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INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER"

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART

No. 1692] New Vol. XXXVI. No. 16. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1925. [Registered at the G.P.O.] SIXPENCE

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Maharajah of Nepal, Sir Chandra Shum Shere Jung has "appealed to his people" to abolish slavery, and has given more than £85,000 towards indeposit from the state of the s sinderry, and has given more than £85,000 towards indemnifying the 16,000 owners of the 50,000 slaves in that State. They will receive the "statutory price" for every slave held by them. When the slaves are freed it is proposed that they shall be apprenticed to their former owners for seven years, the masters, in return, providing them with food and clothing. The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines' Proteotion Society has forwarded a resolution to his tection Society has forwarded a resolution to his Highness expressing its "warm appreciation of the noble action," and the Daily News has held its inevitable meeting of prayer and praise. It is indeed remarkable the regularity with which the traditional opponents of "Imperialism" formally thank God whenever the whenever the ruling classes employ a moral principle as an instrument of imperialist policy. Nepal is in that danger area of which we spoke a week or so ago in connection with the Bolsheviks' policy of creating and exploiting weeks the tribes of the and exploiting unrest among the tribes of the northern outpost States of our Indian Empire. We do not belittle the potential betterment involved in a transition for the potential betterment involved in the potential betterment involved in a transition for the potential betterment involved in the potential transition from slavery to apprenticeship, and if the change turns out to mean the cessation of the tearing asunder of families, which was instanced in the Maharajak's additionable to the maharajak's additionable to the management involved in the change turns of the change turn Maharajah's address, there is no man or woman who will not welcome it in spite of its being a moral by-product of amoralist policy. And if, moreover, John Bull thereby maintains his gains in the whole world, and at the same time saves his own soul, we can allow him his pinch of snuff while the theological problem he has thus created is being wrangled over by the "benighted foreigner." Queen Victoria is by the "benighted foreigner." Queen Victoria is supposed once to have answered the question, "What is the secret of England's greatness?" in the words, "The Bible." Then Mark Twain came along asking the conundrum: "In what text is England mentioned in the Bible?" and announcing as the answer, "The meek shall inherit the earth." But if there is a text in which both the "secret" and "England" are referred to together, we prefer that which says ". . . if our heart condemn us not then have we confidence toward God." There's John Bull in the life. Even should the introspectives and psycho-analysts of the world speak with the tongues of angels, never

would they get John's heart to convict him of oblique motives. He would continue steadfast in the assurance that he was appointed under God to rule the world. And if one accepts Mr. McKenna's line of reasoning about the gold standard, he must admit that if John Bull is assured of the Divine preference, it is so. "We will change slavery into apprentice-ship—for slavery is wicked," declaims John from the world platform. "The change will mean another 10 per cent." encouragingly whispers a Morning Post supporter to him." "10 per cent.?" replies John, satto voce, staring blankly through his exaltation at the interrupter; "Don't bother about that now; can't you let me get on with my speech. If any money should come for me before I've done, can't you just should come for me before I've done, can't you just slip it into my hip pocket without distracting me?" slip it into my hip pocket without distracting me? And when Bull at last resumes his seat amid the furore of groans and "God-bless you's," behold the furore of groans and "God-bless you's," behold the some pelvic oracle condemning him not.

Nevertheless, there are difficulties. All successful men have their imitators. So, while John has been hearing the cries of slaves, a cousin of his called Sam has been sniffing the fumes of opium. For weeks and weeks at Geneva has poor perplexed John been trying hard to get Sam's point of view into focus. But, no, he cannot; and Mr. Porter, with the rest of the United States delegation, has withdrawn from the International Opium Conference. The report of this event says that Mr. Porter, in his Memorandum to the United States Government, states that "there seems to be no likelihood of the production of raw opium and coca leaves being restricted to the medicinal and scientific needs of the world." Of course, the irreverent American citizen thinks he can see why. He knows that the production in question is helping to bulge John Bull's hip pocket, and that the American Opium delegation's task has been the forlorn one of getting John to see the moral necessity of abating the bulge. What is entirely overlooked is that the contents of the hip pocket are a symbol and measure of Divine approval, and no more to be lightly dissipated than one would engage in the ritual of black magic. Were opium production to be suppressed, where would the revenue go which now flows in? What other remunerative operation could be substituted for

it? And what would be the effect on the millions of opium-eaters in the eastern parts of the Empire when they were deprived of what they regard as a necessity of life? These are confusing considerations, and John is not running any risks. He takes his stand firmly on the Parable of the Talents, and remembers that it was the man who had only the one talent to invest who lost his nerve and buried it. Afterwards comes the reflection that it would be demoralising to Uncle Sam for him to be allowed to exercise his moral sentiments at John's expense. No, no; every country must work out its moral salvation at its own expense.

While Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and his latest friend, Mr. Birch Crisp (it was once Mr. Arthur Kitson), are relaxing and consulting in Jamaica along with Mr. J. H. Thomas, it has been left for Mr. Frank Hodges to keep the workers from doing anything silly. That he has begun well is evident from the fact that the Daily Mail says of his speech at Carmarthen that "it was so honest and reasonable in tone as to secure our respect for the man who made it." The reason our respect for the man who made it. The reason is plain. According to Mr. Hodges, the cause of all the troubles of the miners was that there was an overproduction of coal in the world. Modern methods of production, he complained, had not reached a very high state of efficiency in this country. (A good job, one would think, if we already suffer from over-production.) His plan is to have an international investigation of the output and wage conditions in the coalproducing countries of Europe and America. So important does he hold this to be that he says it would pay the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to get it done even if they had to finance the international secretaryship (for which he is a candidate) by themselves. Apparently the main line of procedure would be to ascertain in which country the conditions were most favourable to the miners, and thereupon make those conditions a sort of coal standard for the rest of the world's collieries. Secondly, he "would not rule out the possibility of an international agreement for the regulation of the world's coal supply "—that means to say, a world-restriction of output. These lines of thought the observed of output. These lines of thought, he observed, of output. These lines of thought, he observed, "must be pursued to their logical conclusion before any steps were taken exclusively by the miners of this country." It is not surprising, then, to hear Mr. of undisturbed peace in the coal industry." Does this not all dovetail beautifully into everything we share in the least the suspicions of the Communists share in the least the suspicions of the Communists that Mr. Hodges has been "bought by the Capitalists." On the contrary, he is an intelligent and logical man, a man whose recent experience of logical man, a man whose recent experience of national administration has brought him face to face with a certain set. with a certain set of economic facts. But behind those facts are facts are facts are facts are facts are facts. those facts are financial premisses which he has accepted; and since the since the same since th accepted; and since these premisses are untrue, his reasoning on the facts le premisses are untrue, and selfreasoning on the facts has led him to faulty and self-contradictory conclusions led him to faulty and selfcontradictory conclusions. For instance, British miners are to stop soits. miners are to stop agitating, and to put their backs into their work producing, and to put their backs into their work, producing as much as possible for five years, during which Mr. Hodges will be trying to organise a world content to organise and to put their backs and to put their backs are to organise and the o to organise a world-compact to produce less. Or again, British miners are to continue on low diet while Mr. Hodges tries to find a body of miners somewhere else in the world who are getting full the conditions of British miners can be brought up to the conditions of British miners can be brought up to that level. But does that follow? Before it began even to look likely to follow, one would have to be industry were due to causes within the industry. But industry were due to causes within the industry. But this theory Mr. Hodges himself explicitly demolishes. Although remarking that the price of coal at the pit head in the price of the transport at the pit-head is too high, he turns on the transport organisations as the villains of the piece. "The railways ought immediately to reduce their freights on

mineral traffic by one-third." Just so. We are no geniuses, but we would undertake to put any business on a sound footing if we could fix the price of the materials and services it had to buy. However, Mr. Hodges goes on to preach a crusade against the railways which, he says, should be "rather the servant of the nation's economic life than a millstone around its neck." And all this stir is based on the fact that the cost of transport on coal comes to as much as the price at the pit-head. Interesting enough, it is true, but it no more proves unnecessary profiteering on the part of transport organisations than would the contrasting of prime costs with final prices in, say, the railway companies' books convict the coal-owners of overcharging. What Mr. Hodges is really up against is the fact that the coal-owners cannot pay good wages, and recover these together with their overhead costs out of the public, while the transport companies are doing the same thing. If only the railways had no capital debt to inflate their freight rates! Quite so; if only —!

