

THE NEW AGE

INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As the present number of THE NEW AGE has to be prepared before the Whitsuntide holiday no comment is possible on anything after May 18.

The Tithes Bill.

Correspondence has been carried on in *The Times* during the interval since we last referred to this subject. A letter on May 9 by Mr. Millard and one by Mr. Allen on May 12 are recorded here for the benefit of readers who are interested in the controversy. Mr. Allen gives a short historical survey of the subject, and in the course of it cites Dr. Cormack, who, in his book, *Teinds and Agriculture*, put the pre-commutation position in the words: "It was the harvest that owed the tithes, and not the land that produced the harvest." Thus there was no liability for tithe at all unless "tithable things" were produced on the land. Other things, and very profitable things were made, e.g., houses, comments Mr. Allen, but houses were "not tithable as of common right." Then he alludes to the commutation of tithe into "tithe-rent-charge issuing out of the land" (quoting Dr. Cormack). He comments that the "confiscatory character of this attack on the land-owner's property" was disguised under a provision that the land-owner should not be called upon personally to guarantee the income of the tithe-recipient. He concludes by quoting Dr. Cormack's statement that: "Payment of tithe was considered an act of justice to the servants of Church, who, like all workmen, were worthy of their hire. It is important to note that this payment was an act of religion, God, having given everything, ought to receive His share of everything." Mr. Allen, against the background of this and other historical considerations, submits that the Tithe Bill should not be passed in its present form, Tithe-owners ought not to be invested with "more than the appropriate remedy for this particular kind of charge," due regard being had to the "circumstances in which it was created by the Act of 1836."

* * *

Tithe-transactions in those old times were a matter of barter conducted in a religious spirit between the

servants of the land and the servants of the church. It was as if, every harvest-time, the clergy, like the disciples in the Gospel story, were to be seen wandering through the fields plucking ears of corn. The season of reaping was the season of the sabbath, exactly as the "day of rest" was the sabbath day. What more in concord with doctrine and tradition? "Six days shalt thou work," and on the seventh thou shalt eat. The six working days were the tribute to Caesar, and the one day of leisure the tribute to God—the Crucifixion and the Resurrection re-enacted on the human stage of production and consumption.

* * *

To-day the Money Power is Lord of the Sabbath, and instead of our seeing the welcoming hosts who tended the soil mingling with their rightful guests who ministered to souls, we now see them both as conscripts of Finance in bitter antagonism, hurling cries of "Rapacity" and "Default" the one against the other. What was once a spiritual sacrament is become a sordid slaughter, and the miasma of Money floats like poison-gas over the whole arena.

* * *

Yet there is no call for repining. A new Star in the East has risen, and the renaissance of civilisation is at hand. To every man and woman with Social-Credit insight the Day is here—in their hearts; "and all eyes shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

* * *

The "Act of 1836" was a diabolical trans-substantiation of the element of a natural sacrament into a token of financial gaming and oppression. It marked the date from which, according to Mr. Wade (*Modern Finance and Industry*), commenced "the long financial pressure of 1836-39 which led to the Peel Act"—that is, to the Bank Charter Act of 1844. This Act established the power of Finance to perfect its plans for monopolising money. There is no room for doubt that this piece of legislation had been pre-determined by at least eight years. The Act of 1836 extended the scope of compulsion on persons to use money—to gamble with it and scramble for it. This measure virtually completed the foundations on which the Money Monopoly could be constructed. Legislation since then has consisted, so to speak, of passing builders' plans for im-

proving the stability of the superstructure. The proposed Tithe Bill of to-day is the most recent of the series. It takes the Money Monopoly a further stage towards its purposed triumph, the final achievement of which will be accomplished when every several citizen is subject personally to automatic, direct, and immediate de-housing and despoilment upon default in a financial obligation. The re-housing of the people now proceeding at such speed is contributing to the bankers' power of dishousing them. The protection of limited liability is being insidiously flched from the citizen to be stored in the vaults of the Money Monopoly and transformed into the power of unlimited dominance. "The risk is beautifully spread," said Mr. Gibson Jarvie when he began to recommend instalment-purchase to the attention of British financial institutions. And so it is. For under that system every purchaser is responsible to the Money Monopoly through a direct chain of controlled functional agencies. For example, when a builder sells houses the building-society pays him out, and thenceforth buys the power to recover money directly from each separate purchaser. The Tithe Bill, if enacted, will facilitate the application of the same principle.

The principle also operated in a modified way at the time of the post-war cotton boom, when thousands of small people were cheated into mortgaging their homes to invest in the mills which were to replenish the world with goods made scarce by the war. When the inevitable slump supervened, not only did these little investors have to bid farewell to their subscribed capital, but were suddenly presented with calls for unsubscribed capital, a liability which few of them realised when they first became the proud possessors of their now worthless shares. A small man who buys a house is incurring much the same risk. He mortgages his home in the process of buying it. He agrees to subscribe a definite sum of money over a definite period of years. That is a fixed liability, limited by legal contract, and corresponds to subscribing capital in full. But he is undertaking unfixed contingent liabilities at the same time; and these correspond to calls on unsubscribed capital. The chief of these is Repairs; others, more remote, but still real, are higher rates, higher assessments (meaning higher property tax), higher insurance premiums, and so forth. In another category come those contingent liabilities arising from the investor's necessity to travel between his house and his work; he is not protected against a rise in bus, tram and railway rates; and certainly not against a fall in his wages, which in this context is a call on unsubscribed capital in a negative form. Summing all up, it is clear on the surface that contingent personal bankruptcy is inherent in every transaction of this sort; and students of Social Credit, who look below the surface, will see that bankruptcy is mathematically certain in a collective sense, which means that personal bankruptcy actually impends for an unknown number of individual householders.

When it descends upon them, the procedure will correspond with that associated with what was called "Rationalisation" and "Reconstruction" in relation to business enterprises such as Vickers, Armstrongs and so on. But how different are the consequences. It is all very well to scrap redundant plants and factories; but when the scrapping involves the eviction of families and the dispersal of their poor little "effects," what then? We come up against the manifestation of the financial error in its ultimate concrete form—at the point where it can no longer be disguised by transmissions and diffusion down the pyramid of the social structure. The creeping error of finance takes its flying leap against the verities of nature.

Major Douglas's reference to the "impersonal force undermining this seeming omnipotence," and the "arithmetical compulsion" towards the self-exposure and self-destruction of the financial system will occur to

the minds of those who remember his oration at Christchurch. On that night, with civilisation standing, as it now stands, at "the conflux of two eternities," one could imagine the spirit of Thomas Carlyle hovering over the hushed assembly, breathing into their consciousness his meditations of long ago. Listen!

"How singular this perpetual distress of the royal treasury! And yet it is a thing not more incredible than undeniable. A thing mournfully true: the stumbling block on which all Ministers successively stumble, and fall. Be it 'want of fiscal genius' or some far other want, there is the palpable discrepancy between Revenue and Expenditure. . . . Fatal paralysis invades the social movement; clouds, of blindness or of blackness, envelope us: are we breaking down, then, into the black horrors of NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY?"

"Great is Bankruptcy: the great bottomless gulf into which all Falsehoods, public and private, do sink, disappearing; whither, from the first origin of them, they were all doomed. For Nature is true and not a lie. No lie you can speak or act but it will come, after longer or shorter circulation, like a Bill drawn on Nature's Reality, and be presented there for payment—with the answer, *No effects*. Pity only that it often had so long a circulation: that the original forger were so seldom he who bore the final smart of it! Lies, and the burden of evil they bring, are passed on; shifted from back to back, and from rank to rank, and so land ultimately on the dumb lowest rank, who with spade and mattock, with sore heart and empty wallet, daily come in *contact* with reality, and can pass the cheat no further.

"Observe, nevertheless, how by a just compensating law, if the lie with its burden (in this confused whirlpool of Society) sinks and is ever shifted downwards, then in return the distress of it rises ever upwards and upwards. . . . Was your Arrangement so true, so accordant to Nature's ways, then how, in the name of wonder, has Nature, with her infinite bounty, come to leave it famishing there? To all men, to all women, to all children, it is now indubitable that your Arrangement was *false*. Honour to Bankruptcy; ever righteous on the great scale, though in detail so cruel. Under all falsehood it works, unweariedly mining. No Falsehood, did it rise heaven-high and cover the world, but Bankruptcy, one day, will sweep it down, and make us free of it."

