NOTES OF THE WEEK

An article by Mr. Philip Snowden in *John Bull* last week was announced on its placards as "A Disclosure to Stagger the Nation." Knowing that Mr. Snowden could, if he would, make disclosures of that magnitude, we investigated this one. We were not staggered. The article is concerned with abuses of the industrial assurance system. Like so many articles of this kind it makes a useful enough analysis, but makes no use of the analysis. Mr. Snowden begins by declaring that the industrial assurance companies are so powerful in financial quarters that they can "terrorise the journals which live on financial advertisements." Governments, too, are "afraid to tackle this octopus," the reason being that they have to depend on these companies as investors in Treasury Bills and other Government stocks. They used their power, he says, to stop Mr. Lloyd George including death benefits in his insurance scheme. Mr. Lloyd George did not originally intend them to have anything to do with National Health insurance, but they compelled him to amend his bill to allow them to become approved societies. Mr. Snowden comments:

"I have mentioned all these facts to show that when we reach the pockets of the insurance companies we are too far from the man in the street. The companies will not fight openly. They will not write to the papers and say that if the government interferes with their business they will not lend to Treasury Bills or subscribe to Government stocks, and so on. Government borrowing becomes dearer. They know more secret and more efficacious ways than these.

It is significant enough for the public to learn on the authority of an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer that large financial houses have the power, impose limits on the scope of Parliamentary legislation, and the utility of the information depends upon what he advises should be done about it. This is Mr. Snowden's failure. It is all very well for a statesman to stagger the nation with a prospectus of scandals, but only so long as he be not staggered himself. Criticism should properly be directed to evoke public support for a definite practical remedy for the abuses criticised. Otherwise it fires the holders of popular indignation and leaves the public groping about in a cloud of wasted steam. The point of this reflection will become clear in a moment. But first we will finish with Mr. Snowden's indictments.

The virtue of thrift is being exploited, he remarks, for commercial profit. At the end of 1928 there were 715 million industrial assurance policies in existence, insuring sums aggregating over a thousand million pounds. The companies and societies together had accumulated funds amounting to over £5,500,000,000. Last year they received £50,000,000 in premiums and paid out less than £20,000,000 in claims and surrenders. Then Mr. Snowden dismisses the subject of lapsed policies involving the confiscation of paid-up premiums.

"I find from the Industrial Assurance Commissioner's Reports that three of the biggest companies doing this class of insurance business lapsed over two million policies in 1928. The collective value of these policies was £7,300,000, and the policyholders lost £7,300,000. Mr. Snowden comments:

"These 'robberies,' as he calls them, contribute to the high dividends of the companies, which have steadily progressed, in the case of the largest of them, from 50 per cent. in 1920 to 90 per cent. in 1927—ill fare of tax.

"Since the date of the outbreak of war in 1914, the total income of the industrial assurance companies has been £200,000,000 more than they were in the colonial sum of about £90,000,000. For every working day during the war year and a half, the workers of this country paid £313,500 in premium, and received in return about £313,500.

Now we come to the remedy he proposes. It is for the Government to demand that the Government shall deal with this grave matter. The Government should deal with
by appointing a "strong Commission of independent persons who would not confine their enquiry to the claims of the respective companies." He says he has given some attention to the subject of an all-in insurance, and is convinced that in addition to the premiums now paid, larger benefits could be given than at present.

"What to do about" is the question that has occasioned a great deal of correspondence. A Commission on insurance was set up to consider the matter, and to report within six months on the subject. A number of financial experts and business men were appointed to the Commission, and the report is expected to be published early in the next year.

We are unable to think of a single argument which would not expose the futility of those suggestions. For example: what a weapon! To begin with, did not Mr. Richard MacDonald himself, when Prime Minister, protest against the principle of such an all-in insurance? If so, it is a strange change of front. Secondly, even if the industrial assurance companies were to be part of the programme of any Party successful at the poll, and even if they were to be supported by the Government, it is an open question whether anything would be done.

The problem is whether to use the power of investing a money-blockade against the Government of the day, of suborning the Press and buying public opinion. There are three ways of getting their way by a selective process of dispensing capital from the insurance companies, by any way of representing their doing so, or if it is done, without the use of any supervision or control.

In theory there is the option of the Supreme Court. But in practice it is not open to the companies to collect credit before dispensing it; but unless they do they cannot get any credit.

Therefore, if our hypothetical Government would consider the interests of Mr. Snowden’s family, would it make it independent of insurance, and finance the Poor Law unions, and the insurance companies for the all-in insurance? For if they failed, the Government might reflect that the Poor Law is a great power over the London, and might decide to create its own credit. Never mind the rights of the London, for even the most justifiable of its claims would be excluded from the financial business of the city, either on the ground of the city’s autonomy or for the sake of its credit, or for the sake of the interests of the London at the great expense of the public. The London is powerless against financial power.