But much more significant still is the reaction of Mr. Hodges' remarks on the wage programme of the railwaymen. The aggregate cost of making the freight concession that Mr. Hodges demanded for minerals has been, we are quite sure, worked out in readiness for the Wage Board inquiry. The railwaymen's demands have been computed to involve an expenditure of £45 millions a year on top of the present wage-bill of £120 millions. Before the war the total wage-bill was £47 millions. So the railway company that they railway companies will be able to show that they are asked to carry a new wage-bill of 3½ times the pre-war amount against an increase in the cost of living of considerably under twice the pre-war scale. Is it not inevitable that the effect of evidence like this on the public mind will be to identify with Mr. Hodges' "millstones," not the transport companies as such, but the workers employed by them? In a word, the alignment of battle will swing round from "Capital versus Labour" to "Cramp versus Cook." The direct actionists will be left to exhaust their furnisher. their fury on each other while Messrs. Thomas and Hodges relax into the contemplation of a society where such sordid things as bread and cheese are not even subjects of conversation. To be fair to the latter, he certainly has thrown out the suggestion that the Government might give a subsidy to the rolling. the railway companies to enable them to cut freight rates; but there is a slight inconsistency here. First of all we are led to believe that these companies are profiteering, and now we are supposed to believe that they cannot afford freight concessions and they cannot afford freight concessions. sions out of their earnings. But perhaps Mr. Hodges is assuming that the railwaymen will get their ware administration of their ware administration of the railwaymen will get their ware administration of their earnings. their wage advances allowed them, in which case we can see that a subsequent reduction in rates on minerals will require a Government subsidy. But we see that a subsequent reduction in rates But we see something else, too—that the subsidy will come out of the pockets of us all. Now, we would not object to Mr. Cook's advocacy of such a subside. subsidy. He is the business representative of the miners, and it is not his duty to trouble himself whence more it whence money comes to his clients so long as it gets to them. (And equally is the duty of the business representatives of the whole of the community of taxpayers. of taxpayers to see that if any subsidy is paid it does not come see that if any subsidy is paid it does not come out of their pockets.) But we challenge the wind their pockets. lenge the right of Mr. Hodges to gain credit in two camps at the same time. He knows that he cannot at the same time. not at the same time be true to the miners' material interests and those of the rest of the community; yet he acts as if he thought it was possible. would be possible under the New Economic system of accredition of accrediting production and regulating pricing, but it is not possible under the present system with which Mr. Hodges identifies himself. He may just

as well crystallise his programme into one sentence—to buy peace in the mining industry by imposing a coal tax on the community.

A sidelight on the mysteries of pricing and profit-taking is afforded by Mr. Millman's meat price list. Mr. Millman is an independent official of the City Corporation, and, some time ago, he commenced issuing a list "of fair retail prices for good quality British and imported meat," as, he said, "a guide to the public" and to "set a standard of prices which should not be exceeded." The Daily Mail (and, we believe, other newspapers) have been publishing the list every Friday. The sequel was heard at the Food Commission last week:—

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES: "It has been put to us in evidence that Mr. Millman's price lists are having the effect of raising prices in shops that ought to sell more cheaply because they sell the inferior class of meat."

Mr. G. H. Collinge (president of the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations): "It may be so. I should not blame the trader for doing his best with Mr. Millman's prices. The Daily Mail have asked for it and have got it."—Evidence given before the Food Price Commission on Wednesday.

The Daily Mail, in a leading article on this episode, ingenuously finds in Mr. Collinge's reply indicated and the colling indications of an animus against itself. Of course it No trader, whether dealing unfairly or not, is proof against the feeling of resentment at the interference of another trader—which is all that the Daily Mail is. But this is by the way. The moral of the illustration is that all attempts to stop profiteering by Price publisher of the interference of the interference publisher of the interference of the price publicity of this sort are ultimately futile unless you can at the same time give the ordinary shopper a thorough training in the detection of variations in quality; unless, in fact, you turn the public into experts in every branch of trade. This is manifestly impossible. Moreover, the public do not look at the question of the question of the public do not look at the question of the qu question from what we may call the Daily Mail point of view. Far from analysing the quality of an article in order to the corposite: in order to judge a price, they do exactly the opposite: they make the price a standard of quality. We are not speaking without our book. During the week-end of THE NEW AGE Dinner we spent some time in a company from which there flowed a continuous stream of instances to this effect. Most of them, it is true, related to the boom period of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the form of the war and immediately after but the war a after, but that fact does not vitiate the psychological content of the stories. A man would come into a shop for shop for, say, a working apron. He would be shown three, at (we forget the precise figures) 3s. 11d., 5s. 11d., and 6s. 11d. "Not good enough,"—hadn't they "anything better than 6s. 11d.?" Observe the phrase—"better than 6s. 11d." Now, there happens to be nothing of better walltrein this line of goods on to be nothing of better quality in this line of goods on the most in the salesman the market at the time. Of course, the salesman ought to say so. But if he does he knows that the customers and salesman away customer will try somewhere else. So he puts away the three articles shown, and during this interval for reflection he tries to think of a price "better than 6s. 11d." He has a wide choice, but, taking all the factors into factors into consideration—his own conscience, his customer's condition of opulence, and so on—he decides on 8s. 11d. Then, selecting a 6s. 11d. apron once more, he throws it on the counter, saying, "How will this do—8s. 11d.?" "Ah—ye—yes: that's more the thing. I'll take that." Price-snobbery among the public is the greatest force in the encouragement the public is the greatest factor in the encouragement of profiteering. "If butchers are now selling inferior meat at Mr. Millman's prices for the best meat, then we can only inferior than the control of the best meat, then we can only inferior than the can only inferior than the control of the best meat, then we can only inferior than the control of the control o We can only say that there are some kinds of unfair dealing which it is impossible for a newspaper to prevent." Thus, the chastened attitude of the Daily of the masher of Yadil. When will "benefactors of the poor" have the indicating the maximum of the poor" learn that in dictating the maximum price of a thing you are thereby dictating the minimum price of every cheaper thing that looks like it? As a matter of fact, this whole National almost an irrelematter of fact, this whole Note is almost an irrelevancy. Profiteering itself is only a wave on the sea of

a false costing-system; and, even then, for every wave there is a trough. It is the mean level of the water that drowns the poor. If one could imagine the food traders of London raising prices to double, and successfully getting them for an unreduced output, the public would soon be able to buy clothes, and so on below cost from despairing drapers, who would have lost all that diverted revenue, and would be cutting each other to death to avoid bankruptcy; at the worst they would all close down and go into the food trade. The price of a thing is what it will fetch; and if one price is made to fetch less money it will only leave more for another to fetch. There is no sound remedy, even in theory, for price evils, but a general remedy. And no general remedy is practical which cannot or will not guarantee every seller an increased aggregate profit as a result of the lowering of his prices. Willing economic co-operation to this end can be secured directly the State can go and bargain with the several parties with new financial credit in its hand, instead of telling them what they ought to do at their own expense. And since financial credit costs nothing to create, you arrive at the hopeful deduction that economic co-operation can be brought about for nothing—but a little common sense.

