# NFW AGF

INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART

No. 2060] NEW Vol. L. No. 18. THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1932. [Registered at the G.P.O.] SEVENPENCE

#### CONTENTS.

Notre of	PAGE		PAG
from a fact the beer-tax (comments continued	205	THEATRE NOTES. By John Shand Derby Day.	21:
SOCIAL COMPAND EISLER. (Editorial)	208	THE FILMS. By David Ockham Elstree's incompetence.	213
LASPHEMY ON Three CE 11		MUSIC. By Kaikhosru Sorabji Emmy Heim. B.B.C. Symphony Concerts.	214
Blasphemy On Trial. (Editorial). before Lord Justice Coleridge.)	- 0.3	REVIEWS  Camping and Woodcaft (Kephart). Sale By	214
Major Douglas's opinion of Mr. G. D. H. Cole.		Auction. Benn's Ninepenny Novels (First six of the series). The Devil Drives. The Seven Niches.	
Hargrave STRATEGIC POSITION. By John	212		215
tion of the Social Credit Movement.		T. Kenway.	

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Our hope, expressed a fortnight ago, to continue fulfilled our comments on the beer-tax, was not fulfilled—for the reason that the impact of the sudden no. den Eisler-boom knocked us off that particular waveength. The supervention of that event, however, has had the secondary consequence of lending point to our to our present resumed observations; and in this way the way, that but for its occurrence our speculations other agost the brewers—or, for that matter, any other aggrieved business interests—might do beyond aggrieved business interests—might do the they find themselves would have seemed to them more facility than they more fanciful, more "up in the air," than they need seem this week. We reason it as follows. deed seem this week. We reason it as follows itsely: the brewers are victims of banking policy exercised through the Treasury, as already explained. Secondly: redress involves resistance to not be created by a formulation of grievances (every-day has his own) nor by appeals to "justice" or fair-play" (everybody applies such concepts differently according to his circumstances). Fourthly: the supposing the brewers could win a majority of rethe public to recognise their right to priority of rethe majority-opinion could not be registered morrow election; and if an election would be horrow, the registration of that opinion would be h electoral programmes: further, even if the public andate was clear, no Government could instru-ient it was clear, no fit banking monopoly. at God helps those who help themselves, it can be those different those who help themselves, it can be the same only the same only the same only the same only the same of the ose that the Treasury spares those and only who help themselves. By the phrase, "help ests must lay hands on their enemy's weapon lich is the control of financial credit. The object lying hands on it is two-fold: firstly and immeately hands on it is two-fold: firstly and its own inative to impede the enemy in the use of the weapon itself o impede the enemy in the use of the weapon itself as best it can: secondly and ultimately, for the second it from him, and so of them collectively to wrest it from him, and so

stop him using it on any of them. Of course this policy assumes antecedent knowledge by the economic community of the fact that the bankers wield such a weapon, what it is, and what it does.

This is where the Eisler-boom comes into our calculations. Dr. Eisler has made certain proposals. Those proposals have been listened to by the Financial Committee of the House of Commons with every mark of respect, they have been frankly described in The Times, the Observer, and the Daily Telegraph (and perhaps other papers since), and they have been propounded by their author to several eminent social and scientific societies. The import of these facts is this: that Dr. Eisler's proposals are tacitly passed as fit for public consumption. And as they are directed to the problem of trade-recovery, every economic interest is impliedly invited to investigate them. Now, technical soundness of the proposals is, in the present context, of far less importance than the implicit recognition by Dr. Eisler-and therefore by his influential sponsors and sympathisers, whoever they are-of the fundamental proposition that general prosperity can be achieved over the heads of the economic community, masters and men alike. In plain words, trade depression and trade recovery are matters of creditpolicy, in the control of which not even the Government, let alone any business interest, has the power to participate. All business enterprise is the product of banking enterprise; and general and consistent success in business policy can only happen as the product of a sound banking policy and technique. Such is the meaning underlying Dr. Eisler's proposals; and it retrospectively destroys all the pompous reproaches levelled by banking and newspaper magnates in the past twelve years against newspaper magnates in the past theory dead against coal-owners, cotton-spinners, iron-masters, and so on for their "lack of enterprise," or "courage," or "tact"; and destroys also the allegations of teetotalist critics that the drink traffic is a contributory cause of the trade depression.

It should now be clear that the question of creditcontrol is a political issue overriding every other,

for upon the direction of that control depends the good or ill of every member of the community, employer, worker and consumer alike. It is, moreover, entirely different in nature from every other in the sense that it is a non-party question in essence, and can most easily be made one in practice. Party politics derive from economic interests; the function of a party politician is to relate some particular interest, or group of such, with the general interest. Thus the Liberal, holding that the "people" would be better in health for drinking less beer and more cocoa, and the Conservative, holding that the "people" are happier in the freedom to choose their own drink, are prophets of competing business enterprises. They cannot help it in house good faith they advance their views it, in however good faith they advance their views. And so all round. But the situation no longer holds true when you have a financial interest, immune from the risks of commercial competition, and able, without cost to itself, to provide enough business to keep all competitors occupied and their men employed—which is Dr. Eisler's undisputed proposition—then it is the right, the duty and the privilege of every interest and private person to enter into the politics of credit. And in the case of grievances—all of which are now financial—the obvious reply of the aggrieved parties, whose affairs have been upset by the bankers, is to upset the affairs of the bankers. However little each can do individually, at least it is possible for him to do it without clashing with others who are doing it, and in the nature of the case each effort must supplement the force of the rest. In short, what we want is a nonparty political movement of all economic enterprises to formulate and publish demands upon the Credit Monopoly. Readers of this journal are only too well aware how much progress the feasibility of this idea has made even in the last six months. For the very same reason that men and women of every type, experience, condition and aspiration have been consistently contributing money and effort to support THE NEW AGE and its credit-policy, the community at large—of whose structure our body of readers is a complete and exact cross-section—are ready to yield similar service to a non-party movement working on the same, or some compatible, principle in the politico-economic field. They are waiting for a lead; and when any business interest takes the initiative it will certainly produce results, the dimensions of which would initially depend upon the present political influence of the innovator, but which would in any case multiply at a startling rate when once the movement was launched and its object defined.

Now, the brewers appear to us to possess unique resources in men and equipment for a patriotic political crusade of this kind. Given unity, they stand in an analogous position to the Bank of England and the Big Five; and if one ignores for the moment the tremendous power of the banks to procure their political ends by secret financial coercion and persuasion, the political influence of the brewers is of no mean order in comparison. In pure and frank political controversy the brewer could hold his own with the banker. (It is amusing to notice in the Licensing Report, 1929-31, that some of the Commissioners mentioned with solemn disapproval the allegations of illicit methods used by "the Trade" to swing votes at election time. What is that compared with the bankers' methods of swinging the votes in Parliament itself?) The four cardinal points of scenic representation on the stage were once propounded by an authority as: A Castle, a Church, a Brothel, and an Inn. To-day he could eliminate the brothel and substitute a bank—a hardly less objectionable item, and just as appropriate to the stage when one reflects on the dramatic

parlours during the last year or so. However, brothels are not known in Britain any longer—nor will castles be in a short time—nor churches in a longer time. Financial stringency is causing the Nobility to cut up their estates and the Church to merge her parishes. It will be remarked that the brothel, the castle, the church, and the inn were each of them centres of political as well as social significance in their various degrees; and therefore their disappearance would leave the control of all information and opinion to be centralised in the hands of the banks and their agencies, the Press and the Wireless.

There are, at the present time, about 77,000 in licences in existence as against nearly 100,000 in 1004. It may be seen time, about 77,000 in licences in existence as against nearly 100,000 in that in licences in existence as against nearly 100,000 in 1904. It may be mentioned parenthetically that in the same period the number of branch-bank premises has gone up from under 3,000 (it was just over 2,000 in 1890) to over 8,000—so that the ratio of banks to pubs has gone up from 1: 33 to 1: 10. is no moral except that this symbolises the growing dominance of the doctrine of saving over that of spending. However, the brewers supply (let us assume) 70,000 different licensed premises, and, 1 the spending. However, the brewers supply (let us assume) 70,000 different licensed premises, and, under the tied-house system, presumably control majority of them. The licensee of a public house is the opposite number of the branch-bank manager or "resident clerk": both of them are functionaries carrying out orders from headquarters. Now every carrying out orders from headquarters. Now every branch bank is the centre of more or less political influence—not in the centre of more or less political influence in the centre of more or less political influence in the centre of more or less political influence in the centre of more or less political influence in influence—not in the sense that the manager talks party-politics, but that h party-politics, but that he assists bank-politics. Taking banking staffs collectively their advice of customers affects the direction of the investment of customers affects the direction of the investment of huge sums of management of the investment of the investment of huge sums of management of the investment of the investmen customers affects the direction of the investment of huge sums of money annually, and since political power reflects financial power, the head banks, the whom the advice proceeds, are able to balance of political bargaining power as he various economic (or "party") interests, and the ultimately to affect the complexion of Parliament and self. Bankers do not talk, they utter money, be ultimately to affect the complexion of Parliament and self. Bankers do not talk, they utter money, be the money does the talking. Insofar as they may the said to talk their own politics they do so by by negative method of talking slightingly of, or else's—sighing over "party prejudices, on the part of every business enterprise and whin to earn a living was evidence of a want on the somebody or have a row with him. If on their terest, in the attempt to survive, menaces, in the fault of either; it is the inevited that is not the fault of either; it is the inevited own. The purpose of the complex of the least useful own. The purpose of banking politics over selfresult of the dominance of banking politics of useful section of the community gets its own way, gets plunger of the community gets its own way, gets section of the community gets its own way, plunges all other sections into acrimonious act tion for a market which but the deliberated and tion for a market which, by the deliberated support this small section is to sighed to support the small section is to support the small section is to support the section is to support the small section is to support the support the small section is to support the section in the section that the section is to support the section that the section thad the section that the section that the section that the section this small section, is too impoverished to is them all. The true view of the situation them any separate interests are section. them all. The true view of the situation tional, while the many separate interests are mutually extended to the situation they are not, as the bankers insinuate, and their clusive, but are mutually complementary in essential nature—that is to say, they can of making fied together. The one problem is that of the banker "section" apply its control of which policy to that end, and by technical methods up to the section of the section is that of the section is apply its control of the section is applied to the section is appli policy to that end, and by technical methods will ensure that end. As we have pointed out, by will ensure that end. As we have pointed one by Eisler's proposals imply that this can be is up the bankers if they so wish. Therefore, it is in particular, to use their political influence in a use their political influence in a use their political influence in the time one (and we say that it isn't) comes later. One (and we say that it isn't) comes later. In make the politics of finance its one preoccupation. will ensure that end, and by technical methods, the least that end. As we have pointed done that proposals included the can be done

