THE INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART

No. 2191] New Vol. LV. No. 19. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1934. [Registered at the G.P.O.] SEVENPENCE

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Current Events.

(Dates refer to reports in Press.)

Hitler and the Saar—opens campaign. Monday, August 27. Wheat, rising prices of-letter in Times.

Silence Zones—experiment in London. Tuesday, August 28. Italy and war—Mussolini's candid speech.

Fisher War—Mussolini's candid speech.

Royal Commission set up. Members: Sir John
Fisher War Control of the Con Fischer Williams, Sir Leonard James Coates, Lord Cornwallis, Sir John Edward Lloyd, Sir Edward Robert Peacock.

Salvation Army. High Council meets to appoint new General General. It last met in January, 1929, when General Higgins Hisgins was elected to succeed General Booth. Present election to the succeed General Booth. election takes place under Salvation Army Act of 1931, which which abolished the General's right of appointment (name in (name in envelope) exercised by General William Booth.

Litigation—increasing costs of. Letter in Times. American Labour unrest—leading article in Times.

Bread London price per 4 lb. loa reduced to 7 ld. Steel trade dilemma—sequel to the tariff. Special article in

Gold reaches record price in London, 140s. 3d. per ounce. arman debt—Dr. Schacht claims full moratorium. French Budget—balancing by retrenchment—prospects by tension.—Times leading article.

Trade Union Congress to organise a national drive against Hitlerian Congress to organise a national drive against calebrated. Hitlerism—Tolpuddle centenary celebrated.

Salvation Army—new General not elected yet. Grid failure in storm (Kent). Strike in America for right to organise threatens to become

Ireland—United Irish Party rejects Blueshirt resolution advocating non-payment of annuities and rents (see item August 22 last week).

Brazil's New Constitution.

Brazil has a new constitution. Last month the National Assembly elected Senhor Vargas "Constitutional President of the Second Republic." He came to power in 1930 when there was a revolution arising out of the alleged domination of big business in Sao Paulo over Federal politics. In 1932 the State of Sao Paulo took up arms against the Provisional Government, but was defeated. Vargas had found reform beset with difficulties, " not the least of which," says The Times (August 24), " was an empty Treasury." This emptiness did not seem to hamper Vargas in the conduct of the "expensive struggle " to put down the Sao Paulo revolt. Discussing the new constitution The Times remarks that State interference with economic activity " is so general nowadays that it is "scarcely surprising" that Brazil has "followed the example" of other Governments. Foreign capitalists interested in Brazilian undertakings, The Times continues, will probably criticise some of the new provisions as " too Socialistic, and others as too Nationalistic." Later comes the following: -

"The articles forbidding Brazilian States and municipalities to contract foreign loans without the Senate's permission will be widely commended-and not least in the City of London."

No-one need ask who runs the Senate! For the rest, the spirit" of the new régime is conciliatory, as well it might be, seeing that the policy of High Finance is to eliminate party antagonisms, and to make it worth the while of sectional interests to get together. " A large and querulous Paulista element" remains in opposition, ' but the President does not lack allies in that State.' Quite so: Sao Paulo is a wealthy State. But " wealth ' in this context is not necessarily money; it is something convertible into money. The convertibility is not inherent in the wealth, it is a property which is conferred on it, or withdrawn from it, at the will of the bankers. So the President has only to keep in step with the bankers

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to make sure that Sao Paulo will not fall out of step with his major policies.

Zones of Silence.

The experiment of stopping road-noises on the night of August 28 was reported successful on the next morning. No accidents happened, and so no insurance risks became claims. Thus the founders of the Anti-Noise League can take credit without restraint for the undoubted contribution of this reform to those who, whether ill or well, need an undisturbed night's sleep. They might now go further, and inquire what other factors tend to disturb sleep. These can be comprehensively called by the name Anxieties. It has been stated by experts that anxiety is the greatest predisposing cause of illhealth; and it is common knowledge that the cause of most anxiety is deficient purchasing-power. To anyone sleepless with worry the noise of a motor-horn will make little difference-in fact the absence of such noise may strengthen the audibility of the silent sounds of the imagination, as for example the breathless anticipation of the knock of the postman bearing that bill to be met which cannot be met.

Railers against Sabbath-day observance will do well to reflect on this. Sunday is a day of rest from toil, but at this time it takes on a heightened significance as a day of respite from worry. Last post Saturday night-the dread missive not on the doormat—thank Heaven, I shall sleep to-night, for I need not fear to wake in the morning. A moratorium for a whole day is vouchsafed to the distressed debtor. And who shall measure the cumulative effect of that unchanging septiform rhythm of relief on the minds and bodies of Christendom's unfortunates?

A "Peace or War" Plebiscite.

The Daily Express of August 31 announces that it is organising a house-to-house canvass throughout the country, in which 643 salaried representatives of that journal will ask heads of households their answer to the following question:

" Are you in favour of Great Britain isolating herself from all foreign armed forces-Navy, Army, and Air Force-in any war, unless our territory or that of our Dominions and Possessions is menaced? If this question is construed by the elector to mean: Do you agree to our keeping out of war if we don't lose anything by doing so? he will doubtless say "yes." But his "yes" will be utterly valueless, because he is incompetent to judge what constitutes a "menace." For instance, in Mr. Baldwin's view, as was made clear in a recent speech in the House, the invasion of France by the Germans would be a menace-in fact, his words could be construed to mean that this would amount to a virtual occupation of British territory. That, by itself, is sufficient to indicate that the talk of assessing danger to this country's interests or to the Empire in the circumstances postulated is one of extreme technical difficulty, no matter how those interests are defined. To those who grasp the underlying cause of war, it will be apparent that the mere circumstance of war constitutes an incipient menace to all non-belligerents in various degrees. The impulsion to go to war is an impulsion to alter the general balance of economic opportunity and reward; and the only situation in which neutral countries could afford to ignore the fighting would be one in which (a) the victors were content with the fruits of victory extracted from the vanquished and (b) the vanquished were content with what was left after they had yielded them up. Can any

student of finance imagine such an outcome, having regard to the laws under which nations are obliged to seek trade?

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Again, although a country might keep out of a war on the very highest moral grounds, that would not alter the fact that it stood to benefit in a financial, commercial, and military sense by its neutrality, and that if the belligerents went on fighting long enough both might find peace terms imposed on them by the benevolent neutral. The United States made the Versailles Treaty; and although it is true that that country came into the war, she came in so late that she got out of the war with practically all she had got out of the war. By coming in she won the formal right to participate in the drafting of the Treaty, but in the meantime she had gained the real power to measure and apportion the gains and losses of the other belligerents. Her entry was more or less a bankers' ramp engineered to make her dominance at Versailles look correct and proper. In the result, as every Social-Credit schoolboy knows, New York planted Basle on Europe. So, if all that the scientists tell were to scientists tell us about the horrible things that are to happen to the populations of warring countries is true one might plausibly argue that it would not be the belligerents, but the ligerents, but the neutrals, who were the menace; and we should arrow the menace; and we should guess that the belligerents would take good care to drag the mentals, who were the menace, care to drag them in against their wills and high moral principles. Up 3 principles. Under bankers' rule every nation is a trade thief: and thief; and you won't see two thieves fight each other for booty to the for booty to the point of collapse while another one is standing by weith standing by waiting to pick them up—and it!