The orgy of gambling in wheat at Chicago appears to have collapsed. On February 6 in "one of the wildest sessions in the history of the exchange, the wildest sessions in the history of the exchange, the price of May wheat dropped to 185 cents per bushel after opening at 194 cents," says an Exchange report. People over here who suffered from visions of a two-shilling quartern loaf are now doubtless reassured. But the effects of speculation in the ordinary of the contract dangerous except to the nary course of things are not dangerous except to the speculators. It was once said of the speculator that his success, when successful, was not due to his running the price up to any figure, but to his accuracy in guessing what figure it would reach. There are, of course, conceivable conditions under which a necessary article could be cornered, but we doubt whether, in these days when the banks have more control than ever they did over the financing of speculative enterprise, we are likely to see any cornering of this sort, if only for the reason that the running up of the cost of living would require the circuning up of more legal tender—which the banks do not legine. But apart from all this, the ultimate price of wheat must be governed by the quantity that appears ning the price up to any figure, but to his wheat must be governed by the quantity that appears on the world's markets, and the amount of money in the pockets of the world's bread consumers. It is of no use at all for a speculator to say "Look here, I hought this wheat at 100 cents." bought this wheat at 195 cents, so my price is so much." The answer is that the price is 195 cents. The answer is that the price is only much." The answer is that the price is only so much," if that is the price of every other seller. Speculation is nothing more than betting on the future course of prices. Looked at in that way, it is easy to conceive that the losses among pure speculators which the control that the losses among pure speculators which the control the control that the losses among them. easy to conceive that the losses among pure speculators might exceed the gains realised among them.

The difference would go, as it were, to the maker," who, in this connection, would represent the legitimate buyer of wheat. Such a result would explain the assertion of one of the witnesses before the plain the assertion that speculation often reduced. Food Commission that speculation often reduced the price of wheat to the millers. There is, again, a really legitimate form of speculation—that of selling wheat which you have not got for delivery at a ing wheat which you have not got for delivery at a future date. If you are a miller and buy wheat to the amount of £500 in January, you want to be sure that by the time, say in March, when you have received it and ground it into flour, the world price of wheat will not have fallen—for then flour would also be cheaper and your expected profit swept away. also be cheaper and your expected profit swept away, also be cheaper and your expected profit swept away, if not worse. So when you buy in January you enter into a contract to sell and deliver in March a similar quantity at the official "forward" price—whatever it is at the time (January); say £500. But you do not then buy the wheat. When March comes, and your

flour is ready for sale, wheat and flour may be standing at the same price as in January. In that case you make your expected profit as a miller, and you then buy, deliver, and collect the money for the wheat-£500 each way (or approximately). But alternatively the market price of wheat and flour in March may be £600. In that case you make a speculative profit of £100 on top of your ordinary profit when you sell your flour. But on the other hand you have to pay £600 for the wheat, and must deliver it for £500; and your speculative profit cancels out. So in the case of a fall in prices between the January and the March. You would then lose on your flour, but would replace the loss by the profit on your wheat contract. In any of these three contingencies you would have used the principle of speculation to safeguard your normal manufacturing profit.

Question Time.

REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIAL CREDIT SCHEME.

The Social Credit Scheme is based on an analysis which leads to the conclusion that, owing to current methods of financing industry, the effective demand for products is always bound to lag behind the supply. The direct aim of the Scheme is to prevent a surplus of supply over demand. Such a surplus is regarded as a social evil, either in itself, or in its consequences,

If the first alternative is to be accepted, a surplus of supply over demand is in itself to be considered an undesirable result of financial manipulations. The contrary assertion that such of financial manipulations. The contrary assertion that such a result is highly desirable must be rejuted. It may be regarded as reckless improvidence to consume everything as it regarded as reckless improvidence to consume everything as it is produced. The storing of a surplus of products for future contingencies may be a valuable service that ought to be encouraged as far as possible, with due regard to other considerations. On this view, economic reconstruction does not at all require the elimination are call the diminution of the siderations. On this view, economic reconstruction does not at all require the elimination, nor even the diminution, of the surplus of supply over demand. What is wanted is only the augmentation and the proper distribution of such parts of the supply as are for immediate consumption, if they are ultimate not ultimate in character. Such a line of argument must be explicitly met by supporters of the Scheme.

There remains the alternative that the surplus is evil not in itself, but in its consequences. The present maldistribution of ultimate products may disappear if the supply ceases to exceed the demand. It is necessary to show explicitly how, in that event, the demand will be so distributed as to leave no one without an adequate share. As a matter of fact, advocates of the Social Credit Scheme agree that the equalisation of demand to supply must be supplemented by some superadded provisions, in order to prevent destitution and economic provisions, in order to prevent destitution and economic insecurity. It is no less necessary to show explicitly that the present financial system cannot be so supplemented as to get the Scheme must not shrink from the burden of the proof.

It is to be hoped that the Social Credit propaganda will incidentally connect the British population from destitu-

It is to be hoped that the Social Credit propaganda will incidentally convert the British population from destituthat like Socialism, it may come to divert attention from the ship and management of the means of production and distribution. Public compatible with the continuance of destitutions. Public control of credit, in the absence of explicit and Socialists are free to accept or to reject the anti-destitution right of their Party's programme without effect on their cast in elements of their Party's programme without effect on their order method. It would seem desirable to set out in order methods of preventing such a fate for the party of Credit Reform,

S. C. SOPOTE.

This is an excellent example of useful criticism. We shall not attempt to deal with all the points here; in fact, Mr. Sopote has provided the material for a series of articles, and articles to supplement what we say hereunder. Each article flections," rather than attempt to survey them all, and should should concern itself with one or other of his several "reflections," rather than attempt to survey them all, and should so as direct and lucid as possible. It will be seen that Mr. must be converted by the reasoning of Social Credit advocates before there is any chance of the scheme being peculiarly the business of those readers who share that

assumption. We shall make only one comment, and that on his opening paragraph. If the reasonable needs of the community be represented by the figure 100, and the effective demand they can exercise will secure them the possession of that 100, the fact of the actual supply being, say, 200 would not of itself constitute an evil. But since at the present time, as we think is common ground, the said effective demand of 100 represents, not the satisfaction of reasonable needs, but, in general, a state of diffused privation, the social evil is disclosed in that very fact, and the urgency of the indicated remedy demonstrated. Even a prudent corporation "improvidently" draws on its reserves to maintain current dividends during bad times.

E. V. C .- (1) The point you asked me to develop is this: Though the actual money designated by "B" has been spent on consumption at an earlier date; this can be said with equal truth of much of "A."

This illustrates a common misunderstanding of the A + B neorem. "It is all a question of tenses," Major Douglas theorem. "It is all a question of tenses," once said. When examining the theorem you are asked by him to observe something that is going on under your eyes; you are shown a firm expending money now, and you are invited to call its expenditure on wages and salaries "A," and its expenditure on goods from other business organication. "The control of the control of nisations "B." You are then asked to examine the proposition that the rate of flow of its expenditure "A" is less than the rate of flow of its expenditure "A" + "B." Lastly, you are asked to conclude that the flow of costs (and thus prices) in the accounts of this firm is proceeding at a faster rate than its distribution of purchasing power to wage and salary earners (i.e., consumers).

Now, you are not examining this proposition as a contemporary of the above operations. You have, as it were hurried on to next week, and are viewing them backward hurried on to next week, and are viewing them backward from the future. Your assertion makes this perfectly plain. You say of the "A" expenditure of this firm—which Major Douglas calls "A" precisely to designate actual money being distributed to private individuals—that "much of it has been expended on consumption at an earlier date." You are, therefore, not reasoning from his postulates, but substituting others of your own. And the consequence is that while we are saying "Observe the rate at which money is being paid out to those workers," you are saying, "Observe that the money you see them taking has already been spent." This cannot have been, on the hypothesis laid down. cannot have been, on the hypothesis laid down.

(2) As both "A" and "B" production and "B" are purely arbitrary divisions of production.