to educate itself, to educate the public, and to take such action in addition as will bring the issue to a head

MARCH 3, 1932

We will digress a moment to say a word about Dr. Eisler's attitude. We are told by someone who knows him (we are not sure if he would care for us to reveal his identity) that he (the Doctor) is familiar with the Social Credit policy and method, but frankly avows himself out of sympathy with the objective of providing leisure. Leisure, he thinks, may accrue to mankind gradually over a long period, but for constitutions and the state of the state o but for some time to come yet everybody should be set to work and kept busy. That being his dominant consideration, it is reasonable to assume (and our informant agrees) that he has not thought it necessary to investigate Major Douglas's technical analysis and proposals. That would be quite natural on his part. If you desire, on conscientious grounds, to protect your little son from militaristic ideas, you do not look in the toy-catalogue for tin soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers are the soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers are the soldiers are the soldiers and the soldiers are the so soldiers and pistols. The analogy is not quite fair to Moria and pistols. to Major Douglas, because as a matter of fact, all he contends on the question of leisure is that it is possible to provide it. If for moral reasons a community of the possibility. munity decide not to make use of the possibility, and prefers on that account to devote an unnecessarily decide not to make use of the possibility, sarily large amount of human labour to economic tasks, that is their own look-out. But all the same he asserts that it would still be necessary for the financing of the same has a same to be based on ancing of this all-in work-economy to be based on his tool his technical principles, or otherwise community's incomes would not suffice to buy them the quantity of production designed for them to buy, whatever the quantity was and however hard they worked for it. The Social Condit technique, he has often asit. The Social Credit technique, he has often asserted, enables a community to carry out their intentions, whatever they may be. If they like to decide that everybody shall work so long, on such and such a programme of production, for so much and such a programme of production, for so much money, and shall get for that money such and such a quantity of the product—Dr. Eisler's "' basketful' of company the product—Dr. Eisler's "' basketful' of commodities"—they will need to apply the Social-Credit pricing principle to fulfil their aim. If they neglect it, they will find that the price of the basket-ful will exceed the shopper's purseful of money. Nor could they overcome the difficulty otherwise except by reverting to matheds of production where either by teverting to methods of production where either no more than the method of production where was no money was used at all, or, if it were, there was time-lag between the start and finish of productive production where extends the production where exten tive processes. If Dr. Eisler can make it worth the brewers. brewers' while to employ a million men to brew a million quarts in a million pots, and the builders' while to entry to hold them, no doubt while to enlarge the breweries to hold them, no doubt they won't mind: anything will be better than standing will be better than standing still and watching overheads piling up. Nor shall we mind either if this is the quickest practical step. tical step to cure poverty that the authorities will take. All we say is that there is a snag in the scheme. And All we say is that there is a snag in the scheme would reveal the snag we he working of the scheme would reveal the snag we he working of the scheme would reveal the snag we have the working of the scheme would reveal has as the working of the scheme would reveal the to swe should be content to wait for Social Credit wasteful into force that way. If it must be that wasteful economic devices are to be used for the reof pain and anxiety, all right, get on with them.
Humanity first. Pay them the price of their
and no promissory picture-postcard sub-

Political influence, it is impossible to avoid the risk talking impracticabilities when speculating on how know can use it. In the first place outsiders cannot condition their freedom to act; nor, in the second, sels supposing they are free to act. We can only to do if therefore, what we would feel the impulse a political policy without any external condition political policy without any external conditions.

straint other than that properly imposed by public opinion and sentiment. We should look upon our 70,000 licenced houses as so many centres of political education, and our own newspaper as an official gazette for the guidance of the tenants. This would not be setting up a new precedent, but developing a standing one—for there are still to be seen in many houses notices warning the public how "apathy" in the United States landed the people into "Prohibition." This kind of appeal will now be seen to have been too narrow-too obviously "sectional" and exclusively self-interested. The kind of appeal now wanted is one which will evoke response from, and even be capable of adoption by, people in every line of business, not only those who are consumers of drink and investors in the drink trade. It must be one which gives nobody the excuse for saying that the privileges granted by a licence to sell drink are being abused for sectional political ends. At the same time it must be one which suggests, or incorporates in its wording, the claim that brewers have as much right to use licenced houses for promoting political policy as religious denominations to use churches and chapels. It must be remembered that the most altruistic political policy under the present financial control transfers wealth from pocket to pocket-somebody must gain and somebody lose by the adoption of any policy. The centres where "temperance" education is carried on may be regarded as political committee rooms for the milk, ginger-beer, tea, coffee and cocoa trades. So if the advertised idealism of the temperance movement glosses over, as it does, this element of self-interest glosses over, as it does, this element of self-interest so that the public do not give any thought to it, the lesson for the brewers is to advertise a parallel "idealism." We have outlined what that should be, and we have shown that its promotion threatens no interests, not even those which are now competing with the brewers. with the brewers.

Within the scope of this general policy there is room for an educational campaign—and one perfectly compatible with the principle laid down—directed to emphasise the collateral amenities and services afforded by licensed houses i.e. apart from the selling of liquor. For example, the public house is made a convenience of by omnibus conductors as a retiring room between their shifts, and as a money-changing office when they are loaded with coppers or short of small change; also as a shelter for postmen out on letter-collection in cold or rainy weather; as a marketing place for itinerant hawkers, flower-sellers, musicians, and other poor peoplenot to speak of the Salvation Army girls with the War Cry on Saturday nights. Other and more familiar items are slate clubs, and charitable whipsround for hard-luck cases—particularly the chalkring relief-system in Lancashire and other northern counties. There are others to be added, and taking them comprehensively it can be fairly argued that a reduction of licences, let alone the closing down of the drink trade, would impose hardships on innocent individuals on the one hand, and on the other involve new public expenditure in some instances on providing substitutes for the withdrawn amenities.

It is common knowledge that at the moment thousands of licences are likely to lapse by reason of the inability of the brewers to keep the houses open. In many of them the revenue from sales barely pays the wages of the staff, let alone the rates and other fixed charges. This no doubt will gratify the temperance societies, but what is overlooked by the public is that if the consequence is to reduce the sales of liquor, the reversion of the saving will not fall to the people who save on their drink-bill and enable them to buy more of something else, but will go eventually to the banks in reduction of debt

and cease to exist as purchasing power in any market

It is worth while recalling that when the Government began to experiment with betting-taxes there came a day when the exasperated bookmakers knocked off business and "interfered" in a byeelection for the first time, with the result that they got their grievances attended. The trade depression has placed thousands of people in the position of having plenty of time to interfere in politics, time that they will devote to that purpose provided that the occasion constitutes a new departure from traditional party politics.

#### Strakosch and Eisler.

Sir Henry Strakosch's speech before the Financial and Currency Group of the House of Commons (see *The Times*, February 25, p. 7), is perhaps, worth recording here as an event. Its content is hardly worth much analysis: the chief interest in it arises from the fact that it follows closely in time Dr. Eisler's speech to the above Committee which we dealt with last week. Strakosch is one of a large and influential body of financial Whigs who contemplate controlled expansion as a change from controlled deflation—the control, of course, remaining exclusively in the hands of "the Profession," and the change of policy held out by implica-tion as a sound reason why the control of it should

not be interfered with.

