NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A Voice from Alberta.

We received recently a letter from a reader in Alberta whose opinions upon events there are entitled to attention. It is an acute analysis of the situation as he saw it when writing (namely on February 28), together with pessimistic comments on future prospects in that province. During the pre-election period he felt that Aberhart was "getting too firm a hold" on the people of Alberta, and that "he would fall" and with his failure would go all hope of Social Credit in Canada." He fears that this has now come about. He lays the blame, with varying emphasis, on the three agencies who were generally expected to design and implement a strategy appropriate to the fulfillment of the mandate given by the electorate. Of the first, Mr. Aberhart, he characterizes him as a "four-flushing buffoon" who has been "tricked by the Sound Money men of the East," "the worst of it" being that "he doesn't know it." Of the second, the Social Credit Secretariat, he considers them to be "a bunch of stiff shirts." Of the third, Major Douglas, he employs a venomous expression meaning that he (Douglas) has failed to exhibit the qualities of leadership.

"Had Aberhart, he says, when "unable to get the advice he needed" and when "held up for lack of funds," told the people of the province (who were "solidly behind him") the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," he might have been excused for doing what he has done. "The temper of the people was such that he could have led a revolt on the rest of Canada. Many people in the other Western Provinces would have followed him. He had the bankers on the hop. All he had to do was to give the order to 'charge,' and the fight was on."

"Where are we now?" he asks; and he enumerates the methods and devices to which Aberhart is reduced—codes of price-fixation, taxes, dismissals of experienced civil servants who have been replaced by members of Aberhart's Party, and, for the rest..."singing hymns.""

"Had not Douglas figured in this" [i.e., as one of the agents in whose hands the problem of effectuating the popular mandate on true lines was left by Social Creditors who were dubious about some of the arguments and proposals embodied in Aberhart's electoral appeal and programme] "we could have kept up the fight... and, when the proper time came, gathered in the loose ends of Social Credit thought in the West..."

"As it is, he can easily say "over and as a movement." "We shall not be taken seriously for many years to come, if ever.""

He refers, in one passage, to The New Age, remarking that he took "more than a passing interest in the "split" between you and the Social Credit Secretariat" [this was in the period June-August, 1934], and I think that time is proving you to be right!"

Our Commentary.

Both in tone and structure our correspondent's reactions to the present seeming impasse in Alberta largely coincide with those expressed by other correspondents both in Alberta and in other parts of Canada—not to speak of distant observers in this country, France, Italy, and elsewhere. They can be summed up in Tennyson's phrase in the "Charge of the Light Brigade"—"Some- one has blundered." And when light is thrown on the matter it probably will be found that the blunderer-in-chief was there were accessories to the blunder, before it and after it.

Nevertheless, there is no use in repining, and no real occasion for it. Let us look at things in their right proportion; and judge them in the light of first principles. Social Credit is Truth and revolutionary Truth. It is bound to prevail. It enshrines the Spirit which maketh alive, and ordains death to the Letter which killeth. It
create a conflict between two irreconcilable principles. The impact of the clash stems from the heart of the solitary individual while apprehending the truth to the world-wide battlefield of high politics. The Letter which killeth is here embodied in what are called the Laws of the Constitution. The truth of Social Credit will prevail over the law by destroying them or fulfilling them: never by obeying them or submitting itself with them. In a phrase, Social Credit is a challenge to the Constitution.

Opportunist while we were writing the foregoing paragraph the following appeared in the Financial Times of March 17, dealing with Mr. Aberhart's Refunding Plan. The Edmonton correspondent of The Financial Times, commenting on this legislation, makes the following remarks:

"The Federal Government has power to disallow provincial legislation which is deemed to be damaging to the national interests, but in recent years this power has been infrequently and was not exercised in the case of Ontario's cancellation of power contracts." (Our italics)

If the description of the power of the Federal Government is conclusive proof that the Constitution of Canada cannot be used as a vehicle for the allowing of any conceivable piece of legislation in Alberta designed to inaugurate Social Credit on even to prepare the way for it. In fact it would be easier to prove in respect of preparatory measures than the reason being that preparatory actions are necessary to create a real or imagined. Take the Scheme for Scotland as an example, then the adoption of any portion of the complete Scheme would show such grievances to be groundless.

