that, sir. What we tell you about it has been told us by gentlemen who know all about it.

S.—Well, I admire your honesty. It is a pleasurable surprise to encounter a body of men who refuse to take credit that they consider is due to others. . . . Well, I must be going now. Allow me to wish you prosperity.

P.—Thank you, sir, and when you come again we doubt if you will believe your eyes. [Voice] Science is infantile yet, sir. [All] Ha, ha, he's got it mixed, sir; he means—
 S.—Yes, I know; I've heard it before—"still in its infancy."

SCENE V.

On the Oil Field. Three months later. The oil-queue.

S.—Hullo! What is this?—a bank holiday?

Queue of workless borers, cappers, pool-sinkers, machine-makers, etc.—No, sir, it is not a holiday at all, sir, and they're working overtime at the bank.

S.—So you have a bank, then?

Q.—Oh yes, we've always had that. You have to have a bank to mind the oil-permits.

S.—Oh; I didn't know that when I was here last. But tell me, what's going on?

Q.—We're waiting to draw our oil-dole.

S.—What is an oil-dole?

Q.—Oh, that is what we call a permit for oil that they give you when you haven't worked for it.

S.—But do you mean to say that all you people are out of work?

Q.—Yes, sir, and there's lots more coming out every day.
 S.—Well, I did wonder last time how some of you would keep in your jobs, but I never imagined there would be a crowd like this. Has anything new happened?

Q.—Yes, sir, what's put the lid on it, as the saying goes, is the latest invention, sir, which is a machine that will bore a well and cap it in one go.

S.—That's ingenious.

Q.—Yes, sir. It's made so that as soon as it has bored down two feet the cap is fitted; and if the capping isn't absolutely tight the boring automatically stops.

S.—Marvellous. And who invented it?
 Q.—We don't know his name, but it is called the Rationalising Machine.

S.—Why?
 Q.—They say it's because it stops waste.

S.—Oh yes, of course.

Q.—It's been working so fast that they've got a job now to find places where to sink new wells. Take a look, sir. (Here, you boys, make way for the gentleman.)

S.—Why, dear me, the whole field looks like one sheet of iron. You must be living above an ocean of oil. It beats me how there can be any job for anybody now.

Q.—Well, sir, of course there's a few jobs, such as making the machines and repairing damage and stopping leaks—and there's a new job at present erecting electrified barbed-wire entanglements to protect the wells.

S.—Ah, "Safety First," as some of you pointed out to me last time. I see. And now tell me, how much oil do you get as your dole?

Q.—A quart for an adult, sir, and a pint for each child.

S.—But surely that doesn't keep you?
 Q.—No, sir, but it's all that those who are in jobs can afford, seeing they've got to keep themselves as well as us.

S.—What would they be getting now, speaking generally?
 Q.—Well, sir, it might come to half a gallon.

S.—Dear me, why that's only about half what they got before any machines came along.

Q.—Ah yes, sir; but there was too much extravagance then, and that is partly why we are out of work now.

S.—Indeed! I suppose that those gentlemen you told me of before have told you this?

Q.—Yes, sir. They are very learned gentlemen and don't do anything else but think out these things.

S.—Do they draw the dole?
 Q.—What, sir?! Oh no, sir: theirs is a paid job. Without them it wouldn't be known what ought to be the amount of the dole.

S.—Ah, they draw the dole-scale instead. But that isn't difficult, is it?

Q.—Oh yes; it's got to be fixed on what everybody else is getting; and they've got to fix that first, or else we might draw more oil than people who worked for it. Then they would leave work, and everybody would be on the dole—and who would pay for it then?

S.—Well, I must say that this seems a bit of a tangle. The arrangement here is like that new machine: it makes you work and stops you working in one go as you might say.

Q.—No, you're wrong, sir. We are not allowed to draw the dole unless we prove we have looked for work; and how could that rule be made unless they wanted us to work?

S.—Yes, but if, as you can see for yourselves, there's no work to be found, they must know it; and if so, what's their game?

he should have got it. What I should like to know—what we should all like to know—is: Does he propose with these new powers to increase credit—and thus increase purchasing power in this country? We want to know what principle will decide these credits. Hitherto he has restricted credit and he has been supported by emotional orators, who tell us there is too much credit in this country. You will, I am sure, bear with me if I assert that such statements should not be made unless and until a strict investigation has been made upon the bearing of credit upon purchasing power and of purchasing power upon production and trade.

World Run on Credit.

It will be seen therefore that the world is necessarily run on credit. I will not justify this by pointing to the enormous and continually growing aggregation of national, municipal and capital liabilities which threaten to exceed the current valuation of the round world itself. I will suggest, however, that the greater the natural resources of a country are, and the more industrious its population, the greater is its need of credit and the greater should be its credit.