Our use of the term "the Profession" is intended to express the fact that essentially the bankers are no wiser, and certainly not so useful, as brewers. Supposing that "the Trade"—as the latter are slightingly alluded to—had "de-alcoholised" drink like the bankers have deflated money during a period when they (supposed land). period when they (supposedly) were in full control of licensing policy, and had stirred up a general revolt against themselves; nobody in his senses would regard their sudden panic-decision to put a bit more kick in the beer as justifying their continued control of licensing. Bankers behave even worse than this. To take an illustration from distilling, the public are entitled to choose between a liquor of low alcoholic content, e.g., whisky, at a high price, and one of high alcoholic content, namely methylated spirit, at a low price. The first is too dear to be bought, and the second is too nauseating to be drunk. The process by which the second is rendered nauseating is, we believe, described as "de-naturing." Methylated spirit is de-natured spirit. The reason why it is chean in that it is the property of the second is rendered nauseating is, we believe, described as "de-naturing." is cheap is that it has other uses than that of a beverage; and the de-naturing is carried out in such a way as not to interference. a way as not to interfere with those other uses.

Readers will not need to exercise much ingenuity to formulate a parallel between this policy and that of the bankers with regard to money-or, to be accurate, with purchasing-power. When the orthodox banker has warned the public in the past: "The more money we circulate the less it will buy" he was saying the same thing as if a distiller said: "The more liquor we deliver the less should there will be more liquor we deliver the less alcohol there will be But to-day, the Whig banker comes along and says: "Yes; we can circulate more money with safety so long as we 'manage' it'—which is like the distiller saying: "You can have as much spirit as you like so long as we decide how much of it is to be 'de-natured.'" That is to say, "managed currency" means methylated money. It can be used for any purpose you like except the purpose of personal consumption. Listen to Strakosch.

All that this would involve, broadly speaking, would he to increase our monetary circulation and our credit structure at a rate corresponding to the rate at which our production and trade increase."

What he is saying is that the supply of spirit can

be increased at the same rate at which its use as fuel for production increases. For the last thing Strakosch is thinking about when he refers to an increase in "trade" is a quantitative increase in retail trade in the same as the same retail trade in this country. Dr. Eisler comes a step nearer to fitting our analogy; for in his proposals he provides for two specific kinds of money—bankmoney and current-money: in other words "natural" money for the consumer and "de-natured" money for the producer. Whereas, in form, Strakosch appears to favour waiting to see in what proportions a single pool of money is applied to production and consumption respectively, Eisler wants to provide two separate pools, and to control both ab initio.

As to the objective the control between As to the objective there is no distinction between these two "experts." They are "credit-methylators"—in common with the whole "stabilisation" school. The proposition odultorant to be used tion 's school. The nauseating adulterant to be used is the costing. is the costing-system. Price poisons purchasing

Strakosch says explicitly in one passage that the sterling level of wholesale prices, should be sterling level of wholesale prices, should be sterling level of wholesale prices. "sterling level of wholesale prices", should pushed up to the level ruling in 1928. Then he goes

"That would involve injecting into our monetary system additional purchasing power by credit expansion till wholesale prices are restored from their present level of 76 to 100."

A rise of one-third in wholesale prices means a rise of one-third in wholesale prices means a rise of one-third in retail prices in any closed credit-area under the present under the present system of finance. That involves a rise of one-third rise of one-third in personal incomes if purchasing power (in its true sense as against its Strakoschean nonsense) is to be maintained. Is this contemplated? Or, seeing that Britain is not a closed credit-area, is Or, seeing that Britain is not a closed credit-area, is it hoped to work the it hoped to work the scheme so as to hold the incidence of the rice. dence of the rise in price off products consumable at home, and let it fall all the products consumable at home, and let it fall all the products consumable at the products consumable at the products consumable at the products of the product of the products of the product of home, and let it fall wholly on products exportable abroad? Again the result of the re abroad? Again; there is no word about costs in the above passage above passage. So is one to assume that the one third rise in price is the result of a one-third rise in cost; or does it reflect the interpret of demand and cost; or does it reflect the interpret of demand and cost; cost; or does it reflect the interplay of demand will supply—the seller charging "all that the goods the seller fetch"? If of a rise in section when the seller charging that the seller the seller fetch the seller than the seller fetch the seller the seller fetch the seller the seller fetch the supply—the seller charging "all that the goods wire fetch"? If of a rise in cost, what does the seller what does the buyer get out of it? Probably answer to the conventions and the case to arrive the answer to the conundrum would be easy to arrive at if Parliament were as a probably at the from the if Parliament were able to get a return from tish bankers showing to bankers showing to what aggregate amount British industry is in their debt. We do not mean simply the amount debited against it at the present moment, but the whole sum which, under strict rule ought to have been repaid including every excused moment, but the whole sum which, under strict ruled ought to have been repaid, including every excused repayment. What we want to see is the suspense growth of the private ledgers where the true marging between the borrowings and somewhat of industry is for the suspense and somewhat is such as the suspense and some between the borrowings and repayments of industry is (or could be) is (or could be) recorded alongside the true market between the balance-sheet value and property.

LExtract from The Morley Magazine for February among is the organ of Morley College, and circulates free among the students.] STUDENTS ON BANKERS.

Tricksters has been arranged on ELEMENTARY following Banking. Special attention will be given to the How to be

points:— Pectal attention will be given to the How to borrow money at 4 per cent., lend at 7 per ceate and pocket a balance of 19 or 21 per cent.—How to to a crisis.—Methods of making Prime Ministers dance their given tune, and Chancellors of the Exchequer eat words.

Students

Students proposing to enter for this course must past double test. First they will for consciences Students proposing to enter for this course must personal adouble test. First, they will be searched for conscience or parts thereof, discovery of which will disqualify sion secondly, they will be required to prove that their admission fees have, as a result of any piece of sharp practice of their part, been unwillingly paid by other people.

#### Social Credit and the Press.

MARCH 3, 1932

"A + B" AND THE GAS-TAPPERS.

The Glasgow Evening Times of February 19 published an article over the initials W. A. entitled, "New Economics: The Douglas Scheme." It was prominently placed, and covered a three-column spread by a half-column depth. The author has made a good ich withing the property of the second prominently placed, and covered a three-column spread by a half-column depth. made a good job, within the space allowed him, of his task of setting forth what he calls "an exposi-tion for the plain man." Speaking of the A + B Theorem, he remarks that he sometimes wonders whether it is really necessary to force it upon the student. "If the latter already feels, as nearly everyone does to-day, that purchasing power is chronically short of enabling consumers to live up to what our productive powers can offer us, then I think we are ready to proceed to the Douglas pricing solution without further worry." We agree that, in a popular exposition, or series of such, you can take the "student" quite a long way without introducing the A + B Theorem; but as soon as he conceives the student of t conceives the ambition to become a teacher himself (which of course is what you hope for in every new enquirer) you will find yourself bound sooner or later to discuss the Theorem with him, or at least to demonstrate the truth embodied in it. It depends

how keen and how thorough he is.

In the case of the article under discussion the author's tactics are right: he refrains from the attempt to explain the Theorem to the "plain man, or even to state it, but he does call attention to it, and says of it that it marks "a stage in the Douglas exposition which apparently stumps many students." This implied suggestion that there are difficulties to be stored. ficulties to be surmounted is useful for two reasons, one, that it tends to warn off dabblers in new them. theories and to put serious enquirers on their mettle; and, two, that it affords by implication an answer in advance to the question which frequently arises in the mind of a newcomer, namely: "If Major Douglas's discovery will enable us to do all you say can be do." can be done to cure these longstanding evils, how is it that nobody thought of it before?" The answer is, of course to the second of the secon is, of course, that the fundamental concept on which Major De issue turns is extremely elusive; and if Major Douglas had not, so to speak, spotted it when he was not be fore he forgot it, there is every probability (in our have known for have known of it to-day, nor might have known for another another century. Take a good look round at the array of public, and ask yourself how near they would have come to such a discovery! It was a providential circumstant cumstance that Major Douglas, who, as an en-gineer, had been constantly faced with the problem of doing efficient work against the hampering restrictions of a cost-limit, should have got behind the cenes of the costing-system and been introduced to ing for ourselves, and from a certain angle of view, wilds the region than otherwise the spectacle of berather enjoy than otherwise the spectacle of berather enjoy than otherwise the spectacle of the wilderment among orthodox economists, and loss of the elusive among the heterodox, over that "demn'd To pimpernel"—the A + B Theorem.

Dagar resume our discussion; the popular product of the example of the exampl

pagandist can follow the example of the author in his introductory reference to the lowerence to the popular production of the example of the reference to the reference to the popular production. Theorem, and can thenceforth walk his followers. owers, and can thenceforth walk inspirals, round it in ever narrowing circles (not from please!) until they, or the hardy survivors on special possible arrive at the centre, and, let us the full revelation. On the way one talk partials arrive at the centre, and, let us the full revelation. can talk parables to them. For example, everybody has heard of the old trick of thieving from the gas the twist, the delinquent of course taps the gas it goes through the meter. But shall we

imagine an agent of the gas company to be lodging in the house? In that case we may suppose an arrangement whereby he connives at theft by the company by tapping the gas after it has passed through the meter. In fancy you can see this meter ticking away at the rate of, say, ten cubic feet an hour against the consumer, while perhaps five feet an hour are flowing back through a secret return-pipeline to the gasometer.