The correspondent of the Financial Times hints that Alberta's legislation may not be disallowed on this very parallel. Probably, not why should it be when the Federal Government has power to refuse him loans unless the less he agrees to lay down his en line for the purpose of loyalty? A leading article in "The Times" of March 23 on the matter is worth considering; the writer blocks the cabinet member. Nor is the peculiarity of disallowing an approved legislation that it legislation not formulated. For instance when Mr. Aberhart, at the beginning of last year, was refused more than a few days to do with Mr. Aberhart's general policy, much thereof, it had to do with contemporary estimates of the provincial government's credit as borrower, and immediate requirements as a functioning administration. For all evidence to the contrary the same result would have happened if the United Farmers' Government had been confirmed in office at the last election. Of course, students of political science do not require evidence of policy along this line, for they know that the bankers look askance Governments in such wise that the general legislation is disguised under the appearance of automatic. Nor is it a reason that the Money Monopoly can make Governments enter into contracts to deliver money at short intervals as the condition of borrowing money at such intervals, and under the necessity of borrowing money every time that they are called on to deliver it, there is no need for further constitutional safeguards against their bad behaviour: the problem of honouring their financial contracts is alone enough to keep them out of mischief on the part of the Federal Government.

"Of course if any Government is resolute enough to honour its contract, to the extent in it, the effects of disallowing any conceivable piece of legislation in Alberta designed to inaugurate Social Credit are of no concern, save in the degree to which it other properly enforceable.

The Federal Government has power to disallow provincial legislation which is deemed to be damaging to the national interests, but in recent years this power has been infrequently exercised. In the case of Ontario's cancellation of power contracts, our correspondent contends, the Federal Government has exercised its power.

Mr. Aberhart, in his Budget speech, has said that the government proposes to sell the Federal Government its debt at a discount. The government has also said that it will not accept any new money on the federal government's behalf.

Whether this could happen in Alberta depends upon the rate at which the province has to meet maturing external obligations—so as to capital repayments as well as interest payments. This would be a decision by the province, not the federal government. Whether it would have to be a decision by the province, or whether it would be a decision by the federal government, is a matter for the province to decide. The federal government has no power to make such a decision, even if it is the right thing to do.

So much for Mr. Aberhart's positive action. At the same time, it is worth noting that the provincial government, through its legislation, has put itself in a position where it may be forced to take action that could be detrimental to the province. The federal government, on the other hand, has provided a mechanism for dealing with such situations, and it is up to the province to decide whether it wants to use this mechanism or not.

And it was not true? Hitler pushed through the government the idea that they could get like that; and what was the consequence? It was a big bluff, and world-wide publicity for his name.
the emergent wisdom (if any) is paralysed by indecision.

However, we must do the best we can with the opportunities we have. There is a majority vote in the Alberta Legislature which is presumably at the command of Mr. Aberhart. There is a minority vote in the Dominion Legislature also at his command. The two groups, between them, ought to be able to exploit the present situation so as to provide the world with another new-story. Whether by word or act they should try to raise in the most dramatic form possible the issue of Constitutional rights, or by granting them, or by organizing the people, or by organizing the people under which they want, to establish a claim on the goods and services which they want. A voluntary "non-spending" and say that my aim was a condition of "full" spending. If the special category of my terms was not understood I might be accused of desiring as much spending as we can get away with. The economic activity which stimulated was unprofitable and not needed. A true reading of my words would show that I was merely desiring the removal of the first stage in the financial system which makes it impossible to treat the community to buy the goods and services available.

I may perhaps be taught to be going on unnecessary to establish an academic position at one end, and J. M. Keynes is quite capable of taking care of himself. Nevertheless, it is well for a movement to know precisely who are its true friends and enemies.

A. W. J.

Movement Politics.

CREDENTIALS FOR LEADERSHIP

We printed a letter last week commenting on Major Douglas's statement at the Central Hall Party that he had been offered an opportunity to buy the opportunity to defer to was one of contributing to the fortunes of the party. The distinction is a vital one in principle because the object of contributing funds in the circumstances referred to would undoubtedly be to enable the party to move. In the absence of details it is almost impossible to arrive at any judgement on the significance of the reported offer. But there is a moral to be drawn from the fact that such an offer can be made at all. It showed that the official leaders of the Social Credit movement have adopted the practice of placing themselves in a position where anybody who should dream of their being open to contribute to the fortunes of the party. The case of the Social Credit Party is a remarkable one of the 1931 election, and the article was written in July, 1934.

Involuntary unemployment is a special case of "full" employment in a very narrow sense to Keynes, is a state of affairs where men are being unemployed for work that is not available.