I see no reason why "B" should contain raw materials.

You are pursuing some train of thought which we cannot follow. We can only say that "A" and "B," in the theorem, designate two sums of money, and that the question under consideration is whether both a property of them. under consideration is whether both, or only one of them, constitutes effective money-demand to set against prices.
We grant that the question of "production" is affected by the theorem, but are unable to understand why you use the terms "A" and "B" to describe something other than

(3) The wages, etc., distributed in respect of goods for sale in the future help... to counteract the discrepancy between the total prices of goods on sale at present and the total rolume of purposes. total volume of purchasing power that will be utilised to buy them. Until they have completely counteracted this discrepancy they cannot begin to cause an inflation of prices.

Major Douglas makes the assertion that the truth of the A + B theorem "has nothing to do with

to buy all their own manna under a system of costing methods such as is applied to such as is applied to present-day factory accountancy. he arrived at his results without assuming any alteration in the amount of money (a definite quantity of silver) with which they began operations, and without supposing any tion" of prices in the sense of profiteering.

TO X. By D. R. Guttery.

In chance puddle mirrored, I Saw the wonder of the sky Deeper than itself is high.

So of me in judgment, you See visions than my own more true And my spirit lives anew.

The Current Outlook.

FEBRUARY 12, 1925

[A report of Major Douglas's Address at THE NEW AGE Dinner, held on January 31.]
In responding to the toast to his health and to the early adoption of the New Economic proposals, Major Douglas began by remarking that there was a convention that a few discourses a bould be made. convention that after-dinner speeches should be made in a spirit of cheerfulness and optimism. While he himself felt very cheerful, and even optimistic, it might yet seem that he was breaking that convention, because it was possible to draw a somewhat gloomy conclusion from the things he was about to say. When people called him a pessimist, as they often did, although this did not annoy him, it did give him a feeling that he had failed to convey his point of view, which had nothing to do with optimism and pessimism, but was wholly concerned, so far as he could make it so, with realism.

From a survey of the field of political and economic schemes and controversies at the present time one could not help being struck with the apparent prevalence of the idea that there was no such thing as a fact, that everything was just what one happened to think it was. For instance, they would all have noticed that Mr. McKenna had just been declaring that a so-called Gold Standard was the best best best best for best because people thought it was the best. For himself, he definitely challenged both this statement and the idea behind it. The gold standard, and, in fact, any financial system which made currency in any form the basis of credit, had certain inherent properties which were mathematical rather than psychological, and the result of adhering to such systems was largely independent of psychology.

There were two sides to what he wanted to say. It consisted of a hypothesis on the one hand, and a number of facts on the other. The facts, he believed, were correct; and the hypothesis was the one which, to him. to him, seemed to fit them the most closely. Although the hypothesis was largely constructed from the observation of the facts, his hearers would appreciate their significance best if he began with the hypothesis. This might be summarised by saying that control of policy was vested in the control of finance, and that an attempt at world control through finance control is now in progress, and registeres to that attempt is now in progress; and resistance to that attempt

would shortly take an acute form.

There was a stage in affairs at which they certainly and could be were a matter of thought and opinion, and could be sensible. were a matter of thought and opinion, and could be sensibly affected by argument. Such a stage, in the affairs of individuals, was close to the stage of action, and, consequently, in dealing with individuals one devoted a good deal of attention to affecting their opinions. Often, too, the stage of opinion merged rapidly into the stage of action. Nevertheless, it was of great importance to draw a definite distinction between the two. The stage of action, in the true sense of the word, was not affected by opinion. If a man was threatening them withing by opinion. If a man was threatening them with a pistol they would be well advised to do everything they could to argue him out of the intention of pressing the documents of the intention of the intention of the intention of the intention of pressing the documents of the intention of the intent pressing the trigger; but when he had pressed the trigger them. trigger, they would be making better use of their time in getting behind a good thick wall than in pursuing the argus. the argument.

affairs of a large community. National and other policies started in the region of thought and opinion; but once they emerged into the region of action, and the action, and the action of analysis. action, and the enormous and ponderous machinery of department. of departmental and other action had begun to work, they had largely passed out of the region of argument and hard largely passed out of the region of the reg

ment and become, in a sense, inevitable.
This sequence of things might be observed in the rise and fall of Napoleon and, later, of the German Empire and fall of Napoleon and the two of many instances that Empire—to mention only two of many instances that could be quoted in that connection. In every case the original idea was World Empire carried through the stages of the stages of the continental dominion, all the stages of national and continental dominion,

and the working out of the idea followed substantially the same course. In his opinion they were now witnesses of just such another sequence of events, probably the final one; and the instrument for that policy-or, to speak more precisely, the visible instrument-was the United States of America (for it was quite a plausible theory that the ultimate source of the policy in every one of these cases was the same). He was entirely willing to accept the suggestion that the whole process was unconscious and automatic, because that did not make a great deal of difference. In any case, he believed that the situation at present had passed beyond the control of opinion, and must work itself out into actionunless other actions (possibly in the nature of equally unconscious and automatic re-actions) prevented or modified it.

No doubt a good many of those whom he was addressing thought that THE NEW AGE and the Social Credit Movement were much more practically concerned with internal social conditions than with questions of world politics such as these; but if they would consider the matter carefully they would see that the two questions were really the same. It was axiomatic that centralised finance meant centralised policy. Financial economic action had always led attempts at World hegemony. It was fairly well ascertained that Napoleon financed his wars with British money, while the first indication of the breaking of the storm in 1000 was a facetal and always led ing of the storm in 1914 was a financial and not a

In the light of this hypothesis they could now consider a few facts. One fact was Japan. Japan was notoriously in need of an outlet for economic expansion. The two countries indicated as the means of that expansion were of course China and Russia. But the possibilities of economic and military organisation of the huge populations living in Eastern Asia by an Eastern Power constituted a menace to American world power which that country was not in the least likely to disregard. Next spring would see the assemblage in the Pacific of the American see the assemblage in the Pacific of the American navy—the largest navy ever seen in those waters. The Japanese Government had rewaters and unofficial note to the United cently sent an unofficial note that the pro-States Government intimating that the projected manœuvres of her battleships, utilising jected manœuvres of her battleships, utilising Hawaii as the main base, would be a threat to peace. Again, note must be taken of the fact that during part of the time the American navy was arranging to use Australia as a base. It was notorial arranging to use Australia as a base. It was notorious in well-informed circles that every possible effort had been made by the United States since the war to foster American culture and ideas in Australia; with such success that it was probable that Australia to-day is far more American than British in sentiment. Similarly, francial rolley, and within the lia to-day is far more American than British in sentiment. Similarly, financial policy, and, within the last few months, definite Press propaganda (all mention of which had been omitted from our "British" Press) had been directed in Canada to forcing that great Dominion into the United States, politically as well as economically.

On the other hand, the virtual alliance of Argentina, Brazil and Chile—known as the A.B.C. Alliance—a combination ostensibly to uphoid a sort of ance—a Combination ostensibly to uphoid a sort of ance—a Postring for South Assarian and otherwise. Monroe Doctrine for South America, and otherwise based on an anti-United States policy, was one evidence amongst many that there were two sides to the coming Armageddon, even on the American Continent. The attitude of the British Government to tinent. The attitude of the British Government towards this and the other developments just enumerated was sufficiently indicated by two further facts: the first was the arrangement made by the Japanese Government for the brother of the Crown Japanese to come to Oxford University; the second Prince to come to Oxford University; the second was the arrangement made by the British Government that the arrangement made by the British Government was the arrangement made by the British Government was the arrangement made by the British Government towards the arrangement towar was the arrangement made by the British Government for the Prince of Wales to visit the Argentine. ment for the Prince of wales to visit the Argentine.
But also we had the war at cur very doors. The
diplomacy surrounding the American Debt, in which

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the move to cripple Great Britain financially had been converted into an inter-continental question by the position we had assumed under the Balfour Note, that we should only expect from our French and other debtors as much as America is extorting from us, could clearly only have one object and probable result-to consolidate Europe or a large part of it against North America.