That is the first stage of the parable, suitable for the first lap of our circular walk. But bankers do not steal money in the way that the gas is stolen. They restrict its supply without making a profit by the restriction. So our hypothetical gas company can next be supposed to lead the tapped gas back, not to the original gasometer but to a second one used specially for the purpose. Let us call it No. 2 gasometer. In this case it is not necessary to regard the company as robbing the consumer; we may choose to say that it is causing him to abstain from using the five feet, and is storing it up on his behalf. Now, if the consumer makes complaint that he cannot get enough light and heat out of his supply, obviously the company will know how to put this right. It can either (a) stop tapping, or (b) while still letting the tapping continue, run a separate pipe out of No. 2 gasometer and deliver gas from it to the consumer in addition to the supply from No. 1 gasometer. (Operation "b" would be nonsense in actual practice, unless of course the company chose to deliver gas from No. 2 gasometer at a different rate than that at which it took it in. But this is not an essential part of the main argument.) The principle is just the same, namely, that the company has in reserve what the consumer lacks, and feels the lack of. And it goes without saying that if the consumer knew of the reserve he would know just as well as the company what could, and should, be done to put things right. So ends the second lap of the circular walk.

The third requires us to suppose that the company, for reasons of its own, desires to continue tapping its supplies without the consumer's knowledge, but without appropriating them to its own use. that case it would not build a No. 2 gasometer at all, but would let the gas escape into the skies. There would then be no evidence that the gas had ever been tapped. In practice, of course, no company would waste its gas in such a way. But supposing such a thing as that it could get gas without cost and in illimitable quantity out of the earth, then the "waste," or "loss," would be nothing, and the company could do what it did for reasons entirely disconnected from material gain for itself, reasons, let us suggest, based on a moral philosophy. "It is not good," the directors might decide, "that John Smith should illuminate his house too strongly, or warm it too comfortably; and as we cannot rely on his resisting the tempation to use all the gas we can deliver, we won't let him get more than is

This is as far as it is necessary to outline the degood for him. velopment of the parable. Readers who care to use it can probably improve on our treatment of it. We need only add a general remark, which is that when the author of the article speaks of the general recognition of the fact that incomes are short of prices, we relate that to a picture of John Smith's prices, we relate that to a picture of Join Smith's wife, with the meter-card in her hand, saying to John (and how often has she not?) "I won't believe that we've used so much gas." She's right: Let her go on and blackguard the Company to her heart's content. But one hopes from John that he will take a stump of candle, go down to the collection. will take a stump of candle, go down to the cellar, and have a look round. He may not be a gas engineer, but what he sees may enable him to put two and two together; or, as one might say, "A" and "B" together.

MARCH 3, 1932

#### "Blasphemy On Trial."

210

Among Freethinkers Mr. Foote's three-hour address\* to the jury before Lord Coleridge is estimated as a classic among defences of Free Speech. It is said that Lord Coleridge, throughout the whole proceeding, never once took his eyes off the defend-ant. It is also recalled that Lord Coleridge's summing-up in the case—" a masterpiece in itself" was published by his Lordship afterwards. This book is worth reading by all students of politics, and especially by those who realise the nature of the problem now facing critics of the financial system, namely that of getting a hearing. Foote's fight for the right to criticise religious doctrine and policy forty-four years ago may be said to have resulted in a victory over the Church—although Freethinkers of to-day maintain that the complete victory is still ahead, and that the fight must go on without slackening of effort.

From their own point of view no doubt they are correct, but a new generation of reformers are turning their minds to the practical question of what, precisely, are the fruits of the victories won by Free-Speech advocates in the past and being striven after at present. That is to say, supposing the temporal authority and economic privileges of organised Christianity were to be completely destroyed, and all religious doctrines left exposed to the same kind of criticism as, let us say, Free Trade, or Protection, or "Capitalism" itself; well then, what sort of harvest would appear?—and who would reap it? Fifty years ago-even fourteen years ago Freethinkers could approach the working-classes and point out that in addition to the "spiritual" (so to speak) satisfaction of "speaking their minds" on Church doctrines, there would be the

secular satisfaction of dividing up Church property and diverting its revenues to the service of the State, not to speak of the new power accruing to political Labour from the destruction of the Church's

working alliance with Capitalism.

But what substance is there in any such notions to-day? Whatever the nature and measure of the anti-social influence exercised by the Church and resisted by Freethought, an immeasurably greater influence has been exercised by Finance against them both and against the whole community. The Credit Monopoly has always exploited political struggles to its own advantage. Every victory gained for Free Speech has been a defeat for Free Action. The more we may say what we like about the Deity the less we may do what we like with our own lives. The ultimate end of the process can be visualised in the picture of a people contentedly dying of starvation in return for the right to have blasphemies against the Deity carved on their tombestoned. If the Deity carved on their tombestoned is the picture of the picture stones! If the Freethought Movement is satisfied to win people the right to throw their chests out at the price of taking their belts in, the bankers are quite willing to help them do so. The very dimensions of the endowment fund which the Freethinkers have been able to collect during recent years will constitute, at least for readers of THE NEW AGE, presumptive evidence that the bankers are at least benevolently neutral in the issue between Theism and Atheism. It is not suggested that Freethought activities have been valueless—they have been most valuable in the sense that they have encouraged and taught people not to take the opinions of Authority for granted, but to prove things for themselves. Certainly no student of Social Credit, whose mind is at rest, and his hopes alight, as the result of Major Douglas's having looked the axioms of finance in the face and stared them out of countenance, can help a

\* "Blasphemy On Trial." G. W. Foote's Defence before Lord Coleridge on April 24, 1888. (Secular Society. 54 Pp. Price 6d.)

fellow-feeling for those who have shown the same spirit and courage in other fields of research.

MARCH 3, 1932

The parallelism between Social Credit and Freethought is far from exact; for in the case of religious doctrines their defenders can urge the antecedent impossibility of establishing their truth or falsity by the process of rational argument; where as, in the case of financial doctrines, any authoritative banker who presumed to say explicitly that banking policy and technique were similarly inexplicable would be generally derided. The suggestion that God had revealed to the bankers in a dream tion that God had revealed to the bankers in a dream how they were to discharge their functions would be too much for popular credibility—and, here, Freethinkers may justly take credit to themselves that few people nowadays, even among the most religious, would credit the Deity with undignifed "office-boy" miracles of that sort.

The practical question is whether to-day, allow-

The practical question is whether, to-day, allowing as much as you like for the anti-social influence of organised religion the anti-social to be of organised religion, there is anything to be gained by attacking it. By destroying it do you destroy the power of repression attributed to it, or would such power pass by reversion to organised would such power of repression attributed to it, would such power pass by reversion to organised finance? Are your cases by reversion to organised finance? Are you assisting a larger tyranny to absorb a smaller one? And is the economic lot the community going a larger tyrange the community going a larger tyrange to the community going the community going to the community going to the community going the commun the community going to be bettered simply because the "superstitious" basis of a religious autocracy gives way to the "scientific" basis of a financial autocracy?

autocracy?

It is highly significant, in this context, Aus-Bishop after Bishop, here and overseas (e.g., supertralia), is voluntarily descending from his stitious "fastness and talking bankers' science, making this, and not the Word of God, the guide of conscience. The danger to Freedom, connotations, is vastly more to be feared these rationalist priests than any threatened by the superstitious colleagues. They are manufacturing in her whole history. They should be admonished to mind their in her whole history. They should be admonished to mind their own business of interpreting of the will to man, and to leave the interpretation of the bankers' will to man's own reason.

Readers should receive with this issue an inset y weekly of Mr. A. R. Orage's projected new sixpenny bication on April 21. It will be published at 38, Cursitor Street Chancery Lane, E.C.4. Mr. Orage's qualities as and to need no elaboration for those who recall his conducting the period 1905-1922, and osay will be sure that what he and his contributors have to alwer deserve to be read. The new economic concepts the world to-day connote a transvaluation of values identify plane of thought, and insofar as it is possible to the possible to the new values. plane of thought, and insofar as it is possible to the new values and synthesize them in an intelligible two know of no man better qualified to than Mr. Orage. We wish for him a fair wind when sets sail.

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.

Lord and Lady Reading left London for Pale was under the middle of December. His Lordship's journey was on taken on behalf of the Palestine Electric Corporataviv which he is the chairman. On his secret visit to the was made the seventh freeman of that old Jewish 28, say commemoration address at Haifa, on December version of the death of Lord Melchett, and Lord and Lady valled later each planted a pine in the Balfour forest in the part of the Larly in Lanuary to the secret visit to

or Jezreel. Pranted a pine in the Balfour forest in the Balfour fo

#### Fourth Form Economics.

IA review of Major Douglas's book, The Monopoly of Credit, appeared in a contemporary, commonly supposed to represent the policy of Mr. J. M. Keynes, a few weeks ago, over the signature of Mr. J. A. Hobson, and evoked some criticism from correspondents. Major Douglas weeks agore was a some criticism from correspondents. Douglas wrote a comment on Mr. Hobson's reply, and suggested that an answer by Mr. Hobson's to a test question which was given in Major Douglas's letter would clarify the position. Mr. Hobson did not answer this question, stating that he did not understand it, but reiterated his own view of the cause of the deficiency of purchasing power. Major Douglas replied to this, drawing his attention to the fact that the test question had not been answered, but but suggesting that Mr. Hobson's explanation was, in fact, only a part of the explanation to which Mr. Hobson had taken exception. Mr. Hobson did not reply to the control of the explanation to which Mr. Hobson did not reply to the control of the contr reply to this. Two weeks afterwards an article entitled "The Douglas Theory" appeared in the same contemporary, over the signature of Mr. G. D. H. Cole, making no reference to the previous correspondence, but reiterating in another form Mr. Hob-son's dissent from the Douglas Theory, and repeat-ing the generalised ing the criticism without quoting the generalised answer to it. Major Douglas wrote to the Editor of the periodical in question, offering to reply to this article article under the same conditions as those in which the article itself appeared, and as met by a courteous refusal to accord equivalent publicity, coupled with a suggestion that a letter would be printed. Major Douglas replied that in the circumstances this did not appear to meet the case, and that he was not proceed to the case, and the case is a case is a case, and the case is a case is a case, and the case is a not prepared to deal with an article appearing in a prominent position in the reading matter through the agency of a letter appearing in the correspondence columns.—ED. N.A.]