The concept of Keynes's more general "full" employment in the sense used by Keynes is the absence of "involuntary unemployment" in the economic system at any one time. This Keynes's flaw in the financial system. "Full" employment in the sense used by Keynes is the absence of "voluntary unemployment" in the economic system at any one time. Keynes's flaw in the financial system. "Full" employment in the sense used by Keynes is the absence of "voluntary unemployment" in the economic system at any one time. Therefore, the Keynesian "full" employment is a condition for those in whom the flaw of the economic system does not operate.

Full employment in this sense does not mean that everybody is working as much as possible. Keynes says that because men could work only twenty hours a day does not follow that there cannot be a "full" employment even if a man were working only one hour a day or if some men were not working at all.

To take an analogy I might announce that there was a flaw in the economic system which is termed "involuntary unemployment" non-operating. This is a condition in which people's wants are not satisfied, goods and services are not available and yet people are not spending sufficient to take these goods off the market. Such a condition occurs because people have not sufficient real income and wealth to establish a claim on the goods and services which they want. For the Social Credit movement to ignore the economic activity which economy is stimulated was unprofitable and not needed. A true reading of my words would show that I was merely desiring the removal of the first stage in the financial system which makes it impossible to treat the community to buy the goods and services available.

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A. W. J.
Social Credit Policy.

By Nilsen Cosens

Whatever reasons there may be against a Social Credit Party, they are not those set out in the (uncorrected) reports of Major Douglas’s speech in the Central Hall, which appear in Mr. New of this March 12 and Social Credit of March 17. Secretary, Limited, is supposed to work on the principles there enunciated does not increase their plausibility.

The trouble frankly is that Major Douglas as a political entity is taken at the class as he is an economic mist or social philosopher, (S.C.P. p. 53, col. 2). “The abolition of poverty in the midst of plenty” is a common theme that is, is not the concern of the problem. It is conceivable that people might be provided for as well supplied, etc.” However, as this philosopher speaking on firm ground even as a politician, his programme in this country has ever been seriously advanced except on a non-materialist or idealist basis.

The Secretariat’s Electoral Campaign Form is, however, based solely on the abolition of poverty, and, I presume, is so based because this will give the greatest majority to the individual factor of the general population, and a we have had for many years a ‘greatest common value’ Major Douglas doing but very right by varying his best (the speech S.C.P. p. 53: col. 4). Unhappily, the factor of the general population is not, and what do we find to break this common factor up. At every election the candidates of several parties all who said that the dearer the people and abolish unemployment, which eventually come as near as possible to the really poverty-stricken population, abolishing unemployment is an attempt to abolish poverty. With the aid of blessing of a few experts, finance, trade, industry, and administration, laboring to carry out this will of the people; and the results are astounding. That precisely and exactly exposes the whole political party of greatest-common-factor electoral demands as a political party.

Then Major Douglas in arguing against a Social Credit Party says that it is “an action of experience that no layman can possibly know the experts is an activity which is not an activity which is not a common or direct thing to do in the general and secondary aspects of their job. No Council wants a new town hall. It makes a woman who goes into a grocer’s shop, a pothol’s wound of food on the counter. Said: “A

The English Government does not exist to build the will of the people just by telling experts to get on with the actual fulfilling. The will of the people is a mixture of a multitude of wishes, varying in time and place, and often grossly inconsistent and inconsistent; any job of importance is far from simple, and imposes on the spheres of many different experts: experts notably differ among themselves on many things when they are experts in the same subject, let alone when they are experts in intersecting subject. A topological example, British Defence: Do the naval experts agree among themselves? They do not. The Air experts agree among themselves? They do not. Do the Army experts agree among themselves? They do not. Do the Air experts agree among themselves? They do not. Do the Army experts agree among themselves? They do not. Do the Air experts agree among themselves? They do not.

Therefore, to declare that “to elect a Social Credit Party in this country, we must be able to elect a set of amateurs to direct a set of very competent professionals to see to it that the argument for control is not further, and as far as I see it is a direct reflection on the Social Credit of the greater majority of the world’s people and New Zealand’s people than of the greater majority of the world’s people is conceivable that people might be provided for as well supplied, etc.” However, as this philosopher speaking on firm ground even as a politician, his programme in this country has ever been seriously advanced except on a non-materialist or idealist basis.

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the establishment of the National Credit Office, the insurance of the National Dividend, and the application of the Price Adjustment. Membership of the Party will depend upon signature to an undertaking to accept and further these three demands and the Douglas method of implementing them.