In agriculture, at any rate, the land is debtor to the farmer and it appears so in his ledger. He ploughs, sows, fertilises and cares for it. He is a lender to the land in the interest, it is believed, of the community of which he is a member. When the harvests are reaped the lender is again called in. Every month of the year, in some part of the world, a wheat harvest is reaped and the transportation and marketing of it are financed on a scale involving millions of pounds. So the food supply of the world is supplied on credit. That credit is begun against goods hoped for but not yet in existence. On what then is that credit based? The answer is that it is based on the great probability justified by long experience, it would seem, that in spite of a drought here or a pest there, the world's harvest will yield an average—perhaps improving—return on the labour and credit spent on it. Are all those credits to be withdrawn or reduced in face of a growing population? It is unthinkable; it would be the end of the world. But without going so far as that, whenever credit is denied—whether to the farmer or to the consumers—a grave shock is felt. Every creditor of the harvest—and we have seen it is all strictly credit from seed to transportation and consumer—every creditor of the harvest is thrown at a disadvantage. And the burden is thrown backwards until it falls, if not all, at least most heavily, on the farmer who cast his substance and his credit upon the land, upon the faith that it would be returned to him and that his produce would be enjoyed by his people.

This somewhat unusual incursion, so far as we as an association are concerned, into the sphere of economics would be presumptuous in me if it had no bearing, if it had not a very great bearing, on the question we are immediately concerned with—namely, land value, and the methods of agriculture and finance which affect land values. So far as the evil, lack of purchasing power or credit, is world wide, the contribution of South Africa to its solution must be small. But if we begin by cultivating our own garden we, at least, will be better off.

Primary Industries.

Where South Africa is fortunate is that it is yet chiefly a land of primary producers or basic industry. Now primary industries more nearly create purchasing power than secondary industries using partially manufactured products as their raw material and large machine capital for production. Primary industries are engaged in gathering for the benefit of mankind what used to be called, and rightly called, the "gifts of nature." These are the kindly fruits of the earth on the surface, or the earth-born ores beneath, and the more or less intensive supply of solar energy for the growth and ripening of crops, for the transportation and preparation of desirable goods by means of coal, electricity, wind or water power—all of which are supplied practically gratis by sun and earth.

The importance of this point is that none of these, natural light, heat and sun-power generally, must necessarily appear in costs, as the cost of a machine must necessarily appear in the price of a manufactured product. A farmer, for instance, has not to pay his banker for "facilities" in respect of sunlight and heat and rain. Coal, as supplied from South African mines, is sold at a cost which hardly includes a value for the mineral itself, the price being made up of charges for labour and services chiefly. So, too, gold is on the whole a gift of nature to South Africa. It is true that in the farmer's produce, in the collieries, and the gold mines' output, a charge must necessarily be added to prices to cover purchase price of land and of capital plant. But these charges are extraordinarily small in proportion to the importance of the goods delivered. The farm delivers the very conditions of life itself, the coal enables immense pro-

ductive work to be achieved and life is made bearable by light and warmth. These real values are out of all proportion greater than the cost of land and of the labour spent upon them. Farmers and mines deliver an "unearned increment." They deliver the things of far more value than their cost or price represent. And unlike the capital plant, the none of which is delivered to the buyer of its product, the farmer delivers in his foodstuffs themselves the natural energy units which brought about their growth. This is an important point that seems largely to have escaped the notice of modern critics. Similarly, the coal miner delivers to the community a product loaded with creative energy immensely more valuable than the energy of money spent in obtaining it for human use.

Thus, the problem of purchasing power is made easier for South Africa because its great industries are really creative of purchasing-power if taken in connection with such a system of credits as has existed for centuries.

Gold Value.

Again, although one would not say the same of gold as of coal, foodstuffs and animal products, yet the whole world has set such an extraordinary value upon gold, as the basis of currency and international exchange, that it is the only product in the world to-day of which there is no "over-production." Whether this should be so is besides the point now. The most capable thinkers are agreed that it is scientifically unsound that the business of the world should be based upon a material which has no intelligible relation to it. But the nations are also agreed that they dare not trust the politicians with a managed currency. The gold producers are not maintaining selling staffs to persuade people to buy gold; on the contrary, everyone is rushing to buy the gold with goods.

Now could it have been thought credible that the Government of a country whose second great primary industry has at hand hundreds of millions of pounds' worth of this gold would be so neglectful of the material interest as not to encourage its harvesting? Worse than that, would it have been believed that any national government would not only hinder the harvesting of this world-desired gold, but would take steps that it should be lost for ever?