Those disinterested and hard-working people who Review is associated, from the status of an idea into that of that of a factor in world politics, will long ago have recognised that the difficulty in obtaining an understanding standing of them is due not so much, if at all, to their in of them is due not so much, if at all, to their inherent complexity, as to the fact that persons refusing to accept them do not understand the working to accept them do not understand the working of the present-day world. This is parti-cularly true in the case of those who are detached

from the productive process.

As I am credibly informed, Mr. Cole, amongst other activities in Economics in the Uniother activities, is Reader in Economics in the University of Oxford. Therefore, we are bound to assume that he understands some economic system. reasons which I hope briefly to indicate, it is not the economic system which operates in the world to day, but he world to day, but he world to day but he world the world th to-day, but I feel sure it is a very interesting and venerable one.

Ole is not the current economic system, because Mr. I say sins his criticism of my views by stating that say there is not enough money generated in the course there is not enough money generated in the which are to be productive process to buy all the goods which are to be produced. I do not, of course, say the course of the sort, but it is clear that Mr. Cole is a satisfact and the course of my views a satisfact and the course of the sort of the sort of the sort of the sort of the course of the sort of the sort of the course of the sort of the sor

a satisfactory phrasing. Now the first point to remark is that it is exactly the difference between Mr. Cole's phrasing and phrasing that an examination of the subject like the property of the subject way, I think begin. Or to put the matter another way, I my that Mr. Cole suggests that the converse of money tenent is true, i.e., that there is enough broces generated in the course of the productive duces to be in the course of the productive duce The fact is that there is no money at all gen-The fact is that there is no mous-only thin the course of the productive process generates, thing that the productive process generates,

except goods and services, is prices. It distributes as much money as it can get hold of, but as it does not itself create any money at all, quite obviously what it distributes depends on something else. We know quite certainly from, amongst other sources, the speeches of Mr. McKenna, of the Midland Bank, that the amount of money that it can distribute or circulate depends almost entirely upon the amount of money which is actually created by the banking system, which is not the productive system at all.

In what, for convenience, we may term Mr. Cole's economic system, perhaps the most attractive feature is simplicity. There are so many things which happen that don't matter. The same elusive charm may be detected in Mr. Cole's polemics. What he doesn't agree with, is "mostly nonsense," and what he doesn't understand, is "confusion of thought." Like Dr

I am the Master of this College, All that there is to know I know it, And what I don't know isn't knowledge."

It appears to be a matter of no consequence who owns the money which the banks create. It is irrelevant whether debts are paid this year, next year, sometime, or, presumably, never; and, in particular, manufacturers' costs do not really affect prices, or in Mr. Cole's words, "the current levels of prices are based on a supply of purchasing power, including bank credits, to which the community has become acclimatised." The caly thing that does matter apparently is that rich men save, and the fact that, while there are fewer and fewer rich men and they are doing less and less saving, the economic situation gets steadily worse, is presumably also irrelevant. It does not appear to matter in Mr. Cole's accompany that the accounted reason for the cristones. economics that the accepted reason for the existence of limited companies is that they should pay a dividend, and that therefore their receipts collectively over a given period of, say, one year, should exceed their disbursements if this condition is to be met. This would mean that no matter what they made, whether it be plant or buildings, which last for, say, fifty years, or consumable articles which are used up in two or three days, the cost of production must be recovered and more than recovered during the current year. Quite obviously no costs must be current year. Quite obviously no costs must be charged against prices, which are not distributed during the current year. If Mr. Cole can show me any undertaking which is paying a dividend which only recovers in prices sums which it distributed only recovers in prices sums which it distributed during the current year, and therefore makes no charges in its prices for the use of its plant, for depreciation, interest on capital, and so forth, I shall be most interested.

If Mr. Cole will refer to the published speeches of bank chairmen, he will find that the amount of bank chairmen, he will find that the amount of money in existence varies from two predominant causes, the creation of deposits through the grantings of loans, and the purchase of securities by banks. A bank purchases a security by the process of drawing a cheque on itself. That cheque is paid into a private account. Consequently, if it is in into a private account. Consequently, if it is in respect of an "old" security, that security represents not only the original money which was presumably subscribed to create it, but fresh money created by the bank's purchase of it on the strength of its own credit, but if it is a new issue, only the issue price. But that doesn't matter to Mr. Cole.

I should not have felt it necessary to deal with him, if Mr. Cole had not set out a number of arguments which have from time to time been put forward by myself, and those associated with me, to meet piecemeal objections to the general contention that there is no relevance between the sum of the costs created by the modern costing system and the amount of money available to meet

those costs. I am not specially concerned to convert him to my views because I think that, whether consciously or unconsciously, he takes the view that the function of the financial system is to control the industrial system, which to my mind is much as if one said that the function of a barometer is to control the weather.

THE NEW AGE

By way of relief, I confess that the statement that "the distinction between production and potential productivity is the vital factor which the Douglas analysis leaves out of account " strikes me as being funny, without being vulgar. C. H. Douglas.

#### Defining the Strategic Position. By John Hargrave.

Correspondence regarding the reasoned sequence put forward in What is the Next Step? suggests that there is not a clear conception of the strategic position now forcing itself upon the Social Credit movement.

I think this can be made clear by means of a diagram, as follows:-



Psychological Channel of Escape from the Present into "dream-projection" of Social Credit State.

The thick black "barrier" in (3) above represents the apathetic and active resistance to Social Credit which has to be overcome. It symbolises the power of the Banking Combine and its hold upon the public mind (and purse).

#### Theatre Notes. By John Shand.

Mr. A. P. Herbert's new comic opera, "Derby Day," is enough to send a certain titled is enough to send a certain titled woman Member of Parliament into "astorics." Aided and abetted by Mr. Alfred Reynolds, who has written the music, by Sir Nigel Playfair, who has staged it extremely well at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and by the competent company who sing and act it, Mr. Herbert's opera defends beer, glorious beer, with word, melody and scene. It vindicates the pleasures of the common man of England against all those interfering busyloidies. terfering busybodies who add insult to the injuries of those who are cutting down his wages by trying to make beer as expensive and as weak as a prize lapdog and by turning his ancient club, the tavern, into something resembling a mixture of a Post Office and a Tudor manor-house built by a furniture-byinstalment firm. As the author's amusing prologue

"Prepare your shoulders with the rough to rub; Most of the action centres in a pub. Our heroine is not as others are,
But works those engines just behind the bar.
And you may nominate for leading man,

Either a tipster or a publican." prefer to nominate the publican, John Bitters, as the leading man because this landlord of the "Old Black Horse" is represented by Mr. Scott Russell, who sings him and acts him to perfection.

is hanging over the sign of "The Black Dog" and making Bitters bitter. There is a delightful scene at the end when these Justices make a personal visit to the terms of th the tavern. They are aged men who arrive in bathchairs, and the local policeman has had plenty of time to warn Bitters of their approach. His customers are discovered not drinking beer and playing darts but having a serious game of chess. Some of the women are knitting. are knitting; one old woman is improving her mind reading English 'istory (we can see it is "Ruff's Guide to the Turf," but the Justices are short sighted) and to the Turf," sighted), and to complete this carefully prepared imprompts. promptu for the edification of Licensing Justices several young ladies are to be seen knitting shawls

Next to Mr. Bitters I liked Mrs. Bones, the widow, who is inclined, like Sairey Gamp, to find the world "a wale." This is due less to congenital melancholy than to leak of preceding of response. choly than to lack of proper liquid refreshment; she sings at the opening of the opera: "Nothing, been the same since I took up with orange juice, and she dead to the took up that she needs is "a and she decides at last that what she needs is good little drop of beer." This does her so much gale that later on, with three of her cronies, she is able to sing, "But there—we mustn't grumble," which is one of the best things in the show followed by is one of the best things in the show, followed by an excellent duct with a show, followed by an excellent duet with the landlord on the theme of their proposed of their proposed marriage—an arrangement design of the or their proposed marriage—an arrangement quite agreeable to the widow on condition he is not declared "redundant." For she could not marry one that didn't keep a pub. "Do you suppose the says, "I could have lived all those years man? Bones if he hadn't been a fully licensed man? she says, "I could have lived all those years man Bones if he hadn't been a fully licensed man 'Marriage,' I said to him, 'is a heavenly mystery provided you've got some consolation on has premises." Miss Mabel Constanduros, who delighted so many people on the wireless, know delighted who to play Mrs. Bones.