(To be Continued.)

The Third Factor.

By C. M. Grieve.

IV. In this and other articles of this series I wish to consider, in particular, the potentialities of radio and cinema and their relation to the older arts, to education, and to civilisation generally; and to discuss what is being said and done with regard to their present position and influence and their possible developments in, for the most part, this country. Professor Soddy has boldly declared that "in the wealthiest era the world has even known we are reduced to a state of almost international bankruptcy. Yet we can under the advancement of science live a full and abundant life and support our present population in far more of decency and the supply of necessary requirements if—and only if—scientific advancement is allowed to do so. As a scientific man I am not to publish any discovery if I think it is going to benefit solely the clients of the banks. The great advances of science should not be used to depress men to the level of machines. I would not be used to depress men to the level of machines. of machines. I would rather bury my knowledge than give it to the world if I thought science were to be used in the future as in the past for the purpose of exploiting the common people." "Old and Crusted" in last week's NEW AGE dealt fittingly with Dean Inge's reference to the "uneducability" of the mass of manking that the kind—but the present position and prospects of all the arts, and our entire civilisation, are such that while so far only a very small percentage of the human race have ever reached the level at which appreciation of the arts, in any real sense, becomes possible (a percentage that despite realest educational development and the that, despite modern educational developments and the invention of the cinema, radio, and so forth is not, owing to the intervention of anti-cultural influences, inevitably operative and cumulatively-potent under the present system) there is need for every artist to take up a position akin to Professor Soddy's and do his utmost to prevent any continuance of the damnable delimination of culture just as Professor Soddy is doing in regard to the damnable subversion of scientific achievement. Thomas Hardy once defined literature as "the written expression of revolt against accepted things," and it is a definition that artists to-day things," and it is a definition that artists to-day should readopt and insist upon more courageously than ever before. The signs of the times are not to be mistaken. The existence of the arts is definitely in jeopardy. in jeopardy—or, at any rate, the possibility that has always hitherto existed, of their appealing to an everincreasing public. Tendencies are in operation now which it at which, if they cannot be overcome, must confine the arts to an art the people. arts to an ever-diminishing proportion of the people.

And all artists know that the proportion hitherto has always been know that the proportion between that, as a always been uncomfortably small—and that, as a consequence uncomfortably small—and that, as a consequence, not only have the artists been subjected to unnecessary not only have the artists been subjected to unnecessary and inhibiting sufferings and deprivations, but the powers of art, and of knowledge, as vital forces have been restricted to a minimum and retained to a few. retained, for all practical purposes, only by a few, and these f and these few not necssarily or even probably the best-fitted to employ and enjoy them. Professor Soddy is so far, unfortunately, only one voice in the wilderness—or, rather, in a Babel where the predominating din is comprised of conteness destitute of a nating din is comprised of sentences, destitute of a glimmer of hope or practical suggestion, such as those, for example, of Sir Robert Blair at the recent annual congress of the Educational Institute of Scotland, when, inter alia, he said: "Science is moving

The gap is widening between the designers, the tool-makers, and the skilled workmen on the one hand, and machine-minders, routine workers, and 'hands' on the other. Efficiency is demanding far more specialisation, and workers of the laws of t and workers of the lower grade are being more and more confined to a single and limited operation. Higher and higher knowledge and ability are demanded of those at the top, and a more monotonous and tiresome, even though shorter, day is the lot of those at the bottom. Revolutions of habits of thought have reacted profoundly on conduct, and one wonders what the church and the schools can do to stave off a purely material civilisation." Sit Robert is in like case to at least ninety-nine out of every hundred of our educationists—he sees the present trouble and the ominous trend of things and looks indefatigably in every direction but the right one for cause and cure. Verily there are none so blind as those who will not see.

Let us consider the claims that have been and are being made for radio and cinema. Mr. J. C. W. Reith, managing director of the British Broadcasting Company, Ltd., gave an indication of the ideals he set before himself as Britain's radio purveyor in December, 1923, when he broadcasted the following message:—"We believe that, in co-operation with our listeners, we can bring into homes all that is best and most worth-while in every department, of human achievement, knowledge, and endeayour."
The same gentleman a few weeks ago, in the course of an address, declared, in reply to a Dundee clergyman's opinion that there would be a strong endea-vour to lower the tone of the programmes as time went on and broadcasting became better estab-

"However strong the endeavour might be, they would preserve broadcasting for the beautiful things in life. Possibly, they said, 'Are the Savoy Orpheans Beautiful. There was nothing wrong with the Savoy. They could not be broadcasting Beethoven Symphonies and religion all the time. He could not dance, but he found the Savoy Band on occasions quite soothing. If they thought that broadcasting some of the great works of literature was to prevent people buying or reading books for themselves they would not broadcast them. He had balanced the educational effects of broadcasting immeasurably above any adverse effects from the causes which some critics seemed to fear. They believed that religion was non-controversial. At the They believed that religion was non-controversial. At the beginning they kept the Sabbath Day free from music, and transmissions of control of the number transmissions of an entirely secular nature, and the number of people who wrote complaining then, compared with the number who wrote complaining then, compared with the number who wrote complaining then, compared with the nature of a thousand to one. He had heard people singing hymns in public houses, and he had yet to learn that there was any reason why people should not hear sermons in their arm-chairs. He believed that, rightly handled and supplemented by the work of the church people and supplemented by the work of the church people and ministers themselves, it would send people to the churches. And so! The phrases I have italicised throw a

sufficiently-diverting (or tragical—because it is truly tragical that the direction of so momentous an enterprise should be an enterprise should be entrusted to such a puerile and presumptuous platitudinarian) light on the mentality that lay behind Mr. Reith's 1923 millentarist manifesto.

It is interesting to place alongside Mr. Reith's iarist manifesto. pronouncements the statement Edison made in 1907: "The time is coming when the moving picture and phonograph will be combined so naturally that we shall be able to show a trumpeter or any other musician so lifelike in appearance that when he puts his instrument to his line it will be imposhe puts his instrument to his lips it will be impossible for anyone to say positively that it is not the living man himself who is playing. I look forward to the day when we shall to the day when we shall give grand opera in so realistic a manner that the critics themselves will be deceived. deceived. We are working on these lines now, and though the difficulties are great we shall overcome them by and by " them by and by.

Another prophet holds out a promise of develop ments which will have far more sensational and far-reaching practical results than the glorified optical illusionism adumbrated by Edison. This is Dr. Alexander Russell, and the passage is taken from the speech he made at the opening of the current session of the Junior Institution of Engineers:-

He said that, amongst the devices for speeding-up business, automatic telephony and printing or teletyping would play a prominent part in the future. converting the manually operated telephone exchange of London into an automatic switching system has already been commenced. The task was a stupendous one, and Wonderful though would take fifteen years to complete. automatic telephony was, electricians believed that in a few years' time it would have an equally wonderful rival in the new printing telegraphy. In the United States both the Western Union and the Bell Telephone Company would should be the company would be the company wou shortly offer a telegraph typewriter service to business men, and it seemed highly probable that this would be a commercial success. It would lead to teletype telegraphy, in which automatic switching exchanges, not unlike those used in automatic telephony, would be employed. It was perfectly feasible with this system for an ordinary girl typist feetily feasible with this system for an ordinary girl typist to send messages up to 5,000 miles at a speed of at least thirty means the system for the system for an ordinary girl typist to send messages up to 5,000 miles at a speed of at least thirty means. thirty words a minute. It looked as if in a few years' time every wealthy person would have a "ticker" line for news superimposed on his telephone line, his radio set being reserved and a superimposed on his telephone line, his radio set being the superimposed on his telephone line, his radio set being the superimposed and the superimposed are superimposed as a superimposed and the superimposed are superimposed as a speed of at least thirty words as a speed of at least thirty words a superimposed on his telephone line, his radio set being the superimposed on his telephone line set being the superimp reserved mainly for entertainment purposes. At first sight it might be thought that an air mail service would be a great rivel to the case. great rival to teletype telegraphy, but this was not the case.