So the Daily Express's agitation may be regarded as f no immediate in the second secon of no immediate importance except as an advertising stunt. It may be regarded to the stunt. stunt. It may, however, attain ulterior importance as an advertise precedent for further than the state of th precedent for further and more ambitious descents the privacy of the the privacy of the householder. If Mahomet won't go to the poll the call to the poll the poll must come to Mahomet and there is no doubt the total must come to Mahomet and there is no doubt the total must come to Mahomet and the same to the poll the pol is no doubt that absenteeism from the poll has of late reached dimension reached dimensions of disquieting magnitude to those rulers who wish to rulers who wish to pursue their crooked voyages under the visa of dem the visa of democracy. For if, say, nearly balf the people should be seen that the people should be seen to be said to be seen to be people should boycott the elections, an ingenious advocate of dictators in the elections and ingenious actions that cate of dictatorship could adduce this fact as properties the electors had no use for the second adduce this fact as properties. the electors had no use for Parliamentary government. To compel people To compel people to vote would improve the figure but would destroy the people's but would destroy their value as evidence of the people's will. So there is a good as evidence of the people's theory for will. So there is a good deal to be said in the what the method of interviewing electors, no matter on public as a means of truits. as a means of trying to reawaken their interest in public affairs, and make them. affairs, and make them realise that their present for defence of dom to signalise their feelings is vital to the defence their last remaining liberties. their last remaining liberties, however little their signal may be noticed by the administration of the state may be noticed by the administrators put over them. Admittedly it is very little

Taking as an analogy the road-signalling apparatus is broadly true to satisfact the road-signalling apparatus it is broadly true to say that the electorate control on the amber light, while High The electorate control on the same says that the electorate of the great the same says that the electorate of the great says that the great the amber light, while High Finance controls and the red. The amber light and the red. The amber light is a signal to get ready to something, not to a something, not to do it. And the something to be to one of two matters. is one of two mutually contradictory things or to "stop." If the amber light shines along with the green light you present the stop of the shines along with the green light you present the stop of the shines along with the green light you present the shines along with the green light you present the shines along with the green light you present the shines along green light you prepare to stop because you know the red is coming up. If the large with the the red is coming up. If it shines along with green light you prepare to go because you the green light you prepare to go because you the green light you prepare to go because you the green light you prepare to go because you the green light you prepare to go because you have the green light you have light you prepare to go because you know the green coming up. You must start you have coming up. You must stop because you know have

going; or you must go because you have been stoppingthe twin lights telling you which you have been doing, and thereby warning you to do the opposite. So the amber light, in itself, may be said to signalise a change of direction, without, in itself, indicating what direction. That is what the electors do. They are turned on when the banker starts thinking of a new ramp, and are turned out when he puts it over. The amber light, as it were, legalises the arbitrary alternation between the green and

Of course nobody would desire that road-traffic should be directed differently. The lights must be co-ordinated under one control for obvious reasons. The main reason is the reason for any signalling at all, that is, the existence of cross-traffic at points along the main road, necessitating precautions for the avoidance of accidents coupled with measures for an equitable of accidents coupled with measures for accident with the couple of accidents coupled with measures for accident with the couple of accidents coupled with measures for accident with the couple of accide able distribution of delay among the various streams of held-up traffic. And the system works satisfactorily. But now, supposing (a) that all the cross-traffic was the private property of the signalling authority, and (b) that there was no necessity for it to cross the main road at all, the present contented tolerance of signalling would disappear, however efficient the system. It was a familiar sight, many years ago, to see the City police clearing the route for the progress of Lord Rothschild's brougham somewhere near the Mansion House; and the cabbies, vanmen and other road-users took it in good Part: for they could see the relation between the basting of the Rothschild turkeys in the kitchens of the police on Christmas mornings, and obeisance to his Lordship on the part of t the part of the police on other mornings. One good turn desarrant of the police on other mornings. deserved another, especially when done to a turn. But hobody would stand for the holding up of the whole traffic of London at three-minute intervals for the whole day and every day just to let bankers pass by to their board-rooms. At least, not if he knew it.

The Bankers' Cross-Traffic.

But in a deeper, and impersonal, sense that is what is happening as regards the main traffic of political and economic policy. The straight road of loan-credit fin-ance is ance is needlessly and numerously intersected by crossroads of obstructive loan-credit accountancy, with the tesult that the progress of wealth along the route to the consumption market is incessantly checked by the signals: "go"—"stop"—"borrow"—"repay"—save "go"—"stop "—"borrow"—"repay"—and the oth and the other, all punctuated by the democratic ambersignal designates signal designed to smooth out the physical jerks that would be would be occasioned by a too sudden obedience to these contradictors. contradictory injunctions. The amber light can do no more. It cannot say "Don't go"—"Don't stop," nor can it miss: can it mistime its entry. The functions of all three lights are interless. are interlocked, and must be. So, in the context of what we said we said earlier, it appears that democracy is helpless, and the and the franchise impotent. But not entirely. There is such is such a device as reminder-advertising. It is that of tepeating tepeating a word or slogan to the public, and relying the current on the cumulative force of the repetition to evoke action the action the action being the giving of an order for the article advertised. Relating this to traffic signals, and reverting to our believe that the signal of the si ing to our hypothetical picture of hold-ups caused by the cross-traffic of bankers, if you suppose someone were paint. paint a legend across the glass of the amber light, auch as "The bankers are about to cross," or: "The bankers have nearly crossed," and that these appeared

in order at every hold-up, it would not be long before everyone on the road would associate with the words 'go" and "stop," the further words "for the bankers." The ambiguity of the first combination: "Go for the bankers" would not be a disadvantage, for it would catch the eye just at the moment when the " prospect " felt in the mood to curse at something or other. The snag would be that nobody is allowed to meddle with the road signals. But in the field of political policy the people do retain the right to " meddle " in this sense; and that right, as we say, depends on the survival of Parliamentary forms in the British Constitution. The practical difficulties in the way of such meddling may appear insuperable, but some element of freedom still remains while attempts to meddle are not indictable or punishable.

The Way of the Dictator.

Herein lies the case against dictatorship, for that system postulates the infallibility of the dictator, and thereby logically rules out complaints and criticisms as subversive of the Constitution. In a proven critical emergency dictatorial powers have to be conceded to any Government, because of the speed with which competence must be exercised to avert a danger within a measurable time-limit. So "speed" becomes the essence of the dictator's fraudulent contract. "There's no time to consult you," says he, " and if you demand time you'll do time." He improvises scares, invents plots, fabricates dangers, all to the end that the people shall come to distrust their judgment and despise the democratic forms which recognised it and encouraged the expression of it.

The first thing an established dictator does is to smash the machinery through which he might be replaced. Logically so, for the preservation of that machinery is a negation of his infallibility. He does assume responsibility, but the people can only fix it on him in their hearts and be thankful that they are not overheard. He does not need to be efficient, firstly, because the permanent officials of the Government and banks run the country, and, secondly, because he gags the newspapers and blocks all other avenues of publicity through which his incompetence could be disclosed and discussed. On Sunday last the newspapers here were describing a wireless device by which Nazi detectives could listen-in to conversations in private houses from a car several yards distant. It is a very small box which can be planted in the suspect's room and which will pick up everything he says and transmit it outside. Whether the story is true or not in all details, it is quite enough to know that the inventor's claims are being looked into by the German Government.

The French as Democrats.

To cross from Germany into France must be like entering a new world to anyone with an instinct for freedom. We are relying on a leading article in The Times of August 31 for the substance of what follows. The French Budget for 1935 is now ready. It is to be balanced by saving: no new taxation is to be imposed. Speaking of its prospects, the writer in The Times says

"The French political system makes the Deputy peculiarly sensitive to the wishes, or the supposed wishes, of his constituents, and the member of the Finance Council has always to remember that his work must have the approval of his party colleagues

in the Chamber, who, in turn, will always be mindful of the electors. The Budget that goes to the Chamber after it has been amended by the Finance Committee will be a very different document from the Budget drafted by the Finance Minister."

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However, the " National Government " under M. Doumergue enjoys the advantage of a truce between parties, and, so long as the truce holds, the Budget can be "driven through" the "mists" or "storms" of criticism without much fear of shipwreck. But M. Doumergue, in asking for the co-operation of all parties in carrying out his financial policy may have to put the truce to a severe test. Deputies will be certain to respond to talk in the constituencies; and if the talk becomes a clamour the party leaders "could easily forget the truce." The French people, says the writer, may be disappointed with the meagre results of the inquiries into the Stavisky and Prince scandals which brought them out on the streets last February, but they are not likely to get quarrelsome just on that account, the reason being that "the French are too contemptuous of politicians to be much disappointed." No; what will set them alight will be " a further decline in prosperity," if such should happen. "A certain level of life," observes the writer, is necessary for "tranquillity "-" the economic factor will govern the

How true; how true. And particularly so in France where Governmental competence is measured by concrete results. "What do I care whether the franc looks the dollar in the face," said a French artisan on one occasion, "so long as my dinner and my wine are on the table every day? " And though, in moments of excitement, the French frequently make much ado about nothing, they are too shrewd to remain under the settled illusion that economic distresses are caused by private peculation of the Stavisky type. It is doubtful whether they were really anxious to procure the exposure of the politicians who were suspected to have been in with Stavisky; but what they might have in mind, and ought to, is whether the high financial interests behind the Budget are blackmailing the delinquents into supporting the Budget. If bankers don't know best, they know most; and it is hardly likely that any clique of offending politicians and their friends could have prevented or staved off disclosure except with bankers' connivance; although one must allow that in a country where the cheque-using habit is not favoured the bankers' intelligence-service is cramped.