Everyone knows that what is called the low-grade ore of the Rand can be mined profitably only if it is mined in conjunction with richer ore that bears the overhead charges. To-day the mines are equipped with plant, shafts and development. In a few years, nay daily, the enormous store of low-grade ore with which providence has endowed our land is being forced by Government ineptitude, indifference and neglect to be lost for ever, as the gold in the Bantjes Mine is lost.

Shadow of End of Mines.

See how this gold, to be had by a mere adjustment of taxation, a mere book entry, would solve our problems of marketing our goods! It provides the very substance of which the currency, world currency, is made. And the mere mining of it brings the markets to this country. It needs no ambassadors abroad and costly maintained diplomatists. The men to be paid for producing it are the men of our own country. It is as surely a material industry as agriculture. It answers to the slogan "South Africa First" as no other industry does. Yet this great industry in a very few years will be lying, if it is not lying now, in the shadow of death through national neglect and stupidity. Do you ever hear a word at the general and by-elections of these things? Does the platteland insist that its member shall leave everything aside until he has forced the Government to open up the gold for the country's good? Can any Parliament be more blameworthy than ours? We share its blame; we are the citizen electors.

And, as providence has showered gifts upon us, it is certain that their neglect will bring an awful retribution upon us. Already, as Sir Ernest Oppenheimer stated at a great meeting of scientific men the other day, the shadow of the end of the mines has crept upon us. Every day that shadow deepens. Before the mines are quite worked out—in a few years now—the grade of ore available will have dropped. Then, if it is to be mined at all it will have to pay lower wages and salaries. The mines have set, and have kept high the standard of living in our land. If they fail, as they are bound to fail under national neglect to maintain that standard, this country will fall back into the starving conditions of the 'eighties when there was not a coin in the Transvaal Treasury, and the Government paper—you can see it in the museum now—was not worth the cost of its printing. And it will have deserved its fate. Our gold-laced, cocked-hatted plenipotentiaries abroad will not save it from that fate. They will share it. Our highly-paid Ministers of State, our £700-a-year legislators, their pinch-

beck imitators in the Provincial Councils, General Kemp's 1,700 odd-job henchmen—no doubt he will have brought their number up to the round 2,000 long before that date—and the whole army of pals and time-servers and place-seekers will survive only to repine at the abrupt termination of those good old days which only their own shortsightedness and crass stupidity will have prevented the extension of indefinitely. The high-grade tariffs which enable the railways to carry farm produce to oversea markets will have disappeared, and the maize and farm products of inland growers will not be able to maintain the railways. They, and every other sign and symbol of South African prosperity, will have disappeared with the mines that made them.

I now beg to move the adoption of the executive committee's report and accounts for the year ended February 28 last, and in doing so it gives me great pleasure to place on record the committee's appreciation of the efficient services rendered by Mr. A. D. Parsons, the secretary, and his staff during the year and the admirable relations which continue to subsist between your executive and their agents and officials in the districts. At the same time I should mention with regret the impending retirement of Mr. J. H. Walker, Lydenburg and North Middelburg district, after 25½ years' continuous service as the association's representative in those districts. I am sure you will wish me to express our association's grateful recognition of Mr. Walker's long and loyal services and our best wishes for his success and happiness in the future.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Llewellyn Andersson seconded the motion for the adoption of the reports and accounts, which were unanimously adopted.

Those present were:—

Mr. H. S. Lyons (in the chair), Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Llewellyn Andersson, Messrs. J. Davidson, J. T. Goldsbury, P. Greathead, R. Holding, E. M. Hind, J. H. L. Manisty, B. Moses, A. G. Owen, Geo. Parkes, J. H. Rainier, H. J. Summerley, R. W. Townsend, A. D. Parsons (secretary). The following executive committee was elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. Percy Greathead, president; Sir Llewellyn Andersson, vice-president; Mr. H. Hedding, vice-president; Messrs. R. des Clayes, J. Davidson, J. T. Goldsbury, E. M. Hind, H. S. Lyons, B. Moses, Geo. McBean, A. G. Owen, J. H. Rainier, H. J. Summerley, R. W. Townsend.

(CONCLUSION.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CONGRUITY, NOT IDENTITY.

Sir,—Surely "Old and Crusted," with whose general standpoint in his criticism of the Bishop of London's book I am wholly in agreement, must be invited to revise his "sincere conviction that the 'Catholic Faith' and 'Social Credit' are interchangeable terms." This is the sort of reckless statement that alienates the intelligent Catholic, justly apprehensive of what appears to be an attempt to secularise spiritual truth, and is not likely to be any more welcome to such secularist supporters of Social Credit as Mr. Chapman Cohen.