Thomas! thou wert not far from the Kingdom.

Again, on that same night, another spirit which, when in the flesh, struck such discordant notes of wisdom in the ears of religious men, might have hung in perfect harmony his gay festoons of raiillery from the sombre rafters of Carlyle's theme. Listen to Voltaire.

"Mankind, said James, must in some things have deviated from their original innocence; for they were not born wolves, and yet they worry one another like those beasts of prey. God never gave them twenty-four pounders and bayonets, and yet they have made their cannon and bayonets to destroy one another. To this account I might add, he said, not only bankruptcies, but the law, which seizes on the effect of bankruptcies, only to cheat the creditors.

"All this was indispensably necessary, replied the one-eyed Doctor Pangloss; for private misfortunes are public benefits; so that the more private misfortunes there are, the greater is the general good."

As these words are written Christendom is celebrating the Ascension. It is the time when, above all, the hopes of those in close contact with the works of Nature are confirmed, not as they would will it in their human calculations. The blossoms have burst again in the orchards—and that is the resurrection. But will the fruit set?—that is the

question of the ascension. Will the winds of May keep out of the East? Nests are built, eggs are laid, mothers are sitting. The blackbird serenades his wife to reassure her that he is alive and well; for the edict of May has not been pronounced, and were anything to happen to him that he could not bring her food, she would stay on those eggs till she died. Not until the fledglings take wing is hope confirmed and the assurance of the ascension wrought. "March looks—April finds—May proves," is an old saying, of which the obscure meaning is guessed to have relation to the mystery of harvests throughout the vegetable and animate kingdoms. May is the testing month for man, beast, and plant. "Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" gives expression to the belief. And, perhaps, at this time more than any other the thoughts of those who have been patiently preparing these many years for the harvest of the Social-Credit era are pondering on the question of whether the winds of May this year will play them fair and set the fruit of their high endeavours. Out of the mouths of diverse poets and philosophers long since gone have come assurances that our course is truly laid, and that the firmament from whence we take our bearings is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

Disarmament.

The proposed closing down of disarmament negotiations will undoubtedly administer a moral shock to multitudes of well-meaning people. They may console themselves with the reflection that the saying: "Where there's talk there's hope" is not necessarily true, and, in this context, probably false. The talkers have had no power to do anything themselves, nor could they influence the policy of those who set them talking, namely, the master-bankers. Geneva has been, and is, a sort of international Hyde Park—a safety-valve for national discontent or aspiration. Bankers are not warmongers: far from it: but the consequences of their policy make warlike preparations seem to be a necessity to the national Governments charged with the responsibility for safeguarding the economic security of their respective nationals. If, under the present financial system, the talkers could have their own way, they would administer as great a shock in the region of industry as is now threatened in the region of morality. Disarmament means certain unemployment, with no reasonable prospect of re-employment. "Oh, but look to what useful purposes the money could be diverted," exclaim certain social enthusiasts. Quite so; it *could* but it *need* not, and, in all probability, *would* not. We can give a new application to Mr. J. M. Keynes's famous remark on international credit-expansion, and say that there is "no limit" to the amount of re-armament that can be safely proceeded with provided the various Governments "keep in step." Assuming for the sake of argument that a nation wants to go to war, it will not do so just because it is heavily armed, but because (and when) it is more heavily armed than its prospective enemy. So if they all keep in step they will keep the peace; and the more quickly they march the more they will keep the peace. Marching in step imposes discretion on each of them; and quick marching in step confers security on each of them. For if the world's bankers would finance a world re-armament programme of, say, ten times the present size, everybody would be too busy to think of fighting. The old saying: "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do" is particularly appropriate here: for it is large-scale idleness in the industrial field which drives Governments to seek or tolerate adventures on the field of battle. And why does it do so? Precisely because idle workers are idle shoppers. Yet the very economic security which Governments arm themselves to protect depends entirely on the ability of industry to sell its products to consumers. "What!" we once exclaimed to a Russian fugitive who was negotiating business with his erstwhile persecutors, "you would trade with your enemies?" He looked taken aback, but instantly replied: "No man is my enemy what I can do a deal with." He could have

gone further and said that not even a man who wouldn't do a deal with him was his enemy provided that he could do the deal with somebody else. And so with nations. What need to quarrel about foreign markets if the home market will do the deal instead? And so it would; but it can't. And the sole reason why is that the bankers won't provide the money. Whether their attitude is a matter of ignorance, inertia or malevolence the consequence is all one. Their refusal to create the means of security and concord at home creates insecurity and discord abroad. These bankers talk about outlawing aggressive nations; but it is they themselves who should be outlawed.

And this leads to some interesting reflections. The efficacy of the penalty of outlawry depended on the attitude of people generally towards the acts committed by the outlaw. If we imagine a situation in which a man were to be outlawed for something which his neighbours approved or were ready to condone, the danger to him from the withdrawal of the protection of the law would be confined to the criminal elements of society who would alone think of exploiting the immunity from punishment under which the law would allow him to be robbed or murdered. And in that case his neighbours might very probably concert measures to provide him with such protection as the law took away from him. In the reverse case, where the outlaw was a murderer, for example, nobody would lend a hand to help him. To-day, when a murderer is known to be at large, the public help in the hunt without prompting. Virtually the fugitive is an outlaw in the wide sense that people may do things in the course of tracking and apprehending him which, were he an ordinary citizen, might give him rights of legal redress. Take a clearer case. If any citizen knocks down a smash-and-grab raider, the culprit cannot charge him with assault; and, as is common knowledge, magistrates encourage ordinary citizens to assist justice in this way; the thief is therefore in the situation of an outlaw in such momentary emergencies.

When a person is promised protection if he will turn King's evidence against another, the principle of outlawry operates in a modified form. The difference is that instead of the law prospectively permitting all and sundry to do illegal things with impunity, it here retrospectively extends permission only to the accomplice, promising to excuse his crime and ignore his confession of it if he will assist in the exposure and punishment of another's. Leopold Harris was outlawed in that fashion.

Thus outlawry has enabled the authorities variously to (a) identify, (b) catch, and (c) punish whom they would—and to punish without first identifying or catching. And from what we have been saying it will be realised that the Money Monopoly has been the authority (in fact if not in form) which has operated the principle for its own purposes. Now, it is not the concern of the millions of clear-headed citizens who locate the source of the world's troubles in finance, to inflict punishment on this or that financier or group of such. The monopoly can be broken without the breaking of any of the monopolists. But if their obduracy lasts too long before being overcome it is possible that in the interval the temper of the public might demand strong measures to be adopted by the political Government. In that event, without wishing to be uncomplimentary to the master-monopolists behind the scenes, they are in something like the position of Leopold Harris, and a resolute Government might do a good deal to smoke them out by the "King's evidence" method, not to speak of less "regular" variants of the outlawry principle. It would be all the easier because most of the "accomplices" whose testimony was wanted are such by compulsion—the compulsion to earn a living—not to speak

of the fact that what they do for their living is harmless in itself.

It would not be necessary for a Government to do more than resume and exercise the right to create credit wherewith to guarantee immunity from private financial reprisals on the informants. Given that power, it could use it for the limited purpose of holding an inquiry into the financial system, without committing itself to the acceptance of any technical scheme of financial reform. Inquiries are abortive at present because although witnesses can be compelled to attend and give evidence, nobody knows precisely who are the witnesses whose testimony is really relevant and valuable. These might be discovered if a Government suspended the operation of Official Secrets Acts—thus offering legal as well as financial protection to those people who know what the Commission of Inquiry ought to know. Desperate diseases demand desperate remedies; and the situation will soon hold no room for political punctilio. Here the matter may be left for the present.

Graduates in Municipal Service.