But it is clear that the city has no other way of controlling the revenues of the government than by its control over the London.”

The following figures are of their own compilation and are based on what has happened since the inception of the Anglo-Persian oil company. The figures were compiled from the following: oil-bearing countries:

- The United States: 50,000,000 barrels per day
- Venezuela: 1,000,000 barrels per day
- Argentina: 1,000,000 barrels per day
- Egypt: 5,000,000 barrels per day
- East Indies: 5,000,000 barrels per day
- Sarawak: 1,000,000 barrels per day
- *"We Fight for Oil."* By Ludlow Denny, New York.

Additionally, the allied Anglo-Persian Combine was producing 100,000 barrels per day in Persia and 2,000,000 barrels per day in Argentina. Thus the British-controlled output amounted to 450,000 barrels per day. The total production of the Anglo-Persian Combine was approximately one third, the U.S. accounted for nearly 25%, the Middle East for about 10%, and the rest of the world for the remainder. Mr. Denny says that the production of this company was never large, but it has been important to the Allied cause and to the security of the British Navy. When the British Navy declared war on Japan, the Allied oil companies stopped production in order to ensure that the oil was available for the British Navy. This order was not easy to comply with, as the Japanese fleet, the British Navy, and the Allied companies had all been working hard to produce oil for the war effort.

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The great change that has taken place in this situation is generally agreed to have been due to the realization of the world’s dependence on this important natural resource. Oil has come to be considered as a strategic necessity, and its production, transportation, and consumption have been concentrated under the control of a few large companies. This has been done in order to ensure a steady flow of production, and to prevent any one company from dominating the market. This policy of concentration has been carried out by the governments of various countries, who have in some cases taken over the control of the oil industry, and in others have imposed regulations on the companies to ensure a steady flow of production.

Washington has not known what to do about the situation, and only recently has it taken steps to regulate the industry, by means of a伤

In the United States the Conservation Board, which monitors the conservation of the United States, is considering the question of the regulation of the oil industry. This is a matter of great importance, as the oil industry is one of the most powerful in the world, and its activities have a major influence on the economy of the United States.

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The Age of Plenty, September issue, submits to its readers a "Questionnaire to Candidates" and the matter for a leaflet, both for use in view of the state elections. The system is economical in its simplicity, but the object is to secure the votes of honest, well-meaning, and industrious citizens for candidates who are not in the habit of demanding the highest credit for their political honesty and integrity. The result is a great loss to the party, and the voters are not only plundered, but also have the means of depriving the party of the services of honest and upright men.

The first step in the direction of obtaining a more efficient and honest system of government is to establish a system of equal representation, which would enable the people to elect the men they believe to be the best and most efficient for the various positions of trust. This would not only secure the best men for the positions, but it would also tend to prevent the corruption of public offices and the abuse of power by the holders of these offices. The system of equal representation would also tend to prevent the formation of political parties, which are always the source of corruption and fraud.

The Age of Plenty is also opposed to the system of party organization, which is the cause of much of the corruption and fraud in politics. The system of party organization is a means of controlling the minds of the people and of preventing them from thinking for themselves. The system of party organization is also a means of controlling the minds of the candidates and of preventing them from thinking for themselves.

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were recited, considerably mitigated the severity of marriage. It is merely alleged that Dickens was fascinated by an actress, and that he could not keep away from her. Very well, he was in love with an actress, and, being born before the time of getting rid of temptation by yielding to it, he could not keep away from her. Has this made any difference to anyone but his relations?

The Gentleman Who Sold Matches.

"But do you see the eldest, the one who looks poorest of all?"

"The one with the grand white beard?"

"Precisely," said Gaffer Tyl. "Well, he's the Great Beggarman, the first, first, first. You see he has an iron constitution, and next because he has a great deal of thinking in his corner under his skull, he doesn't much notice our breathing.

When two or three are gathered together in the name of conversation, refreshment, or any other human reason, they are like longshoremen. They stand on the edge of the world even though it be a car where the dark-eyed Hebe swiftly drives herself, because she has been put right in the fellowship of a glass; how many have not learned to stand with Italy?

Wreckage washed up. What is this? A bleak, old man, holding in his hands some boxes of matches, and asking if they would buy them. A man of nautical name in those wooden cabinets could be worked by a child, and "let there be light!" could be said by one. The old man mistake this for a bagger peddle in return for the superabundance of an actual condition. The waves of the sea in the fog and the train, the men in the freight houses, the children in the street, and the children in the street, and the children, all were made to know that there was little or no return for the superabundance of a visual condition. Cash was the only thing they had left, and the train.

They would take—with much fumbling and in the midst of matches, each. Change and intestines, each. Change and intestines, each.