The opera lives up to its title with three gothy

The opera lives up to its title with three good scenes which give us some lively views of many more people on to one of the big West End stages; he might have spent vast sums using real motor cars. more people on to one of the big West End stages, he might have spent vast sums using real motor cars, omnibuses, roundabouts, and racehorses were mersmith stage a handful of well-groupse method with give one the sensation of all the Artistand colour and excitement of "the Durby and colour and excitement of the Durby the and colour and excitement of the balances try well directed will always be the equal incesting the colour and superior bank balances. theatre to machinery and superior bank Boad to The first of these three scenes is "The Ryate". theatre to machinery and superior "The first of these three scenes is
Epsom." Here we find Sir Horace and Ladyth with their car, which is painted on the backsir Horace holes cut in the canvas for the windows. Frederick is a racehorse owner who doesn't bet (Mr. is a first Austin) and his lady (Miss Mabel Sealby) want to an M.P., and also a B.F. She it is who want to totallers, and so forth. When she sees the makers on the donkey-cart behind her car changing hater. makers on the donkey-cart behind her car changing hats with each other

"It's really rather shocking
The line where do they draw?
Next it will be the stocking
This should be stopped by
Meke a stock of it I will Make a note of it I will
I will introduce a Bill
To stop the Proletariat
Wearing someone else's hat.

Except that it would add some point if she all the were to use a slight American accent, part all very good performance, getting into the type the acidulated efficiency that goes with cart, not female busybody. Near that donkey-cart, not way, is Mr. Bitters. He is for Epsom, which bet, but to hundred years ago as "redundant," or rather, there house and take away its owner's livelihood without a "by your leave." It is this unpleasant word which "redundant." Mrs. Bones's son, important this by to acidulated efficiency that goes with goe

that Rose (Miss Tessa Deane), who ought to be behind the bar at the "Black Horse," is with the costers on the donkey-cart. She has refused to marry Bert, and adores Sir Horace's son, Eddy (Mr. Bruce Anderson), who is the villain of the piece because, as he sings to a sentimental tune:

The boy with virtuous parent is a most unlucky lad, For by the law of average he almost must be bad. . . ." Rose, in order to get money to marry him, has stolen the contents of the innkeeper's safe to put a safe bet on the favourite. She does not know, poor girl, the awful revenge that Bitters is contemplating and which we see him carry into effect in the next scene, which is the favourite's stable. Pericles, the horse, is peeping out of his box when Bitters and Bert approach. Bitters wants to know how he is going to get near "the perishing animal" with that copper standing there. Bert says that all Bitters have applied to the says that all Bitters have the say Bitters has to do is to stand where he is and call the horse names and sing to him. "This orse is the horse names and sing to him. "This 'orse is sensitive 'orse, see? Can't stand a crorse word, at a sensitive 'orse, see? Can't stand a crorse word, at a sensitive 'orse, see? Can't stand a crorse word, at a sensitive 'orse, see? Can't stand a crorse word. ates bad language, crumples up if anyone insults All you got to do is to stand over 'ere and sing insultin' at 'im, see? Nobody can't say nothin' against yer singin'." By the time Bitters has finshed singing, the favourite, appalled by a recital in the minor of the state of the state of the state of the singing. the minor key of the evils caused by horse-racing, faints away in his box.

And so Rose loses her stolen money. All these factors are cleverly worked into the last act, where Rose is accused, and Bert says he is the guilty one, and Decreased, and Bert says he to confess to his and Rose turns on Eddy, who has to confess to his hortified parents that he is responsible, upon which Sir Horace pays the bill, renews Bitters' licence, and has a glass of beer himself, and Rose declares for Bert. Black Horse" is lovely, and Bert concludes that so long as the tea-drinkers don't interfere with the beer-drinkers, the beer-drinkers will refrain from

Day ", " only this to add in conclusion. "Derby by "," it have only this to add in conclusion. "Derby by "," it have only this to add in conclusion. Day have only this to add in conclusion.

I hope is a novel piece of work, and is well done, and hope is although it dehope it has a successful run. But although it de-lends the pleasures of the proletariat, I do not be-leve the pleasures of the proletariat. The leve the pleasures of the proletariat, I do not be leve they will go to it in any great numbers. The common man and his wife will prefer to see Miss Gracie Fields and his wife will prefer to see Miss Gracie Fields and his wife will prefer to see Miss Gracie Fields and his wife will be seen to be Gracie Fields and her jolly revue, "Walk Ims Way", at the Winter Garden. And I agree with him, The night I was at the Winter Garden a backed and night I was at the roof off with laughter taking the roof off wit The night I was at the Winter Garden a backed audience was taking the roof off with laughcompany, and I was helping with full lungs. There at the Winter Garden which is somewhat lacking the Lyric

And Mr. Herbert's ordinary man is not to be amboozled into mistaking the one for the other. Sir Toby Belch, he knows "the best kind of ooling, when all's done.

#### Recent Pamphlets.

Recent Pamphrets.

Recent Pamphrets.

Ward "Printing and Publishing Co., Glasgow. 24 pp.

Price 2d.)

Reliable 2d.

Printing and Publishing

Printing and Publishing

Reli With Justice—We Want Economics! By Nevile
Wilkinson. (Faber and Faber. Criterion Miscellany,
No. 38, 32 pp. Price 1s.)

This 38. 32 pp. Price is.) of many authenticated quotations. One feature is an authenticated quotations. One feature is an with of the Directors of the Bank of England to with which each is with of the Directors of the Bank of England to the house of companies with which each is ted. Similarly the business interests of each member account Committee are set out. The pamphlet is a account to the pamphlet is a country of the pamphlet is account of post-war political intriguing by bankers. Writer is entertaining, his sentiments right, he equating consumption with production, but his are not agree to teach not concisely stated. He has nothing to teach redit student, but some of his remarks may give

#### The Films.

#### Miasma Over Elstree.

It is time that someone should speak a few plain words to the English film industry, to its producing concerns, directors, scenario writers, casting directors, renters, and players. The native industry, thanks mainly to the quota scheme, and no doubt aided by the "Buy British" campaign, is to-day producing more pictures than at any previous period of its history, and I should be the first to admit, as I have in these columns, that in some instances box office success has been accompanied by merit. But the generality of English films are shoddy, mediocre, and amateurish; their average quality tends to deteriorate rather than improve with every advance in quantity; and I can see no hope for improvement so long as the industry not only boycotts any spark of originality, but also regards its every production with invincible complacency.

Consider the themes. Artistically they are kitchenmaid stuff. They concern themselves almost solely with the doings of uninteresting and lifeless solely with the doings of uninteresting and irreless upper middle-class puppets, with a sprinkling of what passes for the aristocracy; their sawdust emotions represent life as depicted by an elderly spinster in a parish magazine; and their horizon is bounded by Wimbledon, Monte Carlo, and night clubs. As for their dreadful attempts at humour, the best one can say is that the result is not quite as appealing as the corresponding attempts of the so appalling as the corresponding attempts of the

No endeavour is made to secure actors and actresses who know, or care, anything of the job of acting for the screen. Instead, we have elderly players of both sexes who, on their own confession, betray the most complete ignorance of and indifference to film technique, or incapable chocolate-box beauties who may be excellent examples of the insipid bread and butter English miss, but possess no other claim to public recognition. That the men are, on the whole, much better is due to the fact that although the English stage is almost devoid of actresses it has many capable and finished actors; it is certainly not due to any flair on the part of casting directors.

I have said many harsh things about the Ameri-I have said many harsh things about the American film, but only a cretin could deny that the average standard set by Hollywood is incomparably higher than that of Elstree, and that while America turns out a quite respectable number of really good pictures every year, Elstree's annual output of good films can literally be counted on the furgers of the furgers. films can, literally, be counted on the fingers of one hand, with room to spare. Even if one make the fullest allowance for the smaller financial resources, smaller market, and smaller output of the English industry, the comparison is entirely to the detriment of the native product.

I can frankly see no remedy for this deplorable state of affairs. In addition to its intolerable complacency, the industry is honeycombed with incompetent amateurs. The majority of members of the directorates of the producing concerns are mere guinea-pigs, or at best men who put in some work in connection with a highly-specialised and highly-complex enterprise of which they know next to nothing. The smallest glimmering of originality among directors or scenerio writers is regarded as infect, and our producers have not even the wit to see the vast field of natural and architectural beauty and historic associations that lies at their doorsteps. Of the ready-made scenarios embedded in English literature and history they know nothing; and although America has made many good pictures having a great industry, such as the railways, for their background, Britain's solitary attempt in this direction to date has been a film sponsored by the Empire Marketing Board, if one except that

dreadful production, "The Flying Scotsman," of which even Wardour Street would seem to have the decency to be ashamed. The product of the British motion-picture factories—one cannot call them studios—is neither English, nor does it have that international appeal that, despite the handicap of the talkies, still characterises so much of the output of Hollywood; it is sunk in a miasma of mediocrity, banality, absence of originality, and lack of inventiveness.