John Bright, in 1858, described this country's foreign policy as "neither more nor less than a gigantic system of outdoor relief for the aristocracy of Great Britain." In an article in *The Realist* of December, 1920, by Mr. R. T. Nightingale, the personnel of the Foreign and Diplomatic Services was analysed to show the main sources of recruitment. His object was to survey the steps taken up to that time to "democratise" the Civil Service, such as the substitution of competitive examinations for private nominations, the abolition of private-income qualification, and things of that sort. He criticised the slowness of the change, and in support asserted that problems which had begun to face the world in 1919 (that is, the year previously) demanded treatment by men with qualities entirely different from those associated with the aristocratic frame of mind. The last sentence of his article was as follows:

"In the meantime a Foreign Service manned by those drawn from the privileged classes will remain antipathetic to the new internationalist ideals. A democratic diplomacy is alone capable of exploiting the moral forces to-day rallied behind the cause of world peace."

If the writer had paused to ask himself what diplomacy was for, he would perhaps have realised that the democratic, idealistic, internationalistic diplomat was as impossible a bird as would be a temperamental poker-player. The Fellowship of Reconciliation used to agitate for "open diplomacy" (virtually a contradiction in terms) as a guarantee of peace. Well, we have got it to-day in the only form in which was conceivable, namely, undisguised quarrelling between economic interests who have no use for people who play chess while the world is burning.

Mr. Nightingale was saying something significant when he fixed on 1919 as the time when diplomatic issues had begun to take on a new form. For it was in that year that the world's bankers were preparing their deflation *coup*. Diplomacy was still to be used, but the diplomacy not of bargaining in salons but of bullying in board rooms. The Lansdownes were to be superseded by the Niemeyers. What was to remain was the secrecy, even more strict than before.

In view of this it is not surprising that the classes from which diplomats were drawn are being looked to as sources from which to enlist recruits in the police and municipal forces. The Departmental Committee on Recruitment of Local Government Officers calmly recommends the Minister of Health to secure for the municipal service a certain number of university graduates—not technical men but men of general attainments such as every year enter the Civil Service.

"It has been argued," says *The Times* (May 17) "that the only effective training is actual experience of municipal work; but this is merely to condemn all academic education as a preparation for life."

Life! Passing plans for re-housing builders, or marshalling unemployed demonstrators into Hyde Park.

The Wheat Breakdown.

"It is impossible in the circumstances not to sympathise with the Argentine authorities for the paradoxically distressing plight in which the malignancy of Nature has placed them." (*The Times*, leading article, May 12.)

This quotation is not taken from the concluding leading article, which is usually entrusted to the Court Jester of *The Times* (or of the Bank of England), but is part of a serious commentary on Argentina's refusal to agree to the plan of the Wheat Agreement Committee for rationing the exports of the wheat-producing countries. The Wheat Agreement was, it will be remembered, the only tangible result of the World Economic Conference. We referred some time ago to the embarrassment of the Canadian authorities when they came down to the practical business of implementing the rationing system, and pointed out the obvious moral that it was one thing for professional delegates to swear allegiance to an international policy, but quite another for them to get their own nationals to knuckle down to the sacrifices involved in it. How the Press cheered when the Wheat Agreement was signed. The world was turning the corner—and so on. Well, man proposes, but God disposes; and Argentina has been presented with an unexpectedly bountiful harvest. As a result the schedule of minimum prices prepared by the Rome Conference a few weeks ago is torn up. It is essential, however, leads *The Times*, that the wheat agreement should be preserved at all costs. Let it be so. It will not be difficult. Every country is ready to re-affirm the ideal so long as it is free to reject methods of fulfilling it. "Sign? I'll sign anything," once jeered Mussolini, "and the more the better." The signatures would only be tributes to noble aspirations.

Current Financial Notes.

(From the "Evening Standard" of May 10.)
"In this week's Bank returns the chief movement is a fall of £7,153,000 in bankers' deposits. Government securities are down £7,871,000, due to repayment of Ways and Means advances."

Thus the repayment of a Ways-and-Means loan destroys a deposit at the central bank, just as repayments of ordinary loans destroy deposits in the ordinary banks.

"Large undertakings are paying off bank loans out of new issues made to the public on low interest rates. Thus public limited companies are decreasing their indebtedness to the banks."

"On the other hand the private company and traders who carry on small businesses are . . . using bank loans more freely than for many months."

The real difference between a "large" and a small "undertaking" in this context is a matter of counting heads, not aggregate capital. Thus an undertaking with £1,000,000 subscribed capital put up by 100,000 people is really (assuming an even spread of subscriptions) 100,000 undertakings with a capital of £10 each.—100,000 one-man shows roofed under one name. The time when it would be really large, in this sense, would have been during the promotion period before being floated on the public, when the promoting-syndicate owned the undertaking and owed the money to the bank. But directly the public come in, the assets are split up and divided out. The holders (of ordinary shares) enjoy the "protection," as it is called, of the Limited Liability Acts, which consists in excusing them from putting up any more money than they agreed to subscribe if and when they've lost the first lot. "Nobody seems to see the joke—namely that this 'protection' amounts to allowing the investor to bolt the door after the horse is gone. A promoting-syndicate can be likened to a man who has grown a box of seedlings, and borrowed so many gallons of water from the water-

works and distributed it to the sowers. He now calls his tenants together and offers them a seedling each for a gallon of water. He gets the water and returns it to the waterworks. The tenants plant the seedlings in the now-parched ground. They have given up the very thing that made the seedlings worth having. When the seedlings die, the tenants are excused from delivering more water. That is the "protection" of the Limited Liability Acts!

On reflection it will be seen that the floating of a "large undertaking" is a process of splitting up and planting the risk on individuals; and when the subscribed money is used to repay the banks (as stated in the above quotation) the risk so spread out automatically becomes a certainty from the public's point of view, and is extinguished from the banks' point of view. That is the principle, at any rate, of this sort of financing.

It is often said: "Ah, but the banks are always lending as fast as they are recalling money." Yes, but (as is revealed in the quotation) the present lending is going out to small undertakings while the repayments are coming in from large undertakings. The relative amounts are not stated, but even if the same, there is no guarantee that the small undertakings will assist the large undertakings. They might compete with them. As a matter of fact one newspaper has pointed out that many "efficient" firms are unable to sell at "re-which work on vanishing fractions of profit. If the truth were known the question of profit would be seen to be of no consequence, but the snag for the "efficient" firms was the larger overheads to be covered before profits began to accrue.

The Green Shirts.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

"Six green-shirted supporters of Major Douglas's social credit scheme handed in a message for the Premier at 10, Downing Street, to-day."—*Star*, May 14, 1934.
"Green Shirts at No. 10.—A party of Green Shirts marched to Downing-street to request that the Premier should receive a deputation which would place before him the principles of Major C. H. Douglas's 'sane economic system.'"—*Daily Telegraph*, May 15, 1934.
"Green Shirts at No. 10" (headline to Press photograph showing Green Shirt squad in front of the Prime Minister's residence). "Representatives of the 'Green Shirt Movement' called at 10, Downing Street yesterday to ask the Premier to receive a deputation on the Douglas economic system."—*News-Chronicle*, May 15, 1934.
Not reported in the Press:—

At the moment (12 noon) when a Green Shirt squad halted and stood "at ease" in front of No. 10, Downing Street on Monday, May 14, another Green Shirt squad was going through the same movements in front of the main entrance of the Bank of England, having marched to that institution.

Each squad carried an official letter. That addressed to Mr. Montagu Norman read as follows:—

"Sir,
"On behalf of the British People we beg you to receive a deputation to place before you the basic principles of a Sane Economic System as propounded by Major C. H. Douglas.
"We are assured by those who support the present economic system that you have the welfare of the Nation at heart, and therefore we trust that you will accede to our request."

"Yours faithfully,
"FRANK GRIFFITHS,
"General Secretary,
"The Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit."

That addressed to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald read as follows:—

"Sir,
"On behalf of the British People we beg you to receive a deputation to place before you the basic principles of a Sane Economic System as propounded by Major C. H. Douglas.
"We are assured that you have the welfare of the Nation

at heart, and therefore we trust that you will accede to our request.

"Yours faithfully,
"FRANK GRIFFITHS,
"General Secretary,
"The Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit."

"The Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit." At a full delegate assembly of the London Area Command it was unanimously decided that two squads composed of unemployed Green Shirts should parade on May 14 to carry out this work. As soon as this decision was entered in the minute book the assembly ceased to operate as a consultative body, and transformed itself into an unarmed military unit under direct leadership, in order to put the decision into effect. We mention these details of internal organisation because we wish to exhibit what has become known as "the double technique" of the Green Shirt Movement. We look upon this as the king-pin of Green Shirt efficiency in action, without which the movement would rapidly degenerate either into (a) interminable discussions and committee confusion, or (b) "playing soldiers"—a game that no intelligent person wishes to play.

