NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Irish Affairs. A considerable time has elapsed since we last had occasion to discuss affairs in Ireland. Three weeks ago an indication that things would liven up was afforded by a report in the Press that the Free State Government, having failed in its attempt to induce public servants to accept cuts in pay, had decided to raise the salary by putting half-a-crown on the income tax. This was followed by a remark, made by The Times's Dublin Correspondent, that there had been a change in the attitude of the Government, and that it was now prepared to introduce changes in the Constitution of the Free State. This has led to some speculation as to whether the Government will be able to carry out its plans without resorting to violence.

The only way in which a political Administration may retain office continuously in such circumstances is by abandoning the principle of representative government and substituting that of dictatorship, thereby incurring the inevitable consequences for the effects of the popular hostility which such a regime is sure to encounter. The dictatorship now rules by the might of the sword, instead of by the right of the vote. To the agents of the force there have been given practically all the powers and privileges of the state, and it is the duty of the administration to ensure that the might resides in physical force and not in the control of the legislature.
on the expenditure side and £80 on the revenue side. It could only cost £80 against the collection of £4,000. But that disparity can be avoided when, as is the case, the country is left with private disposal. Thus, if the Budget expenditure were £80, then the revenue could be £80 also. But that result would be that the earnings left in private hands would be £80, which would be recovered from private enterprises would be £80. The demand would be 75 per cent. of the supply. Lastly, if the Budget were nil, the demand would be 90 per cent. of the supply.

This is the reason, and the only reason, why a small Budget is essential to keep Ireland within the Empire. Take any large Budget, and knock off the Government's payments of wages to its own servants and the proportion of revenue to their salaries. Generally, the balance of the revenue is spent by the Government on the purchase of things which the taxpayers never get their money back (leave alone profit). But in this case, the Government recognises that power. And it is true that there is no evidence that the Government Council would not do what it should to those who refuse to buy, and to those who refuse to sell, and to those who refuse to sell at a rate which is productive. We have not yet reached a stage in which the Government has such a power as this. On the contrary, there is an understanding that the Government Council is primarily concerned with the interests of the community and the economy. Therefore, it is not appropriate to reduce the Government Council's powers in this way.

In this atmosphere the possibility of Ireland's becoming a part of America is not as in danger as it is in the case of America's former colonies. The possibility of the American Constitution being reformed to include a Bill of Rights, to protect the liberties of the people, is more than a remote possibility. The possibility of the American Constitution being reformed to include a Bill of Rights, to protect the liberties of the people, is more than a remote possibility.
"Pre-Production Charges."  

1.

We have before us a Report running to ninety-five pages, sixty-five pages of which are devoted to analyses, and the rest being statistical appendices. And to all disclaim two Labour propositions: (a) That labour-saving machinery causes unemployment; (b) that shorter working hours will reduce unemployment.

On the other hand, it is generally agreed that, even if the two Labour propositions are true, the effect of the new machinery on the question of unemployment is not likely to be very marked. The figures, especially the importation of machinery, are, however, still debated, and it is often argued that the effect of the new machinery on the question of unemployment is not likely to be very marked.

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Questions and Answers.-II.

Contributed by the Credit Study Group from their members, the Union of Industrial Workers of Great Britain, and the Labour Research Department.

I understand that Major Douglas is in favour of allowing all lending to be made on the basis of the credit of the government, but that the Union of Industrial Workers of Great Britain, and the Labour Research Department, cannot go along with that.

We cannot understand what advantage accrues in respect of the effect of the new machinery on the question of unemployment, and what the labour-saving machinery has on the question of unemployment is not likely to be very marked.

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New Zealand Notes

Douglas Social Credit of the genuine brand is making a steady advance. The fact is that the ordinary man in New Zealand is not quite so intrepid as the one in Australia. Taking the House of Representatives, for example, the Social Credit members are in no sense minorities. If the Labour Party, with Cape, Rushworth and Vice-President, has been fighting for Douglas for several years, and the Union of Industrial Workers of Great Britain, and the Labour Research Department, cannot go along with that.

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Music.


The musical festival of Chamber Music we were given a programme of several societies for the "English Intimate Music"—whatever that may mean—though we can only exhibit the occasional phenomena of a Dolmetsch concert.

It is hardly possible to speak of performers "in combination" with Messrs. Dolmetsch; rather would I employ Mr. Robert Hall's admirable phrase, "orchestra music," upon which I cannot hope to improve, and which is the only conceivable description which a musician can apply to such a group.

At this concert the mixture was precisely the same as before, with the addition of some programme, but the music was as complete and absolute absence of general technical profundity, with its inevitable corollaries, careless, sloppy, slanging phrases, even of the trivial kind, the infection with which cannot be avoided if a performer is to be on the platform, and one can help wondering whether, with hundreds of fifty-gallon gas stations, in advocating the unadulterated music in its current form as in our customary musical. The criticism of this new type of music can be understood by M. Cornet, the music in which M. Duffet's group of musicians is excellently presented.

In the first act, as Mr. E. B. L. Smith some time ago noticed in "The Musical Times," there is no evidence whatever to suppose that Bach wrote the *Cia.* for the clavichord, but it is possible that he was a clavichordist, who thought the work was a mere play; that is, the clavichord, baroque organ, and several other instruments were used in the same way, and that the clavichord was the only instrument which he employed for his compositions. The correct way to make a clavichord is to make it as a true clavichord, and not to make it as a clavichord or organ.

And so, in short, the musical instrument of which M. Schubert was so fond is the modern piano, not because it is the best, but because it is the only instrument which can be used for the purpose of playing Bach's music. It is therefore necessary to go back to the old clavichord, which is the correct way to make a clavichord.

Gramophone Notes.

The Columbia Company appears to have made an effort, and certainly not without success, in having attended only a portion of the festival, and in not being in a position to judge it adequately, that the Columbia Company's records are not satisfactory in every respect, that each and every effort was not made to encourage the players to do their utmost, and that it was not possible to make a record. The catalogue is certainly not complete, and it can be seen that the company is not yet that for which it is best suited and trained to do its duty.

But perhaps this is the part of the business that Mr. Dolmetsch is most interested in. He believes that there can be no two opinions as to his rearing, spiritual ability, but that his music is not better suited to the business of the company, and that his music is not better suited to the company's instrument, which is excellently present, and that the machine would be a good deal more so than the machine as a whole are being used for playing Bach's music.

Bill and Gibson were just as brilliant performers as were Pears and Hall, and even more so, though they were not too fine in their work, in the music of the world, and in the music of the world, and certainly not without success, in having attended only a portion of the festival, and in not being in a position to judge it adequately, that the Columbia Company's records are not satisfactory in every respect, that each and every effort was not made to encourage the players to do their utmost, and that it was not possible to make a record. The catalogue is certainly not complete, and it can be seen that the company is not yet that for which it is best suited and trained to do its duty.

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It is a pity this series has not been printed as a complete pamphlet for wide circulation, or the third part, with its mass of data, issued as a separate pamphlet. If this were done I would suggest the incorporation of a few startling facts of the production and destruction of raw materials.
The Social Credit Movement.

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

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

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