#### This Week's Films.

René Clair's masterpiece, "Sous les Toits de Paris," is being revived at the Academy. "Gentleman for a Day," an unusual American picture of which the whole action takes place at a railway station, is at the Regal and Pavilion. "Emma," the latest Marie Dressler film, continues at the Empire. "City Streets" is in the Stoll programme. pire. "City Streets" is in the Stoll programme.
Next week the Academy will show Pabst's
"Kameradschaft."

DAVID OCKHAM.

#### Music.

Emmy Heim the admirable singer who broadcast a few weeks since is by far and away the most gifted and accomplished exponent of Lieder we have heard since Julia Culp's best days. A voice of rare beauty is manipulated with a technique of phenomenal accomplishment, and on these as a foundation is reared an interpretative artistry and a musicianship of the rarest and finest order. A group of Mahler announced had aroused the liveliest anticipations, and these were not cheated for Mme. Heim was made and fashioned to sing Mahler. If anyone wants to hear the only two women singers of the present day whose art reaches the summits both as pure singing and as musical art let him listen to Toti dal Monte and Emmy Heim.

B.B.C. Symphony Concerts.

The new Bax work Winter Legends for piano and orchestra is considerably less successful than the Symphonic Variations (which in response to stupid clamour the composer was so weak and ill-advised as to shorten, for there is no case of which I have knowledge where a composition has not suffered in contraction). It is episodic in a disjointed way and no compelling interior logic seems to bind the various episodes together into a wellknit whole. There is a deal too much "Swell-Organ pumphandling" effect in it. The ceaseless flux and reflux of crescendo-diminuendo and vice versa becomes irritating and tiresome: it seems as if the composer (or perhaps his performers) dare not trust themselves to a level dynamic stretch for more than a second or two at a time. The treatment of the solo instrument is not happy: although the composer is at pains to tell us that the work is not a concerto in the usual sense but a sinfonia concertante. There were many places in which for all it contributed to the general scheme the piano might have been non-existent: in other and more powerful hands if might have told better. But in all respects that make a good symphonic composition, as Mr. Gray has so well and brilliantly laid down in his book on Sibelius, the work seemed to me notably lacking, especially in contrast to John Ireland's admirable symphonic rhapsody Mai-dun which does possess these elements in a marked degree; an interior logic a cohesion an inevitability of progress from point to point which Winter Legends to my mind does not possess.

The following week was made noteworthy by Maggie Teyte's exquisite singing of Ravel's lovely Schéhérazadé songs. A greater nor more powerful and subtle evocative magic nor more lively and imaginative sympathy than that which Miss Teyte applied to her wonderful interpretation of these rarely sung songs cannot be imagined. Add to

this a beauty and purity of French diction and enunciation like Miss Teyte's and there is something to dream of. From this arachnean delicacy of music poetry and interpretation to the empty bombastic vulgarities of Paul Hindemith's Konzert musik for strings and brass was like partaking of a souffly from the inspired hands of Monsieur Boulestin and following with something from the table of a Bloomsbury lodging house. One wonders, why Bruckner and Mahler and Sibelius should be kept waiting for a few should be kept waiting waiting for performances while the B.B.C. make their most persistent propaganda for Hindemith. is difficult to take up a Radio Times without finding one or more works of this composer down for performance while it is of this composer down for performance while it is almost impossible to take up one which contain one which contains any of the three great names have already mentioned. And we have heard no Berg at all to account to the state of his Berg at all to speak of, and absolutely none of his mature work. mature work. One concert devoted recently to some younger Russians seemed designed to show feeble and disgusting are the last bees of Tchair kovsky Scriabine and Rimsky Korsakov dished up with wood alcohol and synthetic vipous products from with wood alcohol and synthetic vinous products from a modern chemical from the synthetic vinous products from a modern chemical from the synthetic vinous products from the synthetic vinous p a modern chemical factory, and it certainly achieved this to admiration. In the meantime the grad Medtner first piano Concerto a noble austere and lofty conception remains attacks unknown lofty conception remains utterly unknown and Michael Gniessing. Michael Gniessin the author of some very interesting, songs not even at the author of some very the B.B.C. songs not even a name. And when are the B.B.C. as a change from as a change from ratcatching in the sewers of a most unsavoury conterns unsavoury contemporaneity, going to let us those some of the marvels of music locked away in splendid volumes of Tudor Church Music published by the Oxford University Press, that amazing Let in by the Oxford University Press—that amazing Tallis
Motet in forty parts for instance, and now that in
response to the classour of the greatest stupidity the response to the clamour of the greatest stupidity of the greatest stupidity the response to the clamour of the greatest stupidity the the greatest number, they have knocked out Bach Cantatas (which they invariably massacret) why not some of the great Masters of early evidence iastical music in Italy Spain and the Sorabji contrapuntists?

MARCH 3, 1932

Reviews.

Camping and Woodcraft. By Horace Kephart.

millan. 10s. 6d. net.)

Kephart has long been the standard technical work of vooderaft. This is Kephart has long been the standard technical manner of exclusively for American, and out-of-date as regards for conditions, it still remains the most comprehensive books, camp-making, the camp-fire, "pests of the woodts," and is much detail with cooking under wild wood condps, with woodcraft, finding the way, sketch-manner of the woods, technique, concentrated foods, first and with manner of the woods, the woods, and the way, sketch-manner of the woods, the woods, and the way, sketch-manner of the woods, first and with manner of the way, and and with manner of the way, and and with manner of the way, and and with manner of the woods, first and with manner of the way, and and with manner of the way, and and with manner of the woods, first and with manner of the woods, and the way, and with manner of the woods, and the way, and with manner of the woods, and the way, and the way,

Sale By Auction. By Geoffrey Dennis. (Heinemann of Mr. Dennis's story of a little Yorkshire town chemistry year's ago is written with a certain ability. A town of assistant commits suicide; his death sets the bile program with scandal, and indirectly throws some valuably buyers the on the market. The intrigues of the prospective who who will be complicated arrangements of the auctioneer; the own "character," are told with spirit. There is, however the humanity in the book, and most of the author M. J. Ittle humanity in the book, and most of the author M. J. A. By J. M. By

Benn's Ninepenny Novels. The Next Generation.

Beresford. Incredible Tale. By Naomi Roydes The Love is a Flame. By Mrs. Belloc Lownders. By Broom Squires. By Eden Phillpotts. The Single Maugh.

By Storm Jameson. Leap Before You Look. The Waugh.

These are

Waugh.

These are the first six of Messrs. Benn's new series of the run to about 160 pp. each. Their best place is pocket story bookstall, for they slip easily into the overcoortinuous many of us would prefer to pay 9d. for a middle than 1s. for an indifferent magazine.

authors whom Messrs. Benn have commissioned seem, naturally perhaps, not quite at their best in this new venture, but they know how to make their stuff readable.

The Devil Drives. By Virgil Markham. (Collins. 7s. 6d.) Most detective novels are written so badly that one can only suppose them to be taken as a drug; which is a pity, because they might well afford good reading, as anyone who has browsed among the Notable Trials or followed current horrors in the Sunday papers will admit. "The Devil Drives" stands out from the general ruck as being conscientiously written. The story is marred, perhaps, for more serious readers by being set among the gunmen, for the really interesting crimes are to be found among ordinary people in the next street, but the characters, though not alto gether felt as human beings are at least well planned, and the complicated plot is unfolded with considerable skill.

The Seven Niches. By Egerton Clarke. (Cecil Palmer.

Mr. Clarke's latest poem is a legend of Christendom in the conventional style of contemporary English Catholic Poets, which possibly derives from William Morris's medieval

She rises up your heart's reward Between the vale of Avalon And the walls of Joyous Garde.

Mr. Clarke is, however, something of a poet, and here and there is, however, something of a poet, and here and there he rises above his convention and does himself more

Will you some other place frequent? Retire to gainless rooms and play With half-grown dreams ephemeral
As clouds, like malefactors stay
Consumed by shadows, 'gainst a wall
Of high indifference and be Unhappy? Or will you not Process with Me and feed on Me, That islet suddenly begot
And white in Heaven's azure sea,
The carried Host upraised on high,

Above men's heads, against the sky Above men's heads, against the say.

Above men's heads, against the say.

Above men's heads, against the say.

Above men's heads, against the say. sion, and the thought—to use a fine word which has gone out of serious use—is elevated throughout the poem.

A. Bonella.

KIBBO KIFT.

Public meeting, Essex Hall, Strand, on Thursday, March 3, the Way of Escape."

KIBBO KIFT.

At 6.30 p.m. Subject: "The Truth About The Crisis, and The Way of Escape."