The squad detailed to go to the Bank of England marched down Cornhill, crossed the open space in front of the Royal Exchange, and halted facing the main entrance of the Bank. The G.S. Officer in charge—a big, broad-shouldered man, six-foot-one in height, with a quiet voice and imperturbable calm—then went into the Bank and was directed by the doorkeeper to the "beadle." The G.S. Officer towered above them both. The "beadle," all dressed up in scarlet with a three-cornered hat (looking like a cross between a Town Crier and a Lord Mayor's Coachman!), seemed a trifle nonplussed at the sudden appearance of this Green Giant supported by a squad of Men in Green. After a momentary hesitation he overcame his astonishment and directed the Officer to the Secretaries' Office.

The Officer asked to see the Governor of the Bank, and handed in the official letter. The letter was taken in to one of the Secretaries, and, after a wait of five minutes the Officer was ushered into his presence. The Secretary had the letter in front of him, and said that the Governor was at present in Basle, but that when he returned he (the Secretary) would see that the letter was put before him.

The interview then ran somewhat as follows:—

G.S. Officer: "Can you guarantee that the Governor of the Bank of England will receive the letter personally, and that the Green Shirt Movement will definitely receive a reply?"

Secretary: "Yes, I can guarantee that, but, of course, I cannot say whether the Governor will receive a deputation from the Green Shirt Movement," and added, "the Economic Advisers of the Bank of England have looked into Douglas Social Credit, and no doubt they have reported on it to the Governor; but the initiation of such schemes rests not with the Bank of England, but with the Treasury, which then recommends them to the attention of the Board of the Bank."

G.S. Officer: "Can you tell me what was the report of the Economic Advisers to the Bank of England upon Douglas Social Credit?"

The Secretary was unable to give this information.

G.S. Officer: "Have you studied Douglas Social Credit yourself?"

The Secretary replied that he had not, and gave the impression that he knew nothing about the matter.

Having carried out his instructions in accordance with the decisions of the London Area Assembly, the G.S. Officer left the Bank, and the squad marched back to National Headquarters in Little Britain.

Synchronising with these events, another Green Shirt squad was marching down Whitehall, wheeling left into Downing Street, coming to a halt, and standing smartly to attention in front of No. 10. The squad then stood "at ease" while the Green Shirt detailed to deliver the official letter knocked at the door.

The following conversation took place:—

Porter: "What do you want?"

Green Shirt: "I have a personal letter to deliver to the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P."

Porter: "Are you one of these Fascist mobs?"

G.S.: "We are definitely anti-Fascist."

Porter: "All right, I will deliver the message."

G.S.: "I am to deliver this to the Prime Minister himself, or to someone in a position of authority who will guarantee that the letter reaches the Prime Minister."

Porter: "All letters received here are delivered to the proper authority as a matter of course."

G.S.: "I am afraid I cannot accept that. I must know definitely to whom I am handing this letter, and that it is a person having sufficient authority."

Porter: "Oh, very well, wait a minute."

Two minutes later the Porter came out again, and asked the Green Shirt to come in. After a short wait a gentleman came from an anteroom, and the following interview took place:—

"Why have you come here?"

Green Shirt: "I have come to No. 10, Downing Street, because it houses the alleged Head Representative of the British people, and the letter I have to deliver explains the reason for our coming here. I should be glad to know whom I am addressing?"

"I am the Prime Minister's Private Secretary."

The letter was handed to him. He opened it, and, having read it, said:—

"I have read your letter, and it will be given to the Prime Minister. He is now attending a Cabinet meeting and I dare not interrupt."

G.S.: "Can you give me a written notification that the letter has been delivered to and received by the Prime Minister's Private Secretary?"

P.M.'s Private Secretary: "I cannot move in this matter. When you receive the official reply, that will be proof that the Prime Minister has received and considered your request."

G.S.: "Very well, I suppose we must be content with that."

As the Green Shirt spokesman emerged from No. 10, the column came to attention and marched back to the City, passing the Bank of England on their way to National Headquarters in Little Britain.

On May 15 the following was received by the General Secretary:—

"Bank of England,

"May 14, 1934.

"Dear Sir,

"In the absence of the Governor I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 14, which shall be placed before him immediately upon his return to the Bank.

"I am, dear Sir,
"Yours faithfully,

"A. W. E. D'ASCOMBE,
"Asst. Secretary."

Up to the time of writing this report (three clear days after delivering the letter) no acknowledgement has been received from No. 10, Downing Street. The Bank of England is, at any rate, polite and efficient.

We should like to record that the two Green Shirt squads carried out their duties as instructed, smartly, efficiently, politely, with a steadfast determination not too "grim," but that, nevertheless, cannot be weakened by any delay or set-back—and dead on time according to schedule. We know that the men concerned are proud to have been the first Social Credit agitators to go direct to Downing Street and to the Bank to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and the Governor to Douglas Social Credit.

Pending replies from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Montagu Norman, we make no further comment upon the events of May 14, which we look upon as the first in a campaign that must go on with increasing intensity until Social Credit is established in these islands of Britain.

On May 16, two days after the events recorded above, Commander O. Locker-Lampson (Birmingham, Handsworth, U.) asked leave in the House of Commons to bring in a Bill to prohibit the wearing of uniforms for political purposes. This was a pretty good joke, be-

cause, as Earl Winterton (Horsham and Worthing, U.) pointed out, Commander Locker-Lampson himself once attempted to organise a "blue shirt" movement in this country! We certainly have some astonishing tumblers, jugglers, and mountebanks in our political life.

In opposing the introduction of this Bill, Earl Winterton said that if the Government were to succeed in defining a political uniform, and prohibited people from wearing such uniforms, "they would at once put on some large-sized brassard or badge, which would have exactly the same effect." (Hear, hear.) He said, also, that "he would have supposed that, in so far as there was provocation and menace to public order from the bodies that Commander Locker-Lampson had in view, it would arise from formed and disciplined bodies of persons marching through the streets." (Our italics.)

Despite the very large financial support recently given to Mosley's Fascist organisation, the Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit is very much more "tightly" formed and strictly disciplined, the Green Shirts have carried out far more street-marching than any other voluntary adult organisation in Great Britain. We are, therefore, in a position to speak with some authority on this matter, and we can assure Earl Winterton that his supposition is not supported by the facts.

So long as a body of persons is formed and disciplined when marching through the streets there can be no "provocation." That is one of the chief reasons why the Green Shirts wear a uniform, and our record can be examined by anyone and is well-known to the authorities. When the Green Shirts appear there is no disorder, because they are formed and disciplined. It is when there is no proper formation and little or no discipline—or when the form and discipline is allowed to break—that "provocation" can arise, and a breach of the peace occur.

The Green Shirts claim that they hold the "secret" of group-self-discipline (it is an "open secret," and yet no sergeant-major is likely to discover it); and they claim to have proved this in action on the streets time and time again over a number of years.

Can it be that there are people who wish this were not so, and who would much rather have to deal with an unformed, indiscipline, non-uniformed rabble? It is hard to bring oneself to believe that, but, with the hidden forces of International Finance in the seat of power . . . who can be sure about anything?

F. G.

Forthcoming Meetings.

The New Age Club.

[Open to visitors on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lincoln's Inn Restaurant (downstairs), 305, High Holborn, W.C., (south side), opposite the First Avenue Hotel and near to Chancery-lane and Holborn tube stations.]

Dublin.

Lectures at Clubroom, Red Bank Restaurant, D'Olier Street, at 8 p.m. Admission 6d.

No. 6.—*Reconstruction Proposals*. May 25. Inflation and the Orthodox Economists—The Guernsey Market Scheme—The Just Price Formulae Examined. Lecturer: E. Hickson. Chairman: Mr. T. Kennedy.

London Social Credit Club.

A meeting will be held at 7.45 p.m. on Friday, May 25, at Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.3. Speaker: Douglas Vigors, Esq. Address: A General Survey of Social Credit. Chairman: T. Laub, Esq.