Dr. Schacht's Claims.

Whatever the reasons for Dr. Schacht's speech at Bad Eilsen it marks him as a heretic. It is a settled canon of high financial rectitude that bi-lateral agreements must not be determined uni-laterally-which is the humbug for the plain proposition that if you make a bargain with another fellow you must not cry off on your own. Even if you can't do what you agreed to do you must tell him so and help him to satisfy himself that you can't. In form Dr. Schacht may have adhered to the rule, but his choice of a public occasion for demanding a moratorium, and his provocative manner of discussing the demand, combine to make this move of his a constructive breach of it.

In a leading article in The Times, written no doubt by a City expert, it is pointed out that Germany is better able to pay at this moment because the favourable

balance of trade between her and Britain has increased lately. The writer goes further and complains that " foreign investors have been disquieted

"by the curious manoeuvres with the exchange control through which the price of German securities was depressed because money was not available to pay the interest on them, though it could be found to buy them back at the depressed prices."

Lastly, Dr. Schacht is reminded that eighteen months ago at a general meeting of the Reichsbank on the exchange problem he said:

". . . whatever these results may be we shall stand by our debt obligations in foreign countries in order to maintain the confidence in Germany which we require for our future relationships in world trade.

Perhaps the most interesting fact noted by the writer is that Dr. Schacht has been created Acting Minister for Economics while still remaining President of the Reichs bank. This is a breach of another established bankers doctrine, that the control of credit policy should be entirely control of credit policy should be entirely control of credit policy. entirely separate from that of political policy. No doubt the two systems the two systems and objects of control can be kep separate even in the land objects. separate even in the hands of one man, but the two responsibilities sponsibilities could not long be regarded as separate by the public later. the public, let alone the politicians and constitutional lawyers. What the present dual rôle portends (if any thing) it is different to the present dual rôle portends (if any thing) it is different to the position of the position o thing) it is difficult to say. It may be of interest recall that Dr. T. ... recall that Dr. Luther, the ex-President of the Reichs bank, seems to be recalled the recall that Dr. Luther, the ex-President of the Reichs bank, seems to be recalled the recall that Dr. Luther, the ex-President of the Reichs bank, seems to be recalled to the recalled the reca bank, seems to have remained Mr. Montagu Norman is confident even at confidant ever since, as well as before, he vacated his office. On one case office. On one occasion, after his supersession following Hitler's rise to ing Hitler's rise to power, we saw a row of photographs in an English page. in an English newspaper purporting to represent the financial rulers of the financial rulers of the world; and in that gallery if was Dr. Luther, not Dr. Dr. Luther, not Dr. Schacht, who was there as representing Germany

Technical Supplements to "The New Age.

Correspondence arising from the two supplements to "The New Age. The N already issued is being exchanged between contributions. More correspond More correspondence is invited. Correspondents shell make the points of make the points of any criticism clear by writing textual amendments textual amendments as if for publication.

grams used by Mr. Adamson (in Supplement 1) should be adopted as the supplement of the suppleme be adopted as the permanent basis of reference future attempte to future attempts to elucidate the A + B Theorem the along the live ther along the lines he adopted. The necessity fixed diagrams and the same that the sa fixed diagrammatic standard is obvious, and the ability for odder ability for adopting Mr. Adamson's will be when we saw the when we say that references to his original article reaching us in reaching us in periodicals from Australia, and in references the references the contributors assume the reader's acquaintenance with the five state. ance with the five-stage process (farmer, spinner, etc.) and the five-stage process (farmer, spinner, etc.) and the figures (200, 400, etc., etc.) on Mr. Adamson by Mr. Adamson based his reasoning. It will be was bered, too, that the Garden Stage Brocess (Tarnet, etc.) on the bered too, that the Garden Stage Brocess (Tarnet, etc.) on the bered too, that the Garden Stage Brocess (Tarnet, etc.) on the bered too. bered, too, that the first of the two diagrams was Mr. Adamson's but Mr. Adamson's, but one put forward by a which refer is worth while publishing, but we shall sate with other matters until with other matters until we have enough to of stus Supplement later on. For the convenience of and propagate and propagandists, we are printing copies of the diagrams alone. They are printing copies of additional control of the convenience of the convenie diagrams alone. They will be a labour-saving hether to their correspond to their correspondence on the subject, whether themselves or should be addressed to 70, High Holborn, There is no charge for the small quantities that are to be required

The True Cost of Living.

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Attempts have been made from time to time by defenders of the present system to prove that the purchasing power of wages has not declined to anything like the extent that one would expect who listened to Social-Credit advocates. Some apologists have taken the line of adducing the contemporary cost-of-living indexfigure and the wage-rates of large sections of the workers, and relating the two to the datum index and wage-rates of 1913-14.

Now the cost-of-living index-figure has always been arrived at by the process of recording at given intervals some hundreds of ruling prices for selected classes of goods in different parts of the country, and calculating from them an all-in weighted average stated as a ratio to the datum index of 100. Thus if as against Wages 100 and cost-of-living index 100 in 1913 the figures should now be 160 and 120 respectively, the conclusion would be invited that there had been a rise of 25 per cent. in the buying power of the wage-earner.

There are two snags in this reasoning. Firstly the figures are based on unit-rates of price and income, and take no account of how many people are earning the income to pay the prices. To make the figures reliable it would have to be shown that the same number of of people were employed in the periods selected for comparison. For example, if in January 100 people are in work at £2 a week on a price-index of, say, 150, and in December 50 are in work at £3 a week on the same index, it is nonsense to suggest that the "workers", ers ', have 50 per cent. more purchasing power. For the "workers" would now comprise

50 people on wages ... = 50 people on doles, say ... = 50

In other words, the purchasing-power of their combined income. incomes would be the same as it was before. This is familiar ground to readers of this journal, who will recogni recognise that the mechanisation of industrial processes can (a) can (a) cheapen unit-prices, or (b) permit of higher wage-rates, or both together, but at the cost of reducing the ing the number of wage-earners, and thereby contracting the ing the volume of consumption-demand, an immediate consequence which in time must cancel out even the

localised benefits to the employed themselves. Secondly, supposing that employment and wagerates remain constant (i.e., the 100 workers continue in work work at £2 a week) and that the cost-of-living index falls, another snag remains, which is that although the wages with wages will buy more, the question remains open: More of whate of what? Quantity, yes: but what about quality and durability. durability? Quantity, yes: but what about quantity which needs and This is an aspect of the problem which needs exploration, and will repay the effort, because the public exploration and will repay the effort, because the Public generally (and notably the women) can all appreciate generally (and notably the women) these matters, appreciate facts and arguments about these matters, whereas few of them care about impersonal statistical evidence as to their economic condition. What is more important if he will important, the Social-Credit propagandist, if he will take on at take on the rôle of inquirer as he mixes with people, will find 1 will find himself overwhelmed with first-hand, honest testimon. testimony about what will be called the ramps of the

Let us consider an example. A woman came in to a com where the street of room where the present writer was speaking to a friend, and have and burst out: ' Just fancy, they're selling grouse at So and so's at 2s., and it's only the thirteenth of the month; isn't that quick." "Quick?" responded the

writer's friend: "Do you suppose those grouse were shot yesterday?" "Well, why not?" asked the woman. "Why not!-because you wouldn't get such grouse yet under 10s., even if you got any at allthey're all gone to class hotels and rich men's houses." The woman hesitated, but the speaker went on: "There's no argument about it: you go back and look at the birds, and tell me if you can see their eyes. You won't-and the reason is they've all been in a refrigerator for a year, maybe two or three."