By taking The Social Credit Party as our official title we have, in fact, protected the Social Credit movement in this country from the danger expressed in (1) above; and we are of the opinion that if this had been done in Alberta by authentic Douglas Social Credit advocates "instead of," as Major Douglas writes to Mr. Aberhart, "pursuing, under a misconception, the policy of capitulation to orthodox finance under the label of a Social Credit Government," the position in Alberta would have been clear from the start, because right methods would have been implicit in the Party programme. A Taxation-and-credit-distribution-of-income scheme could not have been considered, it would have been ultra vires, and unquestionably so.

As regards (3), above, our official statement was equally clear:

"...No change in Green Shirt agrarian propaganda is contemplated. Green Shirts remain the trained and disciplined 'strike troops' of the Party, and the Green Shirt technique of bringing pressure to bear upon members of the Government, M.P.'s, and members of the 'hidden government' will be developed and intensified.

In fact, we are not aiding the electorate to elect a Social Credit Party. We are not an ordinary political Social Credit Party, organized on semi-military lines and pressure to bear upon those who claim to be, or who imagine they are, in control of the Government of this country. This includes any and every sort of pressure that appears to be effective.

Our action in putting forward a Social Credit Party candidate for Leeds at the last General Election was explained in our propaganda organ Attack! (No. 32) and why are we putting up a Social Credit candidate? First, we want to test the electorate in a particular locality.

Secondly, we want to send a Green Shirt into Parliament as the 'fifth party.'

"We want a Green Shirt in Parliament who will begin to bring pressure to bear INSIDE the House of Commons, fully backed up by Green Shirt agrarian pressure OUTSIDE.

"That is what we want, and that is all we expect of this General Election. If we win S. Leeds for Social Credit it will assist our national agitation enormously."

(1) There is a Social Credit Party in the country, and it is a genuine Social Credit Party in which every member is pledged to its rigidly fixed programme:

i. Open the National Credit Office.
ii. Issue the National Dividend.
iii. Apply the Price Adjustment.

We stand by this programme because we maintain that only right methods can get right results.

(2) The Social Credit Party of Great Britain is an directing Mass Pressure upon the Government and the 'hidden government.' We aim to use pressure inside as well as outside the parliamentary machine.

John Hargrave.
National Headquarters,
The Social Credit Party,

NOTICE.
All communications requiring the Editor's attention should be addressed direct to him as follows:
Mr. Arthur Brilon, 20, Restory Road, Barnet, S.W.13.

The Films.


One of the results of the Hitler regime has been to shift the centre of film art from Germany. "Mephisto" ("The Devil") represents the contemporary French cinema at its best, which is to say that it is an outstanding example of the screen at its best. To tell so many "films d'art," it makes a universal appeal through the human simplicity of its theme, and credit is absolutely due to Marcel Pagnol for avoiding even the faintest trace of it. He has had the courage to present his pictures with all the freedom that the war occasioned, even if only for the fact that it has a few rather unnecessary scenes. But in the end, the pictures are masterpieces of presentation. Marcel Pagnol has shown himself to be the master of the rare pictures that demand to be seen more than once. The pictures are little masterpieces of presentation. The film is a lesson to Hollywood, which has never wasted enough celluloid for every one actually thrown on the screen, to see how much a director who knows his work can do in a few seconds. Direction, editing, and acting are all admirable; in the title role Henri Poupon shows himself to be the calibre of Emile Jannings. You will observe that he has not given away the plot; he would not be fair to the spectator to weaken the force of the two surprises on which the story so largely hinges.

"Mephisto" is among the few films I have seen this year that should on no account be missed.

David O'Connell.

PARLIAMENT AND TECHNICIANS.

"Social Credit" is the name now attached to a movement based on certain principles. The function of Parliament is to declare the observance of these principles, and the function of the Government's technicians is to work out the best practicable scheme consistent with the principles of master-design. They have a free hand, but within a meticulously defined scope of initiative and action.

Forthcoming Meetings.

The following public meetings will be held at the Westminster Room, Caxton-street, S.W.1 on:

March 27, 7.45 p.m. — "The Immediate Future, as seen with a Spotted History," by Mr. Edgar J. Scudamore.
March 30, 7.45 p.m. — "The Evolution of Social Credit," by Mr. C. F. Scott.
March 31, 7.45 p.m. — "Problems of a Leisure Hour," by Mr. H. S. Reckitt.

Manchester Social Credit Club,
Meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Grosvenor Hotel, Deansgate, Manchester, 7 p.m. onwards. Visitors welcome.

"Netherwood," The Ridge, Hastings.

From 7/6 a day inclusive.

Academy Cinema, 165, Oxford St.

"Hohe Schule." Commencing March 14th.

"Crime & Chatiment." Commencing March 14th.