National Week-end Conference

Provisional arrangements are being made to hold a National Conference at Buxton, Derbyshire, during the week-end commencing Friday, June 8, 1934.

Major C. H. Douglas will make a pronouncement on Social Credit Policy.

A time-table for the Conference will be issued as soon as arrangements have been completed. In the meantime it may be stated that business will start at 10.30 on Saturday, June 9, and end at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, June 10. Major Douglas will speak at the evening session on Saturday.

Efficiency.

I.

"If we assume that an overall industrial efficiency of 75 per cent. is attainable (by which we mean 75 per cent. of the output possible with a given number of man-hours, working on a given plant, might be obtained and distributed), and we also assume, as is the case, that the United States is able to produce all she wants by working at the low efficiency quoted by Mr. Gantt [5 per cent.] then without working harder, she could under proper conditions produce the same amount by the same number of persons working one-fifteenth of the time they now work—i.e., about thirty minutes per day instead of about eight hours, or by one-fifteenth of the present number of persons working the same hours. As the economic distribution stands at present, such a condition of affairs is impossible of attainment, because, although the goods would be produced, the purchasing-power to buy them would not be distributed. The enormous increase of sabotage of all descriptions which is the outstanding feature of contemporary industry is due to the blind effort to equate purchasing-power to production without altering the principles of price-fixing."—*Credit Power and Democracy*, pp. 16-17.

This is probably one of the best known paragraphs in Major Douglas' writings. I can vouch for its effect as far back as 1919, when it appeared in *THE NEW AGE*, and frequent references have been made to it in *Social Credit* literature. It may be regarded as a herald of the Leisure State. Mr. E. F. M. Durbin (*Purchasing Power and Trade Depression*, pp. 179 et seq.) declares it a false herald. Let us examine the case.

When we come to describe what Mr. Gantt meant by industrial efficiency we shall find it somewhat different from the efficiency resulting from new groupings of industries or from new processing. Illustrations of these can be briefly given. The old type of blast furnace burnt the resulting gases at a small chimney in the top of the furnace; later, these gases were led away unburnt, washed, and then applied to generate power used in rolling mills now grouped with the blast furnace. Or again, an exothermal chemical process supplies heat and generates steam required by other processes which can be grouped with the former. Recently I have seen the wages cost of a 40s. article reduced from 9s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. by a simple (but ingenious!) alteration in the method of applying one material to another. Several examples of the savings due to research are given on p. 12 of the Report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Cmd. 4483, published January 15); one of these will suffice—"The Refractories Research Association has been able to make suggestions which have had the effect of prolonging the life of some types of saggars (the fire-clay boxes in which pottery is fired) from seven firings to 200 firings. The estimated annual expenditure on the replacement of saggars is £200,000. This type of labour saving, raised to the nth power, has become familiar in the prodigious examples of Technocracy.

It is evident from these illustrations that the relationship between productivity and employment is not a simple one; not nearly as simple as Mr. Durbin thinks. This writer (loc. cit. pp. 180-182) is of the opinion that the maximum advantage of a right credit policy is measured by the amount of unemployment, 10 per cent., which appears in the existing economic system; that physical productivity can only be raised at once by this miserable amount—

"It is therefore clear that the execution of a successful monetary policy could only have raised our physical productivity at the rate of approximately 10 per cent. over the whole period, and although the saving of the human misery involved in unemployment is well nigh incalculable, it is clear that the increase in the general standard of living which would be secured is not incalculable, but on the contrary is quite moderate." (p. 180). But the suggestion of Douglas in the above quotation is that a right credit policy would produce an advantage of 1,500 per cent. "This is clearly a ridiculous

conclusion," says Mr. Durbin. "Where does the error lie?"

An answer to that question entails the quotation of the footnote (p. 182) in which Mr. Durbin says

"This remarkable conclusion is based upon the statement of a certain Mr. Gantt, an American industrial engineer, who is quoted by Major Douglas as saying that the 'industrial efficiency' of the United States was 5 per cent. in 1919. This statement of course refers to the physical efficiency of the ordinary sources of power such as steam and internal combustion engines, and has no economic significance whatever. Only the progress of scientific invention will make any difference to this figure. After over one hundred years of careful experiment, the physical efficiency of the ordinary steam engine remains under 10 per cent., and nothing but technical discovery will raise it. At the point at which Mr. Gantt wrote (1919) there was full employment in the U.S., and the economic efficiency—the potential output under the existing technical conditions was well nigh 100 per cent. Major Douglas was led astray at this point by comparing mechanical with economic ideas."

The "Of course" is good; the assumption that Major Douglas, an engineer of American experience, could not understand what an American engineer said is rather better; by the time the last sentence is reached the reader will realise that this is no ordinary impudence. However, while there are a number of phrases in the footnote to interest the psychologist, we must confine ourselves to the last sentence but one; and, fortunately for the National Dividend, it can be shown that Mr. Durbin is entirely wrong.

II.

As a textbook we shall take *The Gantt Chart, A Working Tool of Management*, by Wallace Clark (Ronald Press Co., N.Y., The Machinery Publishing Co., London). This book describes Gantt's method of control of industry, and incidentally gives details of Gantt's career, and views of various people on his achievements.

"In 1917, after a careful inspection of certain factories in which Mr. H. L. Gantt had installed his methods, General William Crozier, then Chief of Ordnance, retained Mr. Gantt to act in a consulting capacity on production, first at the Frankford Arsenal, and then, immediately after the declaration of war, in the Ordnance Department at Washington. Quantities had suddenly jumped from hundreds to millions. . . . Charts of the usual type were unsatisfactory because they did not sufficiently emphasise the time and because of their bulk. . . . The Gantt Chart was found to help in the making of definite plans and to be highly effective in getting those plans executed. . . . During 1918 these charts were used in the United States arsenals, in the production of naval aircraft, and in other government work, such as that of the Emergency Fleet, the Shipping Board, etc. . . ."

At the end of the War General Thompson, Chief of the Small Arms Division, received the Distinguished Service Medal for his signal success in effecting supplies for the troops. Thompson made generous acknowledgement to Gantt: "A large share in this reward for the accomplishment of a great war task is due to H. L. Gantt and his assistants. The Gantt general control production chart was my compass." Another engineer, W. N. Polakov, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1920, said: "The achievement of Gantt offers a means of measuring the human or social efficiency of industry. . . . Unlike statistical diagrams, curve records, and similar static forms of presenting fact of the past (Gantt) charts . . . are kinetic, moving, and project through time the integral elements of service rendered in the past toward the goal of the future."

Readers of these eulogies will perhaps expect to hear of some very complicated system. Actually the Gantt system is very simple, enabling both employee and executive to see at a glance the record of man and machine. The chart is ruled horizontally and vertically, the width of each column representing the daily working. When plotting the record of a machine, for example, a thin horizontal line drawn for Monday, April 9, will show by its length the time during which the machine was running. At the end of the week a

thick line is drawn summing up the lengths of the daily thin lines. Blank spaces represent idleness and a letter here indicates the cause of idleness, such as lack of material, power, tools, orders. It is not, of course, suggested that such information was not obtainable previous to Gantt; the innovation was the method of presentation of the details, for the operations, and the obstacles which prevent the factory from running at full capacity, are at once evident. The responsibility for idleness is patent and the various departments can be brought into line; thus we have introduced the idea of "planning," a word that has been of recent years increasingly in our vocabulary.

Planning to get orders done when wanted, and to make the best possible use of available men and machines, is of particular importance in a modern machine shop where material is subjected to several operations. In a Layout Chart the thin line can be used to indicate for each machine the time for the operation of its part of the order; a thick line drawn daily will indicate the amount of work done, and, of course, how the schedule is being maintained. Similar charting of the other machines will enable the material to be transferred from one stage to another without idleness. In a case like this it is of value to chart the "Load" on every machine or shop, and so avoid a "bottleneck" at some point in the factory. Finally, a Progress Chart will enable the general manager to see how accomplishment of an order agrees with his promises to deliver.

It may be mentioned that for organisations in which costs are applied to work done by means of machine rates or floor rates, the width of the daily column can represent pounds instead of hours; costs of idleness, etc., are then directly charted.