Another example. That same woman's father, about a fortnight earlier, bought a tin of lobster, and had some. At the time she was now talking about the grouse he had just got out of bed after an attack of poisoning culminating in pneumonia which nearly carried him off on Bank Holiday.

In the official computation of the cost of living, no allowance is made for doctors' services; yet economy in cost of production tends to multiply risks of illness. Cases of poisoning by pease pudding were reported not long ago; and if the originating cause had been tracked down (which it rarely is) there is little doubt that the peas would have been found to have been refusesweepings from rat-infested warehouse-floors on some dockside somewhere. These are extreme cases, but they serve to emphasise the general undermining of health threatened by the cutting of costs, to the extent that the standard of health declines, the eventual cost of living rises by an equivalent amount. In the case of the pease pudding, the price paid to eat it must be increased by the price paid to get over eating it in order to arrive at the true price of the pudding.

The authorities, it is true, try their best to keep down the cost of getting well following on the price of getting ill. The patient is protected by regulations against "excessive prescription." There is monetary economy in slow recovery-as will be seen in the cases of pauper patients dosed indiscriminately with the famous mist, alb. (Epsom salts flavoured with peppermint), for all sorts of ailments. Anyone who gets well on that (or despite it) in, say, three months, obviously saves himself (or the State) more money than if he received the benefit of individual diagnosis and appropriate treatment effective in, say, a fortnight. As a matter of fact, it does not matter whether he gets well or not, seeing that industry's requirements of his labour are so small. Nevertheless, however economical the treatment, the point remains that the official cost of living on an inferior dietary is less than the full cost to the unfortunate consumer.

Then there is the quality of ingredients. Take Oil of Juniper, for example. At one time this was made exclusively from the berries. To-day, unless you are very careful, you will get an oil of the same name made from the bark or roots. It might be (this is guessing) one quarter of the price, but if you have to take twelve times the quantity, it is really three times the price. Again, take two borderline condiments like vinegar and mustard. Where can you get authentic vinegar comparable to what was in use twentyfive years ago, that natural product emergent from grapes or grain which, on the one hand, preserved vegetables in fit state for consumption, and was in itself a fluid having definite curative properties when applied externally (as in bran plasters)? Contrast this with the acrid, almost fuming, liquor with which so many of our pickles are charged to-day-simulation syntheses in which the hand of God takes no part. Then as to mustard: the latest gossip among poor

people is about the composition of the bulk-sold article now being distributed; one speculation (and a plausible one) being that so much of the authentic mustard seed is required for poison gas that substitutes (any powder colourable and flavourable) are being foisted on the public. Here is an allegation which even amateur microscopists might verify. Returning to medicaments, another thing complained about is iodine. Elderly people can remember the time when an iodine stain on the skin could not be removed, but had to be left to "wear off," as they say. Now, there is no difficulty. Whether the explanation lies in dilution or substitution no one can tell.

Turning next to tobacco. A few days ago we tested a cigarette-one of a well known proprietary brand. We lighted it and laid it down across the flange of an ash-tray. It burnt away like a slow fuse; and had completely turned into ash in fifteen minutes. Why? The paper had been whitened with saltpetre. Nothing else. The same tobacco wrapped in untreated paper, would cease to burn when the cigarette was not being actually smoked. Since practically every popular cigarette to-day is wrapped in treated paper, readers may like to compute the collective weight of tobacco being wasted in idle combustion day by day in this country. In the test just described, the money-rate of the waste was Id. in thirty-five minutes. The burning of wheat and coffee at intervals strikes the imagination of the public, but the unheeded continuous and equally contrived destruction of tobacco overtops those spectacular emergency-measures. The tobacco trade, like the mustard trade, keeps solvent on waste in consumption.

It may seem a curious thing, incidentally, that, having regard to the fire risks inherent in smouldering cigarettes, the insurance interests do not use their influence to eliminate them. We know, of course, that premiums are adjusted to cover risks as they are; and no doubt most insurance companies number tobacco securities among their assets, in which case one might say that their dividends on wasted tobacco covered claims arising from burnt houses. Let us hope this is not true; for it would set a bad example to such people as Mr. Leopold Harris and his fellow fire-raisers. But there is another probable explanation. It appears that the saltpetre lends weight, thickness, and stiffness to the paper, without which-so it is said-the tongues of the cigarette-rolling machines could not lick up and gulp the papers one by one at the speed they do. So the untreated paper has to be rolled or filled by hand. That, of course, is a form of "waste" which, naturally, the arbiters of economic policy cannot be expected to tolerate. We shall have to wait for the Age of Leisure-or, as our esteemed contributor, "Old and Crusted," would put it-the Age of Vocation, when, perchance, every man and maiden, with nothing better to do, will roll his or her own cigarettes, and be the better in health as well as in pocket by doing so.

To sum up, statistics of cost are valueless until related to reliable indices of durability. Just have a look at the household utensils, etc., whether of wood or metal, exposed for sale in the popular stores to-day. They all bear time-honoured names; but ask yourself (or invite someone with a long memory to tell you) how many of them live up to their names, or, more appositely, will last up to them. Cheap!—yes; but what about frequency of replacement?

As to new houses, it is unnecessary to say anything

more than to refer to The Times, which was quoted in these pages recently, as virtually saying that the building schemes now in progress will provide employment for people engaged on repairs and renewals. It was something like recommending a sales-push in cheap kettles and saucepans as a means by which the purchasers could afterwards employ tinkers and solder.

Declension in quality is disguised price-inflation, and when that is said readers of this journal will need no further prompting as to the value of investigation and propaganda on this aspect of our existing financeeconomy.

Money Power in Australia.

[Reproduced from a leading article in The New Economics.]

Every time the Loan Council meets the Common wealth Bank Board meets also. Some simple minds think this a coincidence, but in fact it is all pre-arranged Indeed it must be so; for without the Commonwealth Bank Board to approve or disapprove of the Loan Council's "suggestions," and without the presence of the Loan Council as the medium through which the Commonwealth Bank Board instruments its Policy nothing would occur. Both are essential to the effective tive wiring of the Credit Control Circuit. Everyone is familiar with the procedure connected with this Super-Parliament of Australia. Visiting members usually assemble at the assemble at the same hotel, so that ample opportunity is provided for making contacts and exchanging ideas. Reports are prepared by a committee of Under-Treasurers, those and surers, those self-appointed watch-dogs of "sound final cial policy" or a surery form cial policy " and " economy," and these reports form the basis of discussions of discussions and these reports form the basis of discussions. The deliberations of both chambers are search chambers are secret, and the Press perforce has to pre-face its news by the chambers are secret. face its news by "it is learned" or "it is believed Occasionally and Occasionally when some members of the Loan Counter exhibit a disjustice of the Loan of the exhibit a disinclination to accept the dictates of bankers bankers we read that "the Chairman of the Bank Board addressed the Country that the Chairman of the Bank Chair addressed the Council," or that the Prime Minister, chairman of the Lawrence man of th man of the Loan Council, and the Chairman of the Bank Board, and anoth Board, and another, perhaps, "left the Council for a private conference,"

And if some individual member commits the unpardible act of able act of venting his indignation at the Bank attitude in public attitude, in public, as happened on this recent occasion, then the stately P then the stately Board condescends to furnish a brief curt explanation as given below.

"The board did not fix or stipulate any partial amount to which the States' deficits should be limited has no authority. amount to which the States' deficits should be has no authority to do so.

No stipulation was made that any portion should be 2,000,000 relief granted by the Commonwealth should applied to reduce deficit figure.

It was competent for the Loan Council to a5, any amount it thought fit for deficits for 1934-35 that any amount it thought fit for deficits for 1934-35 that are the board did indicate that it would profess instead

The board did indicate that it would prefer deficits were financed by a loan on the market, by Treasure killby Treasury bills, in view of the changed con-market. The success of the last two loans in ample money is available for Government loans to board intimated that the time had come when the should be discontinued.

hould be discontinued.