The actual time of a letter by air mail from London to Paris
was four hours. was four hours, but by the new telegraphy a long printed telegram would be received in ten minutes. For distances greater than fifty miles the new printing telegraphy would probably be better than the control of the probably be better than telephony.

(To be Continued.)

The Theatre.

By H. R. Barbor.

CENSORSHIP'S CHANGING FRONT.

Mr. Shaw's famous preface on the Stage Censorship conferred a double distinction upon this office of the Royal Household. On the one hand it raised the doings of this functionary of the Lord Chamberlain's description of the Lord berlain's department from previous journalistic obscurity to some importance as "news-copy." On the other, it added another Aunt Sally to the side-show of show of derision. To your average man in the street, Mr. Shaw's preface may remain terra incognita, but the Censor of Plays remains for him one of those helf-house terragrances which one of those half-humorous extravagances which lacks both the spectacular merits of the Lord Mayor's coachman and the regretted but admitted necessity of the Inspector of Nuisances.

The appear of St.

The anomalies of the offices of this denizen of St. James's Palace are indeed humorous. He has, for example, to add his weekly notes to a sort of out-of-date James's Cally notes to a sort of the tender of-date Jeremy-Colliad, and to protect the tender sensibilities of the modern be-bebbed and be-rouged young lady for the modern be-bebbed and be-rouged sensibilities of the modern be-bebbed and be-rouged voung lady from the rude assaults of such monsters of relentless realism as Sir Gerald du Maurier and Mr. Godfrey Tearle. The brawny bargee may, wallow in the literary prurience of "La Garçonne," but his communal blushes must at all costs be spared the playhouse where Miss Mielmore Flynns's "Twenty-one Nights" are concentrated into the two-hours traffic of the stage.

Historic dispensations have decreed that the veto of the Censor shall be amusingly circumscribed.

of the Censor shall be amusingly circumscribed. He exercises his prerogative only over stage plays proper, and even here approved classics are empted from his surveillance. He can insist on a screen behind which a star disrubes being screwed down to the floor in order that "accidents may not down to the floor in order that "accidents may not happen." But he cannot delete the lift of Mr. George Robey's eyebrows. He can make Miss Mary Clare sew up the skirt of the native girl Tondoleyo in "White Cargo," thereby attracting the attention of the prurient-minded and attaching a suggestion of indecency to a sincere and thoroughly suggestion of indecency to a sincere and thoroughly decent artistic portrayal, but licentious suggestiveness must always elude his governance. Like those

myopic pedants who cut the obvious bawdries from Shakespeare's plays and yet leave acidulous witticisms to delight the scholars whose wit is quicker than their schoolmaster's and whose literary appreciation is very often much more acute, so the Censor can refuse to license a play with an unconventional treatment or thesis. He can delete phrase, paragraph, or scene, but salacious innuendo defies his watchfulness.

To the practical man of the theatre the method of operation of the Censorship is costly both in time, trouble, and cash. The Lord Chamberlain's agents are perpetually on the watch to see that there is no infringement of his fiats, and although this does not affect the ordinary comedy or drama, where the lines of the play are seldom altered after the first production, the more plastic and variable types of show must find the Censor's attentions very irksome, although in general these offices are carried out with the utmost consideration and courtesy.

Speaking broadly, the Censorship has until recently been exercised almost exclusively with the prevention of breaches of taste in the theatre with reference to sex-morality or over-indulgence in expletive. In this last respect, inconsistency has again been noticed frequently in matters of verbal detail.

For while Mrs. Patrick Campbell is permitted to assure us with sanguinary adjectival aplomb that she is not prepared to walk across the Park, the same linguistic liberty is not permitted to the inhabitants of one of Eugene O'Neill's fo'c'sles. Indeed, those who are familiar with the Lord Chamberlain's editings, are not surprised to find that a word or phrase which attracts the blue pencil in one act of the play. mgs, are not surprised to find that a word or phrase which attracts the blue pencil in one act of the play may escape censure in the next. Whatever arguments may be adduced for the retention of the Censorship in regard to these aspects of morality, there is another in which censorship may be a very definite sphere in which censorship may be a very definite menace. Recently the Co-Optimists had intended presenting certain verses of the nature of political menace. Recently the Co-Optimists had intended presenting certain verses of the nature of political satire, illustrated by the appearance of actors carrical caturing Austin Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Lloyd George, and Ramsay MacDonald. On the event of production the Censer's yet compelled the with Lloyd George, and Ramsay MacDonald. On the eve of production the Censor's veto compelled the withdrawal of the offending verses. This sudden pernickety consideration of the tender sensitiveness of the politicians seems on a par of inconsistency with the politicians, emanating from the Lord Chamber other decisions, emanating from the Lord Chamber office. It must be remembered that two expressives were not only amusingly caricatured in the Premiers were not only amusingly caricatured in the lines, but also in their visible embodiment by the actors of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre when actors to Methusaleh" was produced there. In "André Charlot's Revue" now current in the West End, the Labour ex-Premier moves and speaks in caricature. Perhaps Mr. MacDonald, in company with Messrs. Asquith and Lloyd George, does not which to this record to an additional formula better. object to this good-tempered if cynical banter. Can it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does? object to this good-tempered If Mr. Churchill does it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does it be that Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Churchill does it be that would seem to have a sanifying and music-hall would seem to have a term to this form of clarifying function. To put a term to this form of clarifying function. To put a term to this form of clarifying function. To put a term to this form of clarifying function or put a term to the greatland. The music-hall government to suppress "Punch." The music-hall government to suppress "Punch." The music-hall condition on the laugh-monger who nounces "Winston," or the laugh-monger him assures the soubrette that she must be careful of own assures the soubrette that she must be careful of own because he is "Mr. A.," is contributing him decause he is "Mr. A.," is contributing him of the purgation of the gaiety of the nation and the purgation of the folly of greatness. "Who used the Rickaby's "Major-General Worthington," who used to assure us during the war that we "ought to see old-to assure us during the war that we "ought to see old-to assure us during the war that we "ought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we ought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought to see old-to assure us during the war that we gought as good-to assure us during the war that we gought as good-to assure us during the war that we go the seem to the good that the seem to the good the seem to the good that the seem to the good that the good As a matter of fact, the merry satire of revue and

The Æternal Player.

Dr. Crookshank's book* is of great interest and stimulates thought in every direction. It has long been recognised that, for example, Englishmen can be seen who, without any suggestion of foreign ancestry, are obviously assimilable in many ways, anatomical, physiological and psychological, with men of other races, as Mongols or Africans. Dr. Crookshank's thesis is that to explain this some kind of common ancestry is needed. The facts as he puts them forth are very strange and basal, and the conclusions on the whole as convincing as can be expected when dealing with such a subject, but, to touch details, I think his estimate of the value of sitting posture needs revision. He accentuates the common mistake in calling the sitting posture of the "Mongol" idiot the "Buddha position." The Buddha position is one of complete muscular relaxation (as a preliminary to religious contemplation), and hence the erect attitude is maintained by locking the lumbar vertebræ and not by "splintering" with the arm as in the case of the idiot. Moreover, though no doubt the postures naturally adopted by different races differ, some keeping the thighs more horizontal and some more vertical, yet there is, I believe, no people, even among the "Mongol race" of enormous extent which he postulates, who employ the Buddha position normally. If it were a count of heads I expect more examples of a quasi-Buddha posture would be found in Lalie and a proper the posture would be found in India and among the Jews. The only example in civil life which he introduces, a Burmese gentleman sitting thus, is quite misleading, for it is clear from the decoration of the wall in front of which he sits that the occasion was a "dressing up" of some kind, probably a tableau, possibly a ceremony. So, too, his examples of Egyptian posture are ceremonial ones.