For application to office-work, stocks, sales, etc., reference must be made to the numerous excellent charts printed in the book. One simple case can be described. The amount of coal loaded at a pier in Baltimore was considered unsatisfactory. The pier was in good repair, and had a capacity of 40,000 tons per day; yet the average amount loaded per day was about 25 per cent. of capacity, and the cumulative heavy line made clear that in two weeks the amount loaded equalled the capacity for three days. One limit to loading was the amount of coal available; another was the tonnage of the vessels ready to be coaled. These were charted on lines below the actual loading, and it was at once evident from a comparison of the horizontal lines that they were not the cause of inefficiency. The responsibility for failure was due to the management.

III.

One of the most interesting chapters of this fascinating book is the history of the American Merchant Marine during the war years 1917-18. The losses of ships in the submarine warfare and the necessity for convoys, the greater need for transport of food, war material, and men to the allies, with the subsequent concentration of shipping in the docks of Western Europe, made the planning of the marine of the utmost urgency. In U.S.A. the Shipping Board was formed, with the subsidiary Emergency Fleet Corporation to build more ships; but the immediate need compelled the Board to commandeer all vessels owned or leased by Americans and to charter as many as possible from foreign nations.

The handling of this large and growing fleet was an extremely difficult task: to keep track of the vessels and to determine what jobs were to be allotted to them was the problem. The old plan of tracing ships by sticking flags on maps was tried but was too cumbersome; and further, the method took no account of time. After other attempts Mr. Gantt was called in and worked out a simple chart of ships' movements which enabled one to visualise what the ships were doing day by day. Specimen charts are given in the book which demonstrate the low efficiency that occurred under the unplanned regime. For example: in fifty-three days one boat spent eighteen days at sea on two round trips to Cuba, nine days in sugar ports and twenty-seven days in U.S.A. ports discharging and picking up cargoes, while the

American people were on strict sugar rations; another vessel was in port thirty days of which twenty-two were idle; a third was in port five weeks but only eight days were spent in loading.

While the movements of ships at sea and in port were being traced, Mr. Gantt was helping to solve the problem of what the ships ought to be doing. The ships had to be distributed among the three jobs: first the carrying of troops and supplies to Europe, second the importation of food and raw materials, third the export to foreign countries of material to ensure the production of raw material needed by the U.S.A., e.g., to get nitrates from Chile and manganese from Brazil coal and fuel-oil had to be sent to those countries. The annual requirements of about a hundred commodities were estimated and arrangements made to ship them; no small task when one considers that 2,000,000 tons of nitrate and 3,000,000-4,000,000 tons of sugar were required and had to be moved in ships of 3,000-4,000 tons capacity. This involved the charting of past voyages of the available ships as a basis for forecasting the dates on which the vessels could be expected to discharge their cargoes; and then the charting of imports against requirements in order to be sure that deliveries were sufficient; this done, the surplus ships could be transferred to other duties.

In order to get better control over cargoes carried, the world map was divided into twenty-seven trade regions and for every region a set of charts was made up showing what commodities were required from that region, in what amounts, and the progress made in meeting requirements. It was thus possible to advise the agents of a ship going to the East Asian region, for example, as to what commodities should be brought back on the return trip.

IV.

Readers of THE NEW AGE will be interested in some extracts from an Appendix by W. N. Polakow on the Measurement of Human Work, in which he emphasises "the irreducible and final element of human life—time."

"Production may be defined as human work organised on the co-operation of living and dead men for the conscious purpose of changing the form of matter. . . . What is meant by the phrase in our definition of production 'co-operation of living and dead men'? Living men apply their knowledge and energy to work, but by far the greater part of their knowledge has not originated with them. It has been handed down from men who lived long ago. The machines or tools which living men use have been invented, designed, and even built largely by men who are no longer living. The construction of a locomotive, for instance, involves the work of geometrists back to Euclid, of the philosophers who created calculus, of chemists, metallurgists, and so forth. In fact, a great deal more has been done toward building a locomotive before the living man begins work on the first piece of steel that goes into it than is done during its actual construction.

"This co-operation of living and dead men creates all our material, intellectual, and spiritual wealth. Before we begin any work we have at our disposal sciences—knowledge, machinery, materials, ideals, methods—all created and handed down by those who worked before us. It is our part to bring to the work our energy and the ability to co-ordinate and apply what we have received from preceding generations, and thus by means of our time-binding energy to create further material, intellectual, and spiritual wealth.

"It is apparent, then, that the human work done is a product of two time rates: one the momentum of civilisation, transferred from generation to generation, where the time element appears as an exponent; another the velocity or motion time rate of contemporary human beings performing the work. Inasmuch as during the life of an individual, even from day to day, a progress of accumulation of experience, knowledge, skill, etc., is being made, the rate of progress is also an exponential function of time."

J. E. HUMPHRIES.

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.

The Point of the Pen.

By R. Laugier.

No. 1: MEASURING.

It is the business of the artist to reveal his art and conceal his science or technique: every good artist possesses science, and every good scientist has art; it is the manner of mixing these two things that, in our age of apparently enforced specialisation, appears to be highly dangerous. When the modern artist becomes overtly scientific he goes astray. When our scientists turn their backs upon art—as they frequently do—they become dehumanised. If, for example, an artist produces something which may justly be described as a "propaganda play," he commits the error because he has allowed his science to swamp his art. If a scientist spends his life in discovering facts, valueless, or even dangerous to human existence, his mistake arises through ignorance of artistic values.

"Science is primarily measurement, says Lord Kelvin. Accurate and minute measurement seems to non-scientific imagination a less lofty and dignified work than looking for something new. But nearly all the grandest discoveries of science have been but the reticent labour in the minute shifting of numerical results."

Sir Francis Galton says: "Until the phenomena of any branch of knowledge have been subjected to measurement and number, it cannot assume the status and dignity of science."

And Prof. Edward L. Thorndike states the same thing: "Our ideals may be as lofty and subtle as you please, but if they are real ideals they are ideals for achieving something; and if anything real is ever achieved it can be measured. Not perhaps now, and not perhaps in fifty years from now; but if a thing exists it exists in some amount; and if it exists in some amount it can be measured."

Now it is not only the proper business of the scientist to measure, it is also the métier of the artist: the artist evaluates, and according to the justness or falsity of his evaluation of human existence, so will the artist's work live or die. The scientists' perceptions of "truth," the artists' discoveries of "beauty," both expand and empower the human soul; they give to mankind a richer and fuller life. So the cleavage between arts and sciences has been an evil thing; it has made possible the insane conception of life as "business," instead of life as an art. Once we are mad enough to accept life as "business" all our values are hopelessly wrong.

It is not only the artist's task to measure, weigh, and evaluate the most precious things in human life, it may also be claimed for the artist that, again and again, he has visualised truths that the scientists have afterwards discovered and "proved." We speak commonly of "progressive science," but art also is progressive: in the world of letters consider what is called "realism"; in the dramatic field; think of satire. The behaviour of society is modified and changed as much by the assault of art as by the investigations of science.

These statements should be platitudinous, but in a business age the old truisms are lost sight of—they are apt to take on the appearance of dazzling paradox! Under the business régime great scientists, like Darwin and Spencer, possess such slender art that they are capable of writing like third-rate hacks. Great minds think it scarcely worth while to master the technique of expression—or, worse, they imitate bad models. For large numbers of clever and expensively schooled people the artist is merely a trivial entertainer, a man with the "gift of the gab," a trick of stringing words together!

All this cuts deep into our cultural life. Scientists fail to make themselves understood through each of the means of expression; and sometimes one may suspect that they lack verbal clearness because they have not fully realised their ideas, for an easy technique means a smooth flow of ideas.

We have, too, the spectacle of good artists becoming

bad scientists. When the scientist does not do his job, the artist feels compelled to take it on, and the plays of Brieux, and the later writings of Mr. Wells, are dreary examples of what may follow.

If cultural values are to be restored, such values must be exposed by artist and scientist working in close harmony once again: as for Business it must do what it is told. Should humanity be capable of learning from experience, they will realise, shortly, the hell that follows upon an abandonment of artistic values.

"Daylight at Midnight."

It is not strange if we are tempted to despair of good . . . our religions and moralities have been trimmed to flatter us, till they are all emasculate and sentimentalised, and only please and weaken. Truth is of a rougher strain. In the harsh face of life faith can read a bracing gospel. —R. L. S., from *The Spirit of Man*, by Robert Bridges.