At the request of the Loan Council it was subsequently agreed to continue the practice to finance that at particular financial year on the condition per cent, should be raised on the market before Design and the balance before Lune 30, 1935, and the balance before Lune 30, 1935, and the balance before Lune 30, 1935. The board did inform the Loan Council that was the country of this country of the country of the

The question-begging humbugging nature of instant planation is apparent at a glance. Suppose, for instant

if it is "competent for the Loan Council to approve of any amount it thought fit for deficits for 1934-35," that the Loan Council had proposed £15,000,000 instead of £8,000,000. Does anyone imagine that of itself, or the Governments it is presumed to represent, it has the power to incur those deficits? Nothing of the sort. The Loan Council hasn't the power to incur the deficit of £1 without the sanction of the Banking System, which alone holds the power of creating that extra LI to finance the deficit. Power to make a decision resides in the power to create money, and it is because individuals as well as Governments are deprived of that power by the Banking System that talk of Governmental and individual freedom in financial matters is not only a mockery, it is a lie.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1934

As predicted by Mr. John Dix in the New Economics of February 2 last, in an article entitled "Finance and the Constitution," the Federal Budget Surplus has been appropriated to reduce the States' deficits, and upon terms which in no way mitigate the States' dependence upon the Commonwealth for financial aid. This writer's remarks are worth quoting:

"From the viewpoint of Finance, it is iniquitous that any Government should fail to balance its budget, and that it should have a deficit which may have to be financed through the finding of money by the banks. But it is even more preposterous and unthinkable to the minds of our financiers that another Government should, at the same time, have a surplus, and actually distribute that surplus amongst the community by 'extravagant' spending. It is probable, therefore, that the Federal surplus will applied in whole or in part to reducing the deficits of the States. But it is unlikely that the money will be either given to the States, or that the Commonwealth will vacate any fields of taxation in favour of the States. The money will be dispensed on conditions that will in no way increase the real independence of the States."

Frustrated Culture.

By John Hargrave.

In an article published in The New Age some time ago, I wrote of our present culture as pre-Social Credit and, therefore, frustrated culture—" a 'culture' as culturally, turally poverty-stricken as the Age of Scarcity in which it has it has developed."

Social Credit itself, as an idea, is the offspring of culture. It depends upon culture, if we define the word as meaning intellectual development. The expression of the idea development. idea depends upon a logical process of reasoning, and especiali. especially upon mathematical logic demonstrating that process. Social Credit is the child of centuries of intellectual lectual development. The word "offspring" was deliberately chosen above. Social Credit "springs" clear out of the past into the present, and is opposed to the past and the present.

Very well. Is not that so with all the other aspects one well. Is not that so with all the other aspects. of our present culture in all its manifestations? No, it is not so culture in all its manifestations? it is not. And that is the whole point. Social Credit inay be said to be "by" an abnormally logical intellect out of "the cultural past. But it is out of that past and not in it, and because of that the idea of Social Credit: Credit is not only a dynamic contribution to the cultural inheritance of mankind, it is also the starting-point the spring-off—of a culture that cannot be the "culof this Age of Needless Poverty.

We shall say at once, and I think we should have no difficulty in producing example after example to prove, that our mean conthat our present "culture" (by which we mean conemporary intellectual achievement in all the arts, in

philosophy, and in science) is, except for the actual mechanical progress of inventive engineering-and even here the dead hand of frustration is to be found strangulating every effort that jumps too far ahead and so threatens entrenched financial positions-unborn.

For the most part, the "culture" that we know today is no more the offspring of the cultural past than a stillborn child can be said to be the offspring of its parents. Unable to come forth from the womb of the past, it may be likened to a degenerating embryo. It has failed to spring off-to spring out of-the past. It is painfully conscious of its own frustration, and because of this it keeps turning head-over-heels, being "modern," going ga-ga; " stunting " because it is stunted. It has a morbid desire to be " new," and the very word " new " has become an obsession with it. It is hopelessly conscious of this, and begins groping its way back to one or other classic foundation-only to find that it is performing yet another silly antic. Hither and thither it twists and turns, frantic, lost within the matrix-unable to come forth out of it.

So far as literature is concerned, what is there nownow that Social Credit has sprung into the world of ideas-that is useful to the writer who is a serious craftsman? Only the writer himself, the world about him, and (for ourselves) the cipher-series of twenty-six letters of the alphabet that have come down to us from the Phoenician, Babylonian, Hebrew, Egyptian, Greek, and other cultures of antiquity: --

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz.

Of course, but the world about him includes all the culture of the past and the present: he cannot ignore it, cannot avoid it? No, why should he? The chick that is forming within the egg does not ignore or avoid the nourishment contained in the egg. It absorbs it, uses it, pecks its way through the shell-and comes out.

Keeping to the simile, we shall say that the eggs are defective and mostly infertile; that the hens producing these eggs are either too fat, too thin, have gone "broody," are diseased, and unable to lay a good egg.

A serious writer to-day, sensing the world about hima world in which the idea of Social Credit has come forth-can find but one theme that will allow him to become dynamic in using the cipher-series of twentysix letters. That theme may be called The New Economic Theme. It does not follow, of course, that because this is so, he will be able to do anything worth doing with this theme. He may be so frustrated, thwarted, diverted, spoiled, by the economic and cultural environment in which he finds himself as to be unable to take hold of it and use it. Nevertheless, because the economic issue is now the all-dominant question before industrialised mankind, any attempt to avoid it, to skip across it, to treat it flippantly, or to confuse it with mysticism of any kind, will result in nothing but further cultural frustration.

We shall find, and we are already finding, that the literary forms that could, for example, be used fairly successfully in carrying and projecting Socialism cannot be used to carry and project Social Credit. One of the chief reasons is, that Social Credit is an idea, fully formulated and expressed in a formula of logic, whereas Socialism was, and is, an ideal incapable of any very definite formulation at all.

From America we have been told that " A very interesting Utopian novel could be written showing concretely the working of the Douglas scheme." So it

could, but let us hope it won't. For whereas the Utopian novel is a literary form that can further an ideal, it is a form that can only hinder an idea. The very fact that this is not immediately understood, or at least sensed, by writers (but that, on the contrary, they no sooner hear of the idea of Social Credit than they turn back to the Utopian novel) is an indication of what is meant by "a 'culture' that is as culturally povertystricken as the Age of Scarcity in which it has developed." The Utopian novel is the product of poverty. Before the "birth" of the idea of Social Credit, the Utopian novel had a raison d'être arising out of the social-economic system. There being no solution to the problem, the urge to sustain the hopes of man by means of a dream-projection-an ideal worldwas perfectly natural. Social Credit, springing out of the culture of the past into the present as a fully fledged idea, has destroyed the raison d'être of the Utopian novel. You do not dream about doing what you want to do, when you know you can actually do it-you begin to do it. At any rate you try to do it.

It is hardly too much to say that almost the whole of the culture of the arts as we know them, and as they have been known since the days of the prehistoric cave scratchers and painters, are dream-projections arising from human frustration. On condition that the frustration is a reality, the art-culture can be virile and useful. In a real Age of Scarcity the artist may suffer want, his art may be crude, and must in some way be twisted, gnarled, harsh, or reduced to broken oddments. Nevertheless, it is likely to be virile.

Never before in the history of our species has there been an Age of Scarcity in the midst of Plenty, such as we know to-day. Social Credit revealed that the frustration was not (is not) a reality. There need not be any frustration.

From that moment—from the moment when Douglas formulated his idea in logical sequence in his own mind, and made it known-it was clear that the whole of the culture projected since the rise of the financial system was progressively false, unsatisfactory, weak, confused, inert-not a reality.

It is easy to understand that without the cultural inheritance of men like Archimedes, Euclid, Socrates, Pythagoras, and the many other minds of the same general type, the idea of Social Credit could not have been formed. Nor could it have been formed except in this particular age and at this time. Taking into full account all the unknown influences of the arts and of philosophy upon the psychic make-up of the personality and the mind, it would be surprising to find that Bacon's "New Atlantis," or Campanella's "City of the Sun," or Morris's "News from Nowhere," or Bellamy's "Looking Backward," or Butler's "Erewhon," or Wells's "Modern Utopia," or any work of any of the imaginative writers and poets, or any drawing, painting, sculpture or music of any age whatever, had any direct or traceable originating-influence in which the idea of Social Credit might have found an initial impulse or a culture-bed.