The book is too full of facts and opinions to deal with, and must be read, but, perhaps, I may jot down a few of the thoughts which it has stimulated

It seems a pity that Dr. Crookshank has restricted his races to three, apparently in deference to general nis races to three, apparently in deference to general scientific opinion, instead of following Dr. Langdon Down of whose views he approves. For there are certainly four threads in the warp of the great Loom, and one of them is Red, as the Egyptians recorded in their pictures. But whether there are now four or five to be counted with really makes very little difference, for the whole problem must remain quite insoluble so long as anthropology continues to ignore the Oceanic Continents, and to make shift with a scientific Garden of Eden somewhere near the Malay Archipelago.

As the Atlantic continent is now coming by its own again perhaps the continent in the Indian Ocean may also have its chance. The Pacific continent in the Pacific continent is tinent is more or less recognised. When once they are accepted are accepted as working facts it is clear that common ancestry may be expected on all sides of all the great oceans, so that all existing continents must contain at least two or three racial components, and for another two or three racial components, and for anything approaching a pure stock the search must be pushed back a very long way indeed. In fact, it is probably true to say that though there In fact, it is probably true to say that though there was no common origin (short of "Adam," if then)
This might, perhaps with a new value to ceremonial This might, perhaps, give a new value to ceremonial postures.

The view which Dr. Crookshank is combating is that which takes the newly discovered gland balance as a sufficient application of all the observed facts. as a sufficient explanation of all the observed facts. The determination of what the gland balance shall be is constant." but Dr. be is generally put down to "environment," but Dr. Crookshank suggests several times that the embryo may have something to do with its own develop-

* "The Mongol in Our Midst." Kegan Paul. 2s. 6d.

ment, though he never actually faces the fact. Now, suppose that this were so; and also suppose, what is really a fairly obvious fact if not obliterated by axiom, that man's "psychological make-up" depends not only on his brain but on all his body; and also suppose, since it is dangerous to discriminate cause and effect except in little things, that man may as well be the cause of his body as his body the cause of man. If so, then, should the "man" demand such and such a body in order that he may be "himself," he can do his best to produce it by controlling the gland balance during gestation, and so bringing out such and such a character from the quite inexhaustible store which the germ plasm has collected during ages of evolution.

The time seems to be slowly approaching when one heredity, that of body, will be realised as insufficient to explain the facts, and an heredity of, call it, psyche will be admitted. Though this may appear a complication it is really a more true simplification than the accepted one-heredity postulate, which is, in fact, an example among many of the confusions introduced by an over-response to the call for unity which came to the Sciences a century ago, which still leads them to look for unity in this region of diversity.

Pastiche.

PROPAGANDA.

"Come brothers," say some, "Oh, pull up your socks. Get on, get on with the job. Mount up, mount up on your herring box. Keep at it, haranguing the mob.

And others, "The crash will certainly come, And naught can we do that will stop it; And the mob after all is both blind, deaf, and dumb. Why continue? Oh damn it all-stop it.

But though they be saying this, that and the other, They agree that they somehow must fight, Both the tubthumping lad and his mugwumping brother, To keep the new beacon alight.

PHILIP T. KENWAY.

" DIETETICS." By "Old and Crusted."

Diet . . . consists in meat and drink, and causes melancholy in proportion as it offends in quantity, quality, or the like

(Burton's Melancholy Anatomised.)

The English travel on the Continent in order to get away from the coarse cooking of their native land.

"There's nothing," said Toby, "more regular in its coming round than dinner-time, and nothing less regular in its coming round than dinner. That's the great difference between 'em. It's took me a long time to find it out. I wonder whether it would be worth any gentleman's while, now, to buy that observation for the Papers; or the Parliament!"

(The Chimes. First Quarter.)

There is so much written and talked about diet these days, and so many patent foods advertised, which are guaranteed not only to cure dyspepsia but to build up beautiful temples of the soul, whereigness and the soul whereigness are soul whereigness and the soul whereigness are soul whereigness and the soul whereigness are soull whereigness and the soull whereigness are soull whereigness are soull whereigness and the soull whereigness are so that the soull whereigness are so that the soull whereigness are so that the soull where so the soull whe of the soul, wherein melancholy has no place, that one might well suppose the Rev. Robert Burton's monumental work would have only an academic interest for us modern gourmets. But, alas, it is not so. Most of us suffer from gloomy visions, broken slumbers, and occasional abdominal disturbances due to the monotony and inadequacy of domestic efforts in the culinary department. One's first impulse is to curse the cook. There is much prima facie evidence to justify our anathemas, but second thoughts will suggest that the causes of this endemic melancholia are to be sought elsewhere. Old Burton, for example, blames the victuals. Beef he says,

"is a strong and hearty meat, good for such as are sound and healthy, but very unfit for such as lead a resty life, and are any ways dejected, or of a dry complexion."

Which would indicate that of Which would indicate that the traditional national dish was

originally intended for us country yokels and not for you city gentlemen who lead "resty" lives in offices and chambers. As for pork,

"it is noxia delicatis, to such as have full habits, or queasy stomachs,"

and the good man is not far wrong, if the experience of a certain little fat man I wot of is anything to go by. The flesh of the hare, he adds, is also a melancholy meat;

"for it is hard of digestion, breeds the incubus, and causes

fearful dreams,"

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therefore, avoid hare-but-if it be well "jugged" with plenty of port in the sauce and served with much delectable forcemeat, this ancient epicure is quite willing to run the risk of a visit from the "incubus" at midnight, even if it take the form of a certain saintly and lamented relative.

As for milk, why,
"milk, and all that milk produces as butter, cheese,
curds, with the exception only of asses' milk and whey,

increase melancholy."

Touching milk as a beverage, I am inclined to agree with the learned author, and have also unpleasant memories of an unsatisfying dish, popular in my early youth, called curds and whey. As regards asses' milk, I am unable to speak with authority, but when it comes to butter, I find myself compelled to join issue with the good man. Butter, sir, besides being excellent in itself, is the basis of all good cooking, as every French housewife knows; it is that nauseous impostor, "margarine," and all kindred make-believes,

which raise my ire. Here we part company with that excellent pluralist, the Rev. Robert Burton, and begin to get an inkling of what is at the root of all the mischief. Margarine, I take it, came into a support of the control of the into existence to make good a shortage of butter and also to provide a cheap substitute which poor folk could afford to buy. Now fresh butter is like money; both are scarce and both could be had in superabundant quantity if it were not to some one's advantage to keep supplies short. There is always something coming between us and the legitimate satisfaction of Tohy Veck satisfaction of our natural wants. As poor Toby Veck found out, dinner-time came round with unfailing punctuality by tuality, but dinner did not—and many a budding cordon bleu, many a harassed housewife find their best efforts brought to nought because big business and sound finance fail in their obvious duty of providing roomy kitchens, adequate utensils, and honest foodstuffs. Always the same intangible but impenetrally. impenetrable barrier.

According to the wordy panegyrist of Frederick the Great and other belicose heroes, the stolid English infantry, under the leadership of plucky little George II., in whom abode,
"the requisite unconscious substratum of taciturn inex-

pugnability, with depth of potential rage almost unquenchable,"

won the battle of Dettingen and gave the French a terrific beating because they had the bad taste to get between an English Army and its breakfast.