It must have occurred to many readers of Mr. Reckitt's *Faith and Society* that here was a book that ought to be on the study table of every bishop, priest and deacon, and on the reference shelf of every lay student of sociology. It is one of those books that must be owned, not borrowed; but 15s. is a large sum in these days of predatory taxation and high finance that can finance everything but the things that really matter, so the appearance of an abridged edition at 4s. 6d. under the title *A Christian Sociology for To-day*,* is more than welcome.

As the author says in his preface, "the alterations in this edition are few and unimportant." In the opinion of at least one reader the work gains by condensation, and, in its present form is as good an introduction to the subject as we are likely to get for some time to come, for in the words of Mr. Reckitt,

"We are only at the beginning of Christian Sociology. The awakening awareness of the Christian mind to the fact that it is not primarily the intentions, but rather the aims and purposes of secular society which demand the challenging scrutiny of religion, is giving rise to an entirely new type of apologetic—for it is nothing less—in every Christian communion."

As it is impossible to deal with all the manifold phases of the social problem discussed by this learned and discreet layman, and the sole object of this review being to urge all Social Creditors to read the book, it would be as well to concentrate on one topic that will appeal to all NEW AGE readers—the mechanism of money and its subservience to policy. On this subject Mr. Reckitt has as definite views and expresses them as clearly and vigorously as any non-Catholic monetary reformer. When he describes finance as "the Black Magic of our age" he sums up in a phrase that will live the whole gravamen of the indictment against the existing system.

Now the traditional way of dealing with black magic is by exorcism and anathemata, a special function of the Church, which, as Mr. Reckitt describes it, is

"an actual society with affirmations and refusals of its own about every vital aspect of human order."

That obviously includes high finance and big business; so when courage returns to institutional religion we may yet see an Archbishop of Canterbury denouncing, with bell, book, and candle, a Governor of the Bank for sinning against the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, in as much as the magic he practices.

"operates as a sort of alchemy, transmuting values in accordance with its own mysterious principles, and demands—what it has long enjoyed—the blind, unquestioning submission of the millions whose precarious fortunes it dominates."

That is a taste of Mr. Reckitt's quality. The three sections of Chapter VI.:

The Barrier of Financial Orthodoxy,
The Just Price and the Social Dividend,
Problems of Interest and Investment,

* *A Christian Sociology for To-day*. An abridged edition of *Faith and Society*, by Maurice B. Reckitt. Longmans. 4s. 6d. net.

constitute as good a statement of the Social Credit case as one could desire. It has also the additional charm of being expressed in lucid graceful English which makes it a pleasure to read, apart from the absorbing interest of the subject matter.

To those who do not approach the solution of the economic enigma in the light of the Catholic Faith and may be disinclined to tackle the whole 286 pages of the book let them at least read the last chapter, "Daylight at Midnight." In this eloquent summing up Mr. Reckitt is not afraid to admit that "the Christian Church does not stand high in the estimation of contemporary opinion," but neither does he hesitate to suggest that the tendency to compromise in matters of faith is largely accountable for this: and when he goes on to say that

"it must surely begin to dawn upon the thoughtful that there may be a connection between the 'collapse of dogma' and the darkness in which . . . the modern man finds himself. No longer afraid of what an irresistible God may do to him in the next life, he is in growing fear of what his own creation will do to him in this one."

may we not venture to predict that a revival of the faith that can move mountains may yet show the way to economic security and dispel the miasma of fear which poisons life to-day.

In the concluding words of this courageous book which alone should recommend it to all who profess to bring an open mind to the study of vital problems:

"If society seem to us in this age to be blind, may this not have come to be because our faith is dim? But let those who believe that they have glimpsed some part of the purpose of God and the need of man at this hour recall that 'men's extremities are God's opportunities,' and remember how it has been finely said that 'Christ chargeth me to believe His daylight at midnight.'"

J. S. KIRKBRIDE.

Music.

The May records are much more interesting, so far than those of last month. There is first a re-recording of the Schumann Piano Concerto by Cortot and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Landon Ronald. (H.M.V.) This has all Cortot's exquisite, clear-headed clean-ness, his nervous fine-ness of phrase, and restrained discreet poetry, that, as one would expect, never is allowed to descend into bathos, as it can so easily do, in the case of such a work as the Schumann Concerto. All in all it is a model performance, and reconciles one, as far as anything can, to yet another hearing of a much-mauled work which is overdue for ten years, at least, in cold store.

Backhaus's record of the First Prelude and the First Etude (Op. 10) of Chopin are truly superb. Particularly magnificent is the Etude. To hear the great open octave bass knit into a great theme that traces its way right through the piece is a delight. Backhaus is German piano-playing at its very best, free from any Teutonic portentousness, or class-room pedantry, and with an almost Latin clear-headedness. The piano recording is very good indeed. (H.M.V.)

Elizabeth Schumann records some lighter Schumann Lieder, "Loreley," and "Standchen," to which her style is admirably suited, and in which that particular brand of arch charm she manipulates so delightfully, at the right times, shows to the very best advantage. (H.M.V.)

Count John McCormack sings "Automne" of Faure with rare artistry, but rather barytonish quality, that quality that has been rather noticeable in his voice of late years, to the detriment of the lovely pure tenor that we once knew. (H.M.V.)

Mark Hambourg and his daughter Michal give us a most stimulating and refreshing, and quite shatteringly efficient, if not particularly subtle piece of piano duet playing in an arrangement of Schubert's "Hark, hark, the lark." Here, again, the piano recording, though much better than in Mr. Hambourg's last record that I reviewed some time ago, is not by any means up to the standard of the Backhaus record mentioned above. Also H.M.V.

From the Columbia Co. there are the Elgar Quartet by the Stratton String Quartet, a record in which I must confess that neither work nor players especially appeal to me, for all that, as I believe, the composer himself considered them ideal. From the same company there are the

Lener Quartet in the C sharp minor Beethoven Quartet, Op. 131.

The Polka and Fugue from the new opera to be done at Covent Garden this season, "Schwanda, the Bag-pipe Player," is an exceedingly amusing and jolly piece of music, very clever, and, if it is in any way typical of the rest of the opera, which has had an enormous success in Central Europe, should indicate that we are in for a pleasant experience when the work is staged here shortly.

Although it was not actually sent to me for review, I must here draw attention to a recording upon Decca-Polydor of one of the great Fantasias upon Chorales of Reger that has been recorded by Alfred Sittard. It is a remarkable and very typical work of its kind, that all those interested in this supreme master of the instrument should not fail to secure. The playing is not ideal, it is up to a point clean, but registration is crude and unimaginative, and the organ tone indifferent, this due, not to the fault of the recording company, but to the quality of the instrument. I had occasion to animadvert upon this before. In this instance, once again is brought home forcibly to one the incontestable inferiority of quality of German as compared with English church organs. The reeds are at once harsh and coarse, and the diapasons a mere apology compared with those to which we are accustomed in the best of our instruments over here. But, for all that, it is a record that no-one who is interested in organ music in general, and in Reger in particular, can afford to miss.

I have had two very attractive Tauber records sent to me by the Parlophone Company. The records are of the light opera "Frederica" of Franz Lehár, and amazingly deft, polished, accomplished, and skilful stuff it is, too. Tauber's singing of it is, it hardly needs saying, perfection; I have, moreover, no hesitation in saying that there is no living tenor who is a more accomplished nor consummate singer, nor a more gifted artist. His phrasing is supreme, his breath management superb, and his appreciation of the exact amount of *tendresse* to inject into what he sings, that is to say, his appreciation of *genre*, is of the most delicate and subtle. A very great singer and a very great artist, recalling the great days of the great old singers.

A Columbia record of Ignaz Friedman playing his own arrangement of a Gärtner Viennese Dance, is brilliant and accomplished in a hard, efficient sort of way. Friedman is a very direct downright sort of player, with little *finesse* or subtlety of style or phrasing, but there is an open air boldness and athletic vigour about his playing that is as attractive as are the movements of a lithe, healthy young athlete's body, for all that he does not give you the aesthetic emotion and delight of a Nijinsky, for instance.