We know that what may be called the engineer type of mind has "something in it of the poet and the dreamer," but (as was pointed out in reply to Professor Robertson during the B.B.C. broadcast) it is, as a matter of fact, a different type of mind, in that " the dreams of the engineer usually come true." He does not find an idea and throw it far from him into the world of fantasy. He brings ideas from the realm of

dream-projection into the world of reality-a very different thing.

It so happens that this particular idea of Social Credit goes to the root of the physical existence of human life on earth. Because of this it cuts to the core of cultural development. It changes all cultural values (and, therefore, all cultural forms, techniques, styles, tend to become inadequate) because it destroys outright what has been the central theme—the ruling idea since the Reindeer Period and before: Man's Struggle

to Overcome the Forces of Nature. It would take a long time, but it would be a fairly simple matter, to show that this has been the domination of ting idea around which the whole of culture has revolved, and from which it has spread out and out in all its manifold complications and refinements. most delicate poetic expression, the highest spiral of metaphysical conjecture, the most intricate psychological interactions and cal interpretation, the most exhibitating emotional and intellectual stimuli projected via no matter what medial all, all are woven from that central theme—the theme of man's physical struggle to remain alive. It is so deeply rooted in the mind and feelings that it is taken as one takes oxygen into the lungs: without knowing h

Social Credit shows that this struggle is over, merely by pointing to the achievements of applied science (that he are achievements of applied science (that he are and series of applied science (that he are achievements of achievements of applied science (that he are achievements of achievemen science (that has been done a thousand times, and is of no use—no help at all), but by giving us mechanism for chiral and all of the specific spec mechanism for obtaining the results of applied science at this very

In doing so, it not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five not only wipes out the non-logic of the present five non-logic of the at this very moment-now. the present financial system, it wipes out the postudor culture that here culture that has grown up like a fungus upon the economic decay due to the pseudon the control of the control o economic decay due to the non-logic of that system.

Owing to are

Owing to an automatic urge (which is a part of the safety first " conditions." "safety first" conditioning due to our distorted stap dards of value) dards of value) Social Credit is often looked upon as a mere "revolution of the looked upon a mere "revolution of the l applied—we must skip nimbly across that rather on oh, so a mere "revolution in book-keeping", that, cult stretch of ground?—will allow us to go on, oh, o, comfortably, with our present pettifogging

That is exactly what it will not do.

By Chick to stop use

be no Strong Dictator with a Big Stick to stop.

It is the idea in a stop once we It is the idea in operation that will stop us. oball real utterly free to a utterly free to develop this "culture," we shall realise that we have no that we have no real culture to develop. That may be forced to scrap it, and start afresh. disconcerting—but that is why Social Credit is important. It will also social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the social credit in the social credit is the social credit in the s important. It will change us from within—and very painful that also very painful that change is likely to be.,, is found

result in a most drastic revolution of the human spin action. in action. And the first action necessary is to the mechanism of the mecha the mechanism of Social Credit. Even to selves to consider selves to consider how that is to be done, and to to way and that will way and that with unflagging energy, is painful enough.
Yet the idea will describe the idea will describe the idea will describe the idea. Yet the idea will drive us to do it. In its relented the franches of the franc drive we find that we cannot accomplish the translation of this idea into of this idea into action by attempting to lift it position with the position with the culture-tools forged (the right woll by the economics of force) by the economics of frustration. The moment your weight on them your weight on them to heave—they bend like calboard, or snap

The fact is: we must throw away this clutter pretends to be culture, and use the real implement of action.

What are they? They are the basis of all cultures from which the idea of Social Credit sprang of them is: correct calculation, not in numbers but in emotional reactions.

The Point of the Pen. By R. Laugier.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1934

No. 10.—HUMOUR, THE ENEMY.

" A very good library could be started by leaving out Jane Austen."

Mark Twain was rather fond of this sort of thing. Too fond. Not to put too fine a point on it, he frequently sold out to the Philistines. And since he knew quite well what he was doing, no doubt he suffered consider-

Somebody said that the Bible was " rather lacking in humour." Many great writers appear to lack humour, especially in the sense in which "humour" is interpreted by the mob. Such "humour" is, only too often, an attack on the finest things in life, on transcendent beauty, or intellectual integrity. It is so pitifully easy to be smart; so difficult to be profound, or even wise.

The Puritan in the mob—the type so commonly found in England and America—frequently hates beauty, and hates because he fears. Such people avoid the very word "beautiful," unless they apply it to food! They are of the kind who, in the cheaper seats of our theatres, make rude noises with their mouths, when Romeo is about to embrace Juliette. Hysteria. Sexual suppression; the conscious and unconscious crushing of everything that is lovely in human existence. Said Goethe: Against superiority there is no defence but love." The mob, under industrialism, have no leisure in which to learn an appreciation of art. The hack journalists, and writers who live by creating and pandering to the most vicious taste, cannot love beauty, because they dare There is that much hope for humanity: if people are permitted, or will allow themselves to love what is best, then their whole nature changes; they can no longer sneer at fine things; they have no choice but to express admiration, even if it is only "the lip-service that vice pays to virtue." And even such flattery is dangerous: they will end by falling in love! So the hacks must be careful: they must be humorous and "low-brow"; they must be "good fellows," in offices where they "rag," in bars where they drink to forget, whilst they slap and are slapped heartily on the back. It is all rather

These bars in which men, who have failed to adjust their sexual lives, start by being "jolly," and end by weeping into their beer, as they hic-cup Kipling's "I have tall." There is little club life in France, and no pubs. Sexually speaking, at least the sentimentalist. at least, the Frenchman is a realist, not a sentimentalist. Intellectual integrity, so necessary to an appreciation of beauty, beauty, is commonly valued in every civilised country, save England and America, where the Puritans have

This shame-faced laughing at beautiful things is unknown in the Latin countries, in Russia, in South America, and in Scandinavia. The kind of "humour' indicated, and in Scandinavia. indicated is quite different from honest criticism. I have heard Caruso hissed in Monte Video, because he was "off-colour," and many of the hissers had waited forty-eight hours outside the opera-house. In England they would not dare hiss a man with such a reputation, and the and they would not know if he sang off the note. In Spain I have heard rude noises made at theatrical love scenes, but only because the artists were bad, or the scenes insincerely written.

The illusion created by the greatest art is at the mercy any facetious idiot wishing to demonstrate his

reason the spread of vulgar "wisecracks" in our popular literature, on the screen, etc., is a serious menace. American humour is very good; obviously they are quicker-witted than us; their comic papers are excellent, whilst Punch would be unthinkable among Americans; but, when all this is said, much of our vulgarest "humour" is imported from the United States, or is imitated for home consumption. One line " criticisms " of plays, that have taken months to write, even if they are not supremely good, is one example of such facile ' wit." There is also the modern custom of sending foolish hacks to interview distinguished artists: invariably they write a "human story," full of "humour." (One such wit telephoned in Chicago: " Tell Mr. Arnold Bennett he stinks.")

No wonder so many of our great artists have shunned humour: if it is profound it is not comprehended, and, if it appeals to the many, it is probably best left alone. The great men can do something better. A good library could be started by leaving out the professional humorists, and perhaps it could be ended that way.

A Karg-Elert Society?

In April last year there died in Leipzig a musician who was recognised the world over by organists as being the greatest contemporary composer for the organ, and, as Dr. Harvey Grace wrote in the Musical Times, "one who will surely take high rank in the not very large group of those who have built up a permanent organ repertory.

In the organ world his name is beyond any question among the greatest writers for the instrument—Bach, Handel, Mendelssöhn, Franck, Rheinberger, Reger, and Kaikhosru Sorabji.

He was born at Oberndorf on November 21, 1877, and studied at Leipzig, where he eventually succeeded Max Reger as professor of composition.

There he met Grieg, who exercised a considerable influence There he met Grieg, who exercised a considerable influence upon his early work (as Grieg also did in the case of Delius), and advised him to concentrate on composition rather than piano playing. Karg-Elert rapidly developed a very definite style of his own, but its evolution throughout has always been the outcome of a compulsive inner logic and necessity, in instructive contrast to those chameleon-like gentlemen who are the last word in ultra-modernism this season and Backle Back. Palestring, and Provided the next Back-to-Bach, Palestrina, and Pergolesi the next.