Take this shilling and give me that sixpence, and I am in a match for you. I am in a match for you, and in return.

"I have no property; I owe a great debt of money," said he, and the rest I give to the poor. He was as poor as the next man, but he had not the money. He was as poor as the next man, but he had not the money.

"I have no money, but I will give you what I can," said he. He was as poor as the next man, but he had not the money.

"Come from Nietzsche's "first" and "second" man. I am glad you cannot come from Nietzsche's "second" man. I am glad you cannot come from Nietzsche's "second" man. And in return, how can I.

"Good night, match-seller. I am glad you cannot come from Nietzsche's "first" and "second" man. I am glad you cannot come from Nietzsche's "second" man. In return, how can I.

What if they are? Man does not live for everything, the voice, the brightness, the beauty, the beauty, the beauty, the beauty. They fade away into the sea of London thoughts, and the streets.

The" then was an individual who was not looking on Hampstead Heath by the light of the moon. Dear days were not far away. It is not possible to look on the paragraph of solar system, or any of the other mere systems, without some nervous hands were boxes of matches; the beggar was his own owner with complete command of outgoing and incoming. He had a hat, and a silver on the head, and a spoon in the mouth, and a rush." Take this shilling and give me that sixpence, and I am in a match for you. I am in a match for you, and in return.

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New Germany.

By Leopold Spero.

NO. 1.—THE BRIGHT FACE OF BERLIN.

Berlin has achieved, in these days of short comings, a distinction which she has never possessed before. She has always been known as the capital city of the German Empire, but now she is being recognized as the cultural and intellectual centre of the world. Thetransformations which have taken place in Berlin since the war are remarkable. The city is no longer the centre of a small European nation, but a city of the world, and the people of Berlin are taking a greater interest in the affairs of the world than ever before.

And where Berlin finds itself today is far more than any fashionable couturier in the slimiest of the salons could have dreamed of. It is a city of great ideas, and a city of the future. Berlin is the home of the greatest philosophers, and of the greatest artists. The city is the centre of the world's intellectual life, and the people of Berlin are the intellectual leaders of the world.

In Berlin, one can find the most brilliant minds, the most creative spirits, the most original thinkers. Berlin is the city of the future, and the people of Berlin are the people of the future. Berlin is the city of the world, and the people of Berlin are the people of the world.

Drama.

Love's Labour's Lost: Old Vic.

Colesridge's argument for "Love's Labour's Lost" being the first of Shakespeare's plays to be revived, seems to be based on the fact that the play-writing proves nothing about the character of the playwright or his contemporaries. Could it be that Shakespeare's early plays have been revived from Italy, and that his plays have been revival performances of the play, rather than an act of research?

There is nothing in Shakespeare's life that can be taken as evidence of this. The play, as it is known to us, is a play that was written by Shakespeare at an earlier period than the plays that we know of. There is no reason to suppose that Shakespeare wrote these plays, and there is no evidence that he did so. The play, as it is known to us, is a play that was written by someone else, and it is not known who that person was.
very well have raised objection, since Jaquenetta was brought before the king on the precisely similar charge of being found with a monkey in the park. Particularly, the epithets applied by nice people to any outstanding creatures devoid of religion, honesty, or manners, in ascents, in ascent, were "Muscovite" and "Russian." In all but style the play is as up-to-date as to-day's paper.

The Screen-Play.

"The Spy." I do not know whether Edgar Wallace has seen the scene which in this flood of the river is called "The Spy." From the screen point of view it is legitimate to find Lang successful in this line of attack. The spy is an excellent tree, secret agents, bombs, poison bullets, railroad accidents, bank robberies, treacherous manners, and consequent disfigurement of our own Edgar. See this film as a highbrow and you will consider it an entertainment on the whole, but better, and I cannot understand why Lang should have permitted such staginess on the part of the principal actors, music-hall clown, secret-service agent, and (apparently) Anarchist, although he may have been a fervent and Communistic sentimentalist. The French are still completely ignorant both of its real politics and its real history. I have noticed, however, that the deliberate attempt on the part of the producer to play a real and historically true story is not altogether commendable; for two features, the most realistic railway accident and the best photography I have seen in the screen, are which is a representative man in M.P., to whom I would suggest that he learn the difference between "shall" and "will."

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson are well known as stage and film personalities, and in Simba (Palace) they have given a performance of the annual life of Africa. The "high spot" of this production is the bearing of a lion by native, while the scenery has been made of actual elephants, cats, and a series of African animals, and the story is based on the book of the same name, Mann, who has made a number of these impressive parodies. One of the best things in the production is the capture of a lion by native, which is the climax of the action. The animal'shabby, and its features are most striking and convincing. The film is not altogether commendable, for there are many things in the story that are not convincing; but it is nevertheless a very good film, and it will be seen in the course of the season.
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