KAIKHOSRU SORABJI.

The Films.

"Pêcheurs d'Islande." Pierre Guerlais Production. Directed by Pierre Guerlais. Academy.

This French talking picture is not a film. The action is drowned in a flood of dialogue—mostly unnecessary, as is proved by the fact that the two really good sequences are silent—and the camera is too immobile. Neither direction nor editing is good, and the alternation of long sequences with others that are both short and end abruptly makes the rhythm jerky. The film gives no indication of either the dangers or the hardships of the fisherman's life, is entirely devoid of atmosphere, and when the director wrenches himself away from Breton cottage interiors, it is as though he had suddenly remembered that he had set out to make a picture of ships and the sea. Yvette Guilbert, now nearly eighty, is admirable as Grandmother Moan, and Thomy Bourdette, of "Verdun" fame, is Jann.

It needs no recollection of "Finis Terrae" to realise that "Pêcheurs d'Islande" is synthetic stuff—and not good synthetic. All the same, it is refreshing to come across a screen play that makes some attempt to deal with reality.

DAVID OCKHAM.

British Association.

NOTICE.

In view of the meeting of the British Association next September in Aberdeen, will any readers of "The New Age" who propose to attend it please communicate their names and addresses to the Editor, "The New Age," 78 High Holborn, W.C.1, endorsing envelopes with the signature H.117 in the top left corner.

"Douglas" in Norwegian.

Efter oss kommer overfloden (After us the glut), by Brynjolf Bjorset (H. Aschehoug and Co., Oslo), is the title of a recently published Norwegian book dealing with current economic ideas. It includes chapters on Technocracy, the Soddy, the Eisler and Vickers plans, and an excellent chapter on Douglas Social Credit. There is also a concluding chapter called "Experiments"—Roosevelt's America, the Soviet, Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and the new Turkey.

The book has a refreshing limpidity, and lays good stress in illustrated cover, subtitle, and text on "poverty amidst plenty." It is superficially unbiassed as the various theories are straightforwardly dealt with in their respective chapters, the author giving no personal opinions, but one sees that Douglas by the number of times he is mentioned, particularly in the concluding chapters, is at the focal point of Herr Bjorset's eye.

The inevitability of war if the present system continues, which Douglas has pointed out, has strangely enough not been emphasised.

I recommend this book to all Social Credit propagandists with Scandinavian connections, and bring to their notice also a pamphlet, "Økonomisk Frigjørelse" (Economic Emancipation), by Robert Millar and H. Murstad (Johan Grundt, Tanum, Oslo, 1933). Social Credit is here comprehensively expounded to the uninitiated with the right mixture of satire, fable and technique. E. DE MARE.

Reviews.

The Schools at Work. Published for the National Union of Teachers by Evans Brothers, Russell-square. Not priced.

A well executed volume of pictures comparing schools and scholars of forty-fifty years ago with those of to-day. By taking the cream of to-day and comparing it with the skimmed milk of fifty years ago the N.U.T. doubtless hopes to gain that public support for which it pines. Public salaries, of course, restores cuts. Nothing so degrading as mentioned in this volume though in the Elementary Section, the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, F.R.S., the former President Board of Education, does say, "The reward should be sufficient and secure." He does not mention the corresponding punishments, though teachers in black-listed areas doubtless could do so! In a foreword the Rt. Hon. Viscount Halifax hopes the book will "secure a wide circulation." If the N.U.T. are giving it away there will be a rush for it. At any rate they have not published the price. H. E.

The Gold Problem and Currency Revaluation: Address by Russell Leffingwell, of J. P. Morgan and Co., before the Academy of Political Science, March 21, 1934.

This pamphlet (no price shown) of twenty-two pages has been sent to us by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who recommend it to notice because the author's views are, as they say, illustrative of certain phases of opinion in the United States. There is no need to do more than record the receipt of the pamphlet in case any reader likes to apply for a copy to the Carnegie Endowment, whose address is 405, West 17th Street, New York. Two section headings strike the eye, viz: "Gold Not an End But a Means," and "The Importance of a Balanced Budget"; means to what, and importance to what, are subjects which the author does not treat exhaustively. The pamphlet can be relied on by students of Social Credit to provide them with a good sigh—like that of the Treasury officials when they receive communications from credit reformers. A. B.

The World To-morrow. By "Effendi. Printed by B. Lansdown and Sons, Ltd., Trowbridge. 36 pp., price 6d. We notice this pamphlet because the writer of it is a high intentioned and altruistic spirit, tends to emphasise the handicaps imposed by these very attributes on perception of the nature of the economic deadlock. Quite unwittingly, this humble writer nurses exactly the same vision as Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, viz., that of the world as a nation and the nations as citizens thereof. It is interesting to note that here is a writer with no pretensions to profound wisdom or extensive erudition getting the same ideas as the world-renowned Dr. Butler. A. B.

China and Japan: A World Coalition Against Japan. By George Gothein. The Hamilton Press, 15, Fitzroy Street, W.1. 32 pp., price 1s. Students of Far Eastern politics will find this pamphlet useful on questions of fact, such as prices, tariffs, exchanges,

and so on. As the title of the pamphlet suggests, the author foresees nothing but military measures as strong enough to prevent Japan over-running the markets of other nations. The author's reasoning is sound within its own frame of reference, but as this takes no account of anything more in Japan's monetary policy than what he calls "the depreciation of the yen," his conclusion that Japan can only be stopped by force is not unassailable, as it otherwise would seem to be. Social Credit propagandists, however, could make effective use of the material in the pamphlet, and those who want to relate Social Credit to the war for markets would do well to provide themselves with a copy. A. B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A + B

Sir,—Opponents of Social Credit frequently endeavour to destroy the A + B theorem by attacking the foundations upon which they—erroneously, as I suggest—suppose it to rest.

Let it be assumed, for the sake of a quiet life, that all costs do appear at some time or other as incomes.

Let "the present" represent any period which covers the final stage of the production of consumable goods.

Then the cost of those goods is made up from:—

- (1) Payments which have been incomes in the past (intermediate stages in production).
- (2) Payments being made in the present in respect of the goods under consideration.
- (3) Payments to be made in the future (replacements, profits, etc.).

Only (2) constitutes present income.

Therefore, part of the cost must be met from other sources—among which may be included, again for the sake of a quiet life, personal savings, and present payments in respect of other production.

And that is the A + B theorem—valid even when our opponents' major premises are allowed.

Of course, it may then be pointed out that, as a matter of observable fact, supported by reasons with which all Social Creditors are familiar, personal savings by no means balance the costs under (1), and those under (3) have not yet appeared as incomes. Hence, the only method of providing sufficient purchasing power to buy the goods is to undertake production of capital goods and goods for export—and so on, along the usual lines.

On the face of it, though, I do not see how anyone can fail to admit the truth of the A + B theorem, by itself!

G. F. LLEWELLYN.

41, Cedar Lawn Avenue, Barnet, Herts.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE PRICE FACTOR.

Sir,—When attempting to "put over" Douglas Social Credit, the usual method is to point out the way in which machines are doing the work previously done by men, and from that deduce that there will never again be employment for the total population of workers.

It is then a normal procedure to point out the flaw in the price system and the suggested twofold remedy of the National Dividend and the Just Price mechanism.

Now, it seems to me—and I have never heard this point raised before—that although it may be better from an ethical point of view, to keep a proportion of workers out of employment in order that the sudden influx of wealth may not be too great and disorganise society, on principle the statement that at one and the same time (this is always implied) all workers will not be needed all the time and that there is need for the Just Price discount is paradoxical.

So long as there is a physical demand for all we can produce, the principle of Social Credit is that we produce it. Therefore all workers will be required until this demand is satisfied. At this point the extra production which will have been required in order to catch up with the enormous consumption-demand will no longer be needed, and at this point also, production will equal consumption and the price factor will be unity. So that not until the price factor becomes unity will it technically be necessary to have unemployment.

If I am correct in my statement, it may be advisable slightly to modify the usual statement that never again will all the workers be required in industry and at the same time suggesting the Just Price.

If I am wrong I shall be glad to be corrected.

BERTRAM H. VOS.

Twogate Court, 21, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3.

[There is no relation between the Price Factor and employment.—Ed.]

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The Social Credit Movement.

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

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

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