He wrote a vast quantity of music, both vocal, instrumental, chamber, and orchestral, and also to a large extent for the "Kunstharmonium," an instrument that is taken very seriously on the Continent and which, strange though it may seem, inspired some of his choicest conceptions.

On the advice of Max Reger he transcribed some of these works for the organ, one of which, the Passacaglia in E flat minor, Op. 25b, has been described by Harvey Grace as "one of the four greatest Passacaglias in organ music."

The success of the transcriptions was such that Karg-Elert felt encouraged to commence original composition for the organ, as until then (1908) he had fought shy of the instrument, being, to quote his own words, thoroughly overawed by Reger, in whom I recognised with wonder a veritable giant. But it was Reger himself, who later on was almost my next-door neighbour, and with whom I had much friendly intercourse, who drove me to the It was characteristic of Karg-Elert that his very first organ work (Op. 65) consisted of sixty-six Chorale Improvisations! This somewhat curious figure had an odd origin: Reger having already composed sixty-five choral preludes, "I decided," said Karg Elert, "to go one preludes, better!

And he certainly succeeded, for this series has been universally acclaimed as a masterpiece, and is undoubtedly the most important and significant contribution to this genre since the death of Bach. From Op. 65 onwards it became since the death of Bach. From Op. by diwards it became evident that the organ was his natural medium, and although he continued to compose in all directions, so to speak, his organ music definitely overshadowed everything else, good though that might be.

He composed not only magnificent chorale "improvisa-tions," but developed the "Symphonic Chorale," which may tious idiot wishing to demonstrate his

There is no defence but love. For this

several contrasted movements with the Canzona as the central figure.

Other important works are his "Seven Pastels from the Lake of Constance," Op. 96, which are perhaps the most successful impressionistic pieces ever written for the organ; "Cathedral Windows," Op. 106, in which Plainsong melodies are subjected to modern harmonic treatment with wholly enchanting results; a "Partita," Op. 100, which is, roughly speaking, a sort of organ equivalent of Ravel's "Tombeau de Couperin," where ancient dance forms are exploited with every conceivable variety of colouring; a Chaconne and Fugue Trilogy with Chorale, Op. 73, and an immense amount of smaller works, all of interest and charm.

Incidentally, the Oxford University Press have recently

issued his last completed works on a large scale, "Kaleido-scope" and "Music for Organ."

Karg-Elert was unique in that he combined the poly-phonic fluency of Bach or Reger with the harmonic resource of Delius, the result being a most fascinating style, full of variety, with an instinctive feeling for form (in the best sense of that much-maligned word) that rendered a whole programme of his music entirely free from any suspicion of oppression or monotony.

His idiom was also instructive in that it decisively proved that the diatonic-chromatic system is still full of possibili-ties for a composer of originality.

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When one adds that his published works run to Op. 145, in addition to unnumbered and unpublished works, including Fifty Preludes and Fugues in preparation (!), numerous transcriptions, including piano scores of Elgar's Symphonies, and various theoretical treatises, it will be seen that he must have possessed enormous fertility plus a phenomenal capacity for work.

By this I do not mean mere mechanical facility of the Hindemith order; I mean that genuine fertility of invention plus a desire for beauty, which has characterised the work of all the great masters. That is what Karg-Elert possessed, and that is why his music will assuredly outlive the sterile, arid, alleged "neo-classicism" turned out with such depressing regularity by the Stravinsky-Hindemith mass pro-

England has already done Karg-Elert considerable honour. He was created Doctor of Music at Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists; some of his best works have been published in London, and in 1930 he was accorded what was probably the most remarkable expression of appreciation ever given to an organ composer in his lifetime, namely, a festival of ten recitals devoted entirely to his

It is therefore a matter of infinite regret that he is practically unrepresented on the gramophone, and I suggest that we in England might go one important step further and inaugurate a Karg-Elert Society on the lines of those already so successfully established, for the recording, not of his complete output—that would take at least a decade—but, at any rate, of his finest organ works.

I am convinced that this project would be commercially possible, for Karg-Elert enthusiasts are ubiquitous, and we have in England some of the best organs and organists available for the job. But if the recording companies have any doubts regarding the response, let all those who do not know Karg-Elert study his scores for themselves.

CLINTON GRAY-FISK.

Review.

Cinema Quarterly. Summer Number. 24, N.W. Thistle Street Lane, Edinburgh. 1s.

This excellent review is indispensable to serious students of the cinema. Specially commended in the current issue are John Grierson's article "The G.P.O. Gets Sound," and Ralph Bond's criticism of "Man of Aran"—" one more example of the Barnum method of beating the big drum furiously on the principle that the more noise you make the better DAVID OCKHAM. must the picture be.'

NOTICE.

All communications requiring the Editor's attention should be addressed directly to him as follows:

Mr. Arthur Brenton, 20, Rectory Road, Barnes, S.W.13.

" Humour and good humour are virtues in the private sphere, but elsewhere they are a cowardice and a thinness of the blood."—New Economics, Melbourne, June 22, 1934.

The Films.

"Ces Messieurs de la Santé."

The Academy has inaugurated its autumn season of new films with a satirical exposé of the methods of bankers and company promoters that should interest Credit Reformers The authors are no respecters of la haute finance; the show how the launching of schemes demanding large sums of money are made possible by cynical rascality on the off hand, and an immense gullibility on the other. A film of this nature helps one to understand the Stavisky affair and Mme. Humbert, and to realise how easy it is for a man of no reputation and less money to start a bank in France. is unfortunate that Jacques Colombier, the director, should be so lacking in a sense of the cinema; this is a photographed stage play and not a film, has too much dialogue, and could be cut with advantage. The English titles are also in need of improvement; "smart" is no equivalent of "malia" and "you place bets" is a masterpiece of stiltedness. principal character is played by Raimu, looking uncommonly like the late Edgar Wallace.

Short verdict. How much better this would have been done by René Clair.

"The Affairs of Cellini."

Yet another of these pseudo-historical reconstructions high might which might almost be re-titled "The Private Life of Alexander Konda Warder Kanada Warder ander Korda." It is amusing enough—indeed, very anusing—but might have -but might have been a costume piece of any period, and a completely devoid of the atmosphere of Cinquocento Florence or of any atmosphere or of any atmosphere, save that of Hollywood. March, as Cellini, and Frank Morgan as the Duke Florence contain Florence, contribute lifelike impersonations of Douglas Fairbanks and Lioust D banks and Lionel Barrymore, respectively; Fay Wray once unharassed by gorillas or octopuses—is unexpected good as an excession good as an excessively "dumb" young woman; and care stance Bennett is all stance Bennett is also unexpectedly good, although her in personation of a median personation personation of a median personation personat personation of a medieval Florentine duchess is ducal. The scenario writers have wisely avoided all thees," and the like, but in so doing have verged too much the colloquial: "these!" the colloquial; "that's fine," "running around," up," and "don't be any dumber than you need more of the Bronx than of the Renaissance.

Rosher's photography is, as usual, admirable.

This mixture of light has being interest. of light-hearted assassination and intrigue is being introduced to the British duced to the British public at the Leicester Square.

DAVID OCKHAM. "The House of Connelly." Fox Film Production. Directed

The unusual combination of Janet Gaynor and Libertymore has a Barrymore has given good results. There is a phere where element in the film—presumably inevitable where Gaynor is the Gaynor is the star—but the sugar and the uplift have kept within received. kept within reasonable proportions, and it is refreshing use the camera see the camera taken out of doors and concerning with real proof. with real people. This picture is admirably acted directed, is good directed, is good entertainment, and special mention shows be made of Hall M.

"Men in White." Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
Directed by Right of the same name now running in London, had consider maintained the little and th maintained the high level of its best moments, have been outer the high level of its best moments. have been outstanding. Actually it is extremely enterly and absorbs the coll and absorbs the onlooker, but it has been badly apart from the unique of the center of apart from the unintelligent cutting by our censorial mars the central mars the central episode—and the convenient Barbara evades the main dramatic issue. Acting and graphy are admirable; Clark Gable is Hershott, and the Loan Hershott. sympathetic, and that sterling actor, Jean Hersholt, for once a role worthy of his talents.