It seems to me that what Catholics (whether "Anglo" or Roman) who are persuaded of the scientific validity of the Douglas position have got to do is to expound—as some of us have been striving to do for ten years—not the identity, but the essential congruity of Catholicism and Social Credit. And we have got to do it without giving the (doubtless false) impression that we believe that salvation and happiness will automatically follow upon the multiplication of material things. "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things that he possesseth," and the gospels give no warrant for the conviction that the opulent will spontaneously choose the way that leads to the highest interests of society and of themselves. We cannot fairly interpret Our Lord's warnings to the rich as solely rebukes addressed to selfishness in an age of scarcity; they will apply no less to those who are without true discrimination in an age of plenty.

But the hideous and essentially unreal destitution of the present day is a lie upon a gigantic scale, and until the huge leeway between real and economic demand is made up, our economic system must fall under the condemnation of blaspheming God's love for His creation. As Fr. Demant's masterly article in your *Lambeth Number* declared, "While the resolving of such a contradiction between industry and economic theory is a technical and not a moral task, its existence is an ethical and social issue of the first magnitude." Theological truth and economic theory can never

be "interchangeable"; from the standpoint of religion no social policy can be more than contingent. But if Social Credit is the precondition of truth in social relations in this age, we can justly claim that "the spirit which shall lead us into all truth" will be our Ally when we are striving for its realisation.

MAURICE B. RECKITT.

SPANISH MERCURY.

Sir,—Allow me to inform you with regard to a letter, published over the name H. J. D. Thompson, in your issue of July 31 last, that the mercury mines of Spain are administered directly by the State and are not farmed out to any firm whatever.

The Spanish Constitution of 1876 has not been modified. I am afraid that your contributor is wading in the memories of what is now ancient history long anterior to the reign of Spain's present Sovereign.—Believe me, Yours faithfully,

MERRY DEL VAL.

Spanish Ambassador.

Embajada de España,
24, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.
August 5, 1930.

MONKEN HADLEY CHURCH.

Sir,—Your courtesy in sending me a copy of your issue of 31st ult. is much appreciated, and I thank you for the sympathy expressed in it. I deeply regret that my effort to save this beautiful and unique old church from being modernised and robbed of its quiet restful character has failed.

I am afraid I can do no more. For years I have fought this battle, both in and out of office as church warden, but it seems hopeless now, so blind are people to beauty in any form.

J. PERCY CALLARD.

The Priory, Monken Hadley, Barnet.

THE NEW P.O. MONEY BOX.

Sir,—The article in THE NEW AGE of 31st inst. on the H.V.P. Service in the Post Office serves to remind me of another little innovation in that department which is comparatively unimportant, but extraordinarily symbolic. Home safes have recently been issued in the form of artistically coloured steel pocket books with gilt edges. The mouth of each box is fitted with brass saw-like teeth set in a spring. If a coin is but partly inserted into the mouth the teeth fasten upon it and it cannot be withdrawn without materially injuring the box. Once the coin is finally put into the box only a sledge-hammer would get it out. Is not this picturesquely symbolic of the relationship between finance and the consumer?

I purpose buying one—but for demonstration purposes only.

A. T.

[Perhaps the instrument bites the coin to see if it is a good one. Try it with a counterfeit.—Ed.]

THE BANKERS' PROTECTION MANIFESTO.

Sir,—I note your statement in July 10, NEW AGE, page 129, "Bankers and Protection," that the later Bankers' Manifesto does not bear signatures.

Our weekly news magazine, *Time*, of July 14, however, seems to have secured these names:

Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, director Bank of England.
Walter Kennedy Whigham, director Bank of England.
Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna, chairman Midland Bank, Ltd.

Lord Ashfield, director Midland Bank, Ltd.
Sir Harry Goschen, chairman National Provincial and Union Bank of England.

Robert Hugh Tennant, chairman Westminster Bank, Ltd.
Sir Harold Edward Snagge, director Barclays Bank, Ltd.

John William Beaumont Pease, board chairman Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
Sir Eric Hambro of C. J. Hambro and Son.

General Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, a managing partner Glyn, Mills and Co.
Edward Robert Peacock, director Baring Brothers and Co., Ltd.

Vivian Hugh Smith, partner Morgan, Grenfell and Co. Viscount Bearsted of Samuel and Co., and chairman of the Shell (oil) Transport and Trading Co.

Sir George Ernest May, secretary Prudential Assurance Co.

Funny that an American weekly should get these names and London newspapers not carry them.

A. H. S.

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The Veil of Finance (6d.).
Post free, 1s. the set.

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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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Published by the Proprietor (ARTHUR BRENTON), 70, High Holborn, London, W.C.1 (Telephone: Chancery 8470), and printed for him by THE ARCADE PRESS LIMITED, Temple-avenue and Tudor-street, London, E.C.4.