The above meeting has been arranged in the following ircumstances. The Kibbo Kift, in pursuance of a plan of ampaign decided upon recently, sent a detachment of union the decided upon recently, sent a detachment of union the decided upon recently, sent a detachment of unions. med men to each of the meetings held at the Memorial on the last six Thursday evenings, which, it will be renamen on the last six Thursday evenings, which, it will be the last six Thursday evenings, which is the last six Thursday evenings, which is the last six Thursday evenings, which is the last six Thursday evenings and the last six Thursday evenings are six that the last six that the behalion to the speaker, announcing that he asked it on cressfully Dut. The behalion to the speaker, announcing that he asked it on cressfully Dut. The event no question was sucon a control of the Kibbo Kift. In the event no question was sucon a control of the king of the control of the king of the control of the contro cessfully of the Kibbo Kift. In the event no question the Kibbo Kift. In the event no question to the Kibbo Kift. In the event no question the Chairman on every put—at least not viva voce—because the Chairman on every put—at least not viva voce—because the Chairman on the every put—at least not viva voce—because the Chairman on the country put and the proceedings as soon as on every put—at least not viva voce—because the chairs as soon the speaker had finished. On the final occasion, how-write detachment-leader walked up to the platform with however question which he handed to the Chairman. This question which he handed to the graduate to put wever question which he handed to The failure to puter was not answered either. The failure to puter was not answered either. The failure to puter was not answered either. The failure to puter was was not answered either. The failure to puter was not answered either. o, Staff, whose plan did not depend on success in bitout on familiarising the audiences with the name and lave be of the Kibbo Kift. At the last meeting (it may kibb been) been at the last two meetings) girl-members of the Rift at the last two meetings) girl-mentions of the lobby hall, where they gave away leaflets. The leaflets on ast occasion, February 25, advertised the Kibbo Kift and now advertised above. Altogether about a meeting of them were distributed to departing audiences. thereting (for Thursday of this week) has been timed, as to g (for Thursday of this week) has been timed. as to the day and the hour, to continue the weekly bence held at the Memorial Hall, so as to catch the bence held at the Memorial Hall, so as to catch the bence is the meeting-place. The only change in the of the meeting-place. The idea is to take advantable the meeting-place if any, generated by Memorial Hall series—to insinuate, as it were, this into the series as the sequel, or culmination, of the sequence of addresses. Students of the technique for the above experiment succeeds; and that is the reating explanation of the technique for the above experiment succeeds; and that is the reating explanation of the succeeds. this explanatory note. Admission is stated to be

free. Presumably this is in order to maintain the Memorial Hall precedent. Note the venue—not the Memorial Hall, but Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Nearest stations are Aldwych (Piccadilly Tube) and Temple (District Railway). Essex Street runs south out of the Strand, nearly opposite the Law Courts.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"THE NATION'S CREDIT."

Sir,—Owing to absence on business I have only just seen the letter from "S" in your number of February 18 last on the subject of my pamphlet, "The Nation's Credit." I think he has misunderstood my meaning on pages 20 and 21.

At and A2 represent the wages, etc., distributed in making

consumers and capital goods respectively during a given period; not the "rate of production" of these two classes

The B1 costs of this period of time include not only the Az costs, but also the B2 costs of a preceding period. meet these B1 costs there are available only the current A2

I quite agree with "S" that it is not desirable for capital goods to be produced merely to provide purchasing power to buy consumers' goods. What is, perhaps, even more to the point, it is a practical impossibility for this rate of capital production to continue.

SPENGLER AND THE CULTURE CYCLE.

Sir,—If I am to understand that I am the wasp which stung the tramp, I apologise: if not, I apologise for my presumption in mis-reading the fable in favour of my own

But your "free advertisement" of Spengler was welladvised, if I may venture a humble opinion. Within his own scope Spengler's "financial compass" undoubtedly points "due north." He blows the gaff on Democracy, and points out the real conflict to-day—that between Money and the Sword. S.C. tacticians might take the hint. I, too, disagree with Spengler's conclusions; but I do not consider that I could deal adequately with his thesis in a short article, even though I happen to be an advocate of Social Conflict. Credit. GREEN ARMLETS.

Sir,—Your correspondent, D. Beamish, and possibly others, may be interested to know that we are now making arrangements for the supply of green armlets at a small cost to all advocates of Social Credit who may wish to have them.

We think the suggestion of some symbol or slogan to appear in white on the green armlet a good one, but agree with your correspondent that the phrase "Social Credit" is often confused in the public mind with some form of

Before going forward, therefore, with the actual making of green armlets, we should much appreciate any suggestions from readers of The New Age for a suitable symbol, slogan, or other device to appear on these armlets. IAN A. Ross,

General Secretary Kibbo Kift.

7, Northbrook Road, Hford, Essex.

Sir,-Miss Beamish mentions in her letter this week the one generally acknowledged drawback to the use of the quite correct term Social Credit—its suggestion, to outsiders, of

But more important, perhaps, than that drawback is the fact that the authors of any false enemy scheme, such as the Eisler plan, would certainly, on occasion, claim its inclusion under that term.

Is there any objection to the transport of the property o

Is there any objection to the "official" adoption of the label, already in common use and inexpugnably definite-DOUGLAS CREDIT?

Major C. H. Douglas will speak on "The Basis of Reconstruction" at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.2, on Friday, March 11, at 7 o'clock.

Hon. Organising Secretary. No. 1 Mess.

TO SOUTH AFRICAN READERS.

"The South African Social Credit Movement" is the name of a body which has been formed in Johannesburg; and the promoters would be pleased to hear from Social-Credit supporters in South Africa willing to join with them in extending the knowledge of the subject among the public. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary of the Movement as above described, P.O. Box 5919, Johannesburg.

## ACADEMY CINEMA, OXFORD STREET

(Opposite Warings). 'Phone: Ger. SUNDAY, MARCH 6th. 'Phone: Ger. 2981. Premier Presentation in England of Pabst's Great Symbolic Epic of the Mines "KAMERADSCHAFT"

Last Days "Sous Les Toits" and Hitchcock's "Blackmail."

### T.B.—A FREE BOOK.

5,000 TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

Any sufferer from this disease who has not yet read the book recently published at 3/6, by an English physician on the treatment and cure of Tuberculosis, may have a copy, whilst the supply lasts, sent free of charge to any address. Applications to

CHAS. H. STEVENS, 204, Worple Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20.

## THE "NEW AGE" CIGARETTE

Premier grade Virginian tobacco filled by hand in cases made of the thinnest and purest paper, according to the specification described in this journal on January 23, 1930.

Large size (18 to the ounce). Non-smouldering.

Prices: 100's 7/6 (postage 3d.); 20's 1/6 (postage 2d.) Price for Export ex English duty quoted on minimum quantity of 1,000.

FIELDCOVITCH & Co., 72, Chancery Lane, W.C.2

(Almost on the corner of Holborn and Chancery Lane).

## The Social Credit Movement.

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

The Subscription Rates for "The New Age," to any address in Great Britain or Abroad, are 30s. for 12 months; 15s. for 6 months; 7s. 6d.

## CREDIT RESEARCH LIBRARY.

## Books and Pamphlets on Social Credit.

BRENTON, ARTHUR. Social Credit in Summary. 1d. The Key to World Rolitics. 1d. Through Consumption to Prosperity. 2d. The Veil of Finance. 6d. C. G. M.

The Nation's Credit. 4d. Unemployment or War. 12s. 6d. (Procured from COLBOURNE, M.

New York to order.) DOUGLAS, C. H. Economic Democracy: 6s.

Economic Democracy: 6s.

Credit Power and Democracy. 7s. 6d.

The Breakdown of the Employment System.

The Control and Distribution of Production.

7s. 6d. Social Credit. 7s. 6d.
The Monopoly of Credit. 3s. 6d.
These Present Discontents: The Labour Party and Social Credit. 18.
The World After Washington. 6d. Social Credit Principles. 1d. Warning Democracy. 7s. 6d.

DUNN, E. M.
The New Economics.
Social Credit Chart.

An Outline of Social Credit. 6d. HATTERSLEY, C. MARSHALL. This Age of Plenty. 3s. 6d. and 6s. Men, Machines and Money. 4d. HICKLING, GEORGE. (Legion of Unemployed.)
The Coming Crisis and The Coming Crisis, 2d.

POWELL, A. E.
The Deadlock in Finance. 3s. 6d. The Flow Theo y of Economics. 55

TUKE, J. E. Outside Eldorado. 3d. YOUNG, W. ALLEN. Ordeal By Banking. 2s.

More Purchasing Power. 25 for 6d.

## Critical and Constructive Works on Finance, Economics, and Politics.

DARLING, J. F.

Economic Unity of the Empire: Gold and Credit. F.

Economic Unity of the Empire: Unify the Empire
The "Rex"—A New Money to Unify the Empire
25. BANKS, PAUL.

HARGRAVE, JOHN.

The Great Pyramid—An Analysis of the diagram Economic Structure of Society.

With diagram

The Plebs Atlas. 1s.
An Outline of Economic Geography. 25 6d. HORRABIN, J. F.

The Flaw in the Price System.
The Limited Market. 4s. 6d.
SYMONS, W. T., and TAIT, F.
The Just Price ad

## Instructional Works on Finance and

#### Economics.

BARKER, D. A. Cash and Credit. 35. Address: 70, High Holborn, London, W.C.1

Published by the Propeletor (ARTHUR BRENTON), 70, High Holborn, W.C. (Telephone: Chancery 8470), and printed for him by THE ARTES PRESENTED, Temple-avenue and Tudor-street, London, E.C.4.