"Men in White," with its hospital background to be realism of its atmosphere is talents. Men in White," with its hospital background to be realism of its atmosphere, is definitely a DAVID OCKHAN

The Theatre.

"Family Affairs." By Gertrude Jennings. Ambassadors. Produced by Auriol Lee.

If Gertrude Jennings set out to make her audience laugh, she has certainly succeeded, for this is a most amusing play. But it is not a particularly good play. The dialogue is in great part a shade too naturalistic—so many dramatists have still to learn not to photograph the speech of real life—and Miss Jennings has shirked the solution of the two problems in the family affairs of the Madehursts. Rose, the young wife, would no doubt be cured of her infatuation for the handsome hairdresser man she met on a holiday cruise by meeting him in his shop, complete with scissors and apron, but he would scarcely end the romance by touting for orders for a permanent wave. That belongs to farce, not comedy. And the complications attending the return of the prodigal are dissolved in a gust of sentimentality verging on the mawkish, which is not an improbable termination, but is not of a piece with all that has gone before.

The cast is dominated by Lilian Braithwaite, who gives an admirably finished performance as the gentle, and nearly omniscient matriarch. Athene Seyler again plays a comedy sin of a talented corresponding to the control of the contr sin of a talented actress, whose mannerisms have now become fixed to the point of being both monstrous and obtrusive. Miss Seyler is not, however, entirely responsible; her the author.

Apropos of production, may I point out that as the horse-shoe shape of the Ambassadors' auditorium prevents occu-players in the extreme right and left hand seats from seeing players in the extreme right and left hand seats non-of the and the wings, it does not contribute to the enjoyment rayers in the wings, it does not contribute to the enjoyance of the audience to allow members of the cast to group themselves on either the O.P. or P.S. side of the stage.

Please on either the O.P. or P.S. side of the stage. Please do not run away with the idea that this play is not orth seed that this play is not stage. Worth seeing. Actually, it is most entertaining, if a trifle on the long side. But Miss Jennings is a playwright of detailed critical dissection. She has written a comedy that have done better.

Wenney Sommerfield.

VERNON SOMMERFIELD.

Food Prices in the South of France.

Hotel life at Nice is cheap. For the price of bed and ne sees advertisements everywhere, Frs. 30 or even less. leuner 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, petit dejeuner 2.50, popular 10.00, diagram (without Frs. 8, petit dejeuner 2.50, petit dej out are a vegetarian, there is an old-fashioned sharty old town where you can fill up for about Frs. 5 a vegetable soup, pate with butter and cheese, fruit,

though bread, butter, meat, tea, etc., are double the capaid at home, allowance must be made for the climate, so to which one needs much less stoking than in the less stoking that it is the less stoking the less stoking that it is the less stok If it is not so, how do we live on our meagre I must warn you it is an expensive luxury to die, s an affair for the living.

the people often talk about the low standard of the people in the Court of Function.

We have half-

of the people often talk about the low standard of the people in the South of Europe. We have half-at 8 o'clock the south of standard of the people in the south of Europe. We have half-at 8 o'clock the south of South Sou at 8 o'clock this morning compared more favourably what their likes in England would have. One man, sucked to the sucked two eggs, followed by tomatoes, cheese,
Most of the others had meat in some form with tomatoes, salad, and fruit. These workers shown 35 to 50 francs per day. Another lie about tax-building like 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. goes to imposts are not so steep as at home, but income activities are not so steep as at home, but income activities. From a letter sent by a reader at Nice. From a letter sent by a reader at Nice.

The New Age.

A limited Index to Volume 44.

Nyalalf-year November, 1933, to April, 1934) are card to the Will any reader who wants one send a post-ocharge, office, 70, High Holborn, W.C.1. There is

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

MR. MUIR ON FINANCIAL POLICY.

Sir,-Mr. Muir refers to the monetary system as an obscure and thorny problem; which in his (Mr. Muir's) opinion is rendered unnecessarily difficult by the jargon of the experts. What he should have said is that out of regard for the awe which the unknown is reputed to inspire, the whole money business is purposely made obscure in order to delude people into the belief that the financial system runs the universe; just as the priests of the old pagan religions with their oracles and trickery used to humbug the people into accepting their doctrines.

Mr. Muir's assertion that purchasing power can only be increased by increased production is a fallacy which breaks down in the face of mechanisation.

W. WEST.

BANNING CINEMA-BUILDING.

Sir,-Students of Social Credit require no introduction to the "New Bureaucracy," but they may be interested in a recent manifestation that has escaped the notice it deserves. This concerns the power of local authorities to forbid a man to spend his own money on the furtherance of his own legitimate business, and has developed out of what the cinema industry terms the "over-building menace," that is, the construction of new picture theatres in localities that are already adequately served.

Admittedly, the building of cinema theatres is being as much overdone as that of "luxury flats" in London and its suburbs, and many people will no doubt lose money in both ventures, but so far local authorities have not stepped in to veto the construction of flats on the ground that it might prove a bad investment. In effect, this is, however, the attitude of certain authorities when they are asked to license a new film theatre.

The latest example comes from Wells, that charming little town in Somerset. It has already one theatre, which, on the face of it, would seem to be adequate to requirements. A local resident wishes to put up another. Asked by the Bench whether he thought the new venture was likely to be successful, he replied that that " was his own funeral." His counsel had previously, and rightly, told the magistrates that the economic aspect should not weigh with them at all. After a somewhat lengthy hearing the Bench decided, but not unanimously, to reject the application, a decision against which there is, I believe, no appeal.

Readers of this journal will not need to have the implications pointed out to them. But there is this to be said. At a time when the social and economic life of the country is cankered by continuous large-scale unemployment, a scheme that would provide work for months for quite a large number of people, and would thereafter give permanent employment, even if only to a few, is banned by the ukase of a few local magistrates. But the would-be builder is at liberty to leave the money idle at his bank, and his bankers are at liberty to employ it as they like.

DAVID OCKHAM.

France Wealthy and Poor.

" According to the assertions of certain French writers on economic subjects, the wealth of France has become greatly reduced during the past twenty years. They show that quite one-third of the national fortune has been lost

beyond recovery since 1914.
"On the other hand, it is beyond doubt that the productive capacity of France has prodigiously increased within

twenty years.

" It may be, as M. Jacques Duboin, a former Under-Secretary of State for Finance, asserts, that-in a collective sense-the French people have never been wealthier than they are now. They are over-supplied with foodstuffs. There is an extraordinary amount of motive power. Of coal there is such an abundance that the pitheads are simply choiced with it. The production of electricity beats all records.

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" As for gold, there has never been such an enormous stock of the yellow metal at the Bank of France. It is, therefore, evident that from the point of view of material wealth the fortune of France, far from having become diminished, has so increased that she is overstocked with the good things of this world. Individually, the average Frenchman is becoming poorer and poorer.

"Small wonder that there should be so much hoarding in France. There are not in France such big personal estates and fortunes as in England, for monetary wealth is more evenly spread. Nevertheless, there are large numbers of very respectable fortunes. The owners of these are a little afraid of the present position of affairs. They do not like the general political outlook in Europe. They doubt if all is well with the economic future of France itself."-Financial Times (Paris Correspondent), August 24.

The Social Credit Movement.

SECOND PHASE.

Supporters of the Social Credit movement now affirm

1. An error has been proven in the cost-accounting of Industry and the Book-keeping of the Banks.

2. This error is the strength of the "law" which creates

poverty, insecurity, and crime.

3. The error is infallibly proved in the Thesis and Theorem of Major Douglas, most particularly in his firstpublished work, " Economic Democracy."

4. It is, consequently, an urgent matter of public and personal importance that this "law" be resisted so as to

(a) Public admission of the error;

(b) Restitution of citizenship duties.

(c) Release of His Majesty's Judges, Civil and Military Services from the compulsion of its repressive mechanical

Forthcoming Meetings.

The New Age Club.

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The London Social Credit Club,

A meeting will be held at 7.45 p.m. on Friday, September 14, 1934, at the Blewcoat [sic. Ed.] Room, Caxton Street, S.W. Discussion: "The A + B Theorem," introduced by Mr. Ewart Purves. Mrs. E. M. Dunn, L.R.A.M., in the chair. Visitors are welcome.

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