When the descendents of those stubborn soldiers realise that something far less valorous than the gallant Frenchmen steed in something far less valorous than the gallant it is not men stands between them and their dinner—that it is not by divine described by divine described by divine described by divine described by the place by divine decree that margarine should always take the place of butter that margarine should always take the place of butter—there may burst from them, as from their ancestors at Dettingen.

such a thunder-growl, edged with melodious ire in alt," as will "strike a damp" into the money-mongers and butter-fakers as it did into the French on that memorable day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PROPAGANDA AND ART. Sir,—Will you allow me to make a suggestion for increasing the usefulness, and incidentally the circulation, of THE Name of the circulation of t THE NEW AGE; and for spreading more widely an interest in the New Economics with which the journal has now become identification.

become identified. The Douglas Theorem remains practically unchallenged, and there are that the time has and there are many who believe with me that the time has come to write Q. E. D. after its demonstration. If this claim be greated. claim be granted even in part, it surely follows that we need to a greater with the control of t to a greater extent to replace effort of argument by activity of illustration and application. In addition to accumulating further proofs mechanisms. further proofs, we should now seek to bring home the Good News to the unargumentative and the uninitiated, not by way of army way of argument and repetition, but rather by attempting to picture the analysis and repetition, but rather by attempting the to picture the changes in our daily life which might be expected to the changes in our daily life which might be expected to follow a general acceptance of the Good News. Thus might we hope to raise from obscurity the Feeling and Desire with

Desire without which nothing great can be achieved.

If this is a would follow If this view should prove acceptable, it would follow that hile our main off while our main effort so far has been to demonstrate, we

should now seek specially to attract. This can be done only by giving greater encouragement and opportunity to the writer as artist. Whereas the scientific method suitable to the former purpose (demonstration) is one of intellectual compulsion, and leaves nothing to personal choice (for science abhors any appeal to feeling), the method of art is persuasion, and the personal appeal to our likes and dis-likes is dominant. Through the artist the abstractions of science (which are dim ghosts to those who cannot appreciate argument or submit to mere intellect) become clothed in human form and beauty, and we are persuaded to love and desire and will those things which we at length perceive (through the artist's eyes) to be for our own good. He lends us his eyes, and so we become aware of what we really like. Only through such vision and the feeling which it generates do we become raised to a temperature at which action becomes possible and strongly desired. Such action to be effective must, of course, employ the tools and machinery which science provides to achieve any desired end.

which science provides to achieve any desired end.

Let me apply an illustration from my own experience. In the days of my youth I was a member of the Fabian Society, and became overwhelmed and intellectually compelled by their arguments. But I was never attracted by their aims or by their methods, which indeed roused me to no enthusiasm. About the same time, as a member of the Hammersmith Socialist Society, I came into contact with William Morris, who, though poor in argument, kindled something in me that had never been lit by Fabian science. The Fabian idea of bureaucratic compulsion was, of course, most offensive to Morris, and was one of the influences (the nausea caused by "Looking Backward" was another) which spurred him to write "News from Nowhere." Reading this wonderful Utopian Romance, I fell in love with the Free wonderful Utopian Romance, I fell in love with the Free Society therein pictured, with its leisure, beauty, dignity, and good-fellowship. Though the picture was defaced by many puerilities these could not obscure the charm and enchantment of the free life displayed by the artist. One enchantment of the free life displayed by the artist. One can see now that all such disfigurments arose from Morris's failure to appreciate science or to employ its instruments. At that time he thought that the Free Society was to be created by means of a revolutionary catastrophic Socialism involving the destruction and abandonment of all machinery, including money and its tokens. Although I could never regard these means as adequate to the attainment of such an end, I never ceased to desire its attainment. At length we have had the method of attainment revealed

At length we have had the method of attainment revealed to us, and can see a pathway leading inevitably to the summit of a Free Society. Not through the destruction and repudiation of money, but through its measured creation and preservation and just distribution. Not through the destruction and abandonment of machinery, but through the slipping of man's burden on to its back, so that he need carry only what gives him pleasure to carry—he will cling to all those activities which are too precious to part with.

The attainment of a Free Society I believe to be the deepest craving of mankind, guarded in gloom among the foundations of his being. But it has become buried so deep in most of us under the rubbish and indignity of modern conditions that we are hereby some of the slumbaring space. conditions that we are hardly aware of the slumbering spark so preserved. Then let the artist, the dreamer, the Persuader come along and fan it into the flame of active desire, so that Poor Ghost be shaped into Real Man:—

"And as imagination bodies forth
The form of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name."

Only in this way can the ghostly abstractions of science be clothed in flesh and blood, and the common man see with clothed in flesh and blood, and the common man see with his common eye, and recognising after all his kith and kin,

his common eye, and recognising after an his aid and kin be no longer afraid of poor ghost. Artists of the calibre of William Morris are very rare, and even he was led into many crudities. There are forms of creative activity other than the Romantic Utopia. But I believe that where the creative activity other than the Romantic Utopia. believe that where there is one who can argue with the scientist there are ten who can persuade with the artist. And certainly for every one who can be pushed by scientific compulsion there must be a hundred who can be led by artistic paragraphs. For love is greater than four pulsion there must be a hundred who can be led by artistic persuasion. For love is greater than fear. Therefore I call upon all those who have been afraid to argue to venture a trial of their powers of persuasion and to give us their version of what life may be like for us when our economic freedom has been restored, when we need no longer fear to be ourselves.

be ourselves.

What will all this mean in religion, art, science, literature, leisure, love, health, homes, humour, manners, education, travel, sport, philosophy, music, food, child-bearing, dress, research, cultivation, family life, marriage, fellowship, and all the other many-sided facets of the dome of life?

How greedy am I for the weekly feast served up in these pages; and how I relish the unspeakably good fare, done to a turn, which serves to confirm the faith of those, like my-self, who are already so fully convinced! How happy could I, or any other, learn to persuade without argument some of the vast multitude in the dusk outside who are beating their wings against every Jack-o'-Lantern in response to that dim but deep craving buried in every human heart which keeps it human!

"FOR WHAT ARE WE EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN?"

Sir,-Whilst agreeing in the main with the article by "Aremby," in your issue of January 29, that the education of children to-day is beyond the requirements of Industry, there are certain remarks of his which I think should not remain unchallenged. In the first place Aremby states that the workers are allowing their sons to become labourers, and that there is difficulty in getting applicants for apprenticeship. I am myself connected with the staff side of an engineering works employing between eight and nine thousand men, and, as it is my duty to engage all new staff, I can state most emphatically that the workers do not willingly allow their sons to become labourers, nor is there any shortage of applicants for apprenticeship.

I do not know whence the figures of wages increase are obtained, but they are certainly very different from those operating here, which are as follows:—

Sheet Iron Workers (Tinsmiths) ... 75 per cent. Boilermakers (11118miths) ... 75 per cent.
Boilermakers ... 54 per cent.
Engineers ... 64 per cent.
Patternmakers ... 62 per cent.

Labourers 90 per cent.
(These figures are exclusive of an extra war wage granted in our works over and above that obtaining in the engineering industry generally.)

Most astonishing of all is Aremby's conclusion that the high rate of increase of the labourer's wage is due to a shortage of labourers. There is no such shortage, as the register at any Labour Exchange will show. The high increase is solely due to the fact that the same war wage was added to all wages irrespective of the grade. Labourers, having the lowest rate, naturally have the highest percentage

The supposed difficulty of employers due to the "diversion of workers to labouring" does not exist so far as my experience goes, and any number of skilled men are still being trained. This is home out by the theory. being trained. This is borne out by the policy of many of the Trade Unions in limiting the number of apprentices to

I can assure Aremby that, at the present time, we have very little difficulty in obtaining applicants either for the trades or for labouring. We are a long way removed yet from the time when very few skilled men will be required. And when that time does arrive the skell has in the works And, when that time does arrive, we shall be in no worse position than we are to-day. It will only mean that the Trade Unions will have forced up the rates of the so-called semi-shilled semi-skilled grades until they approach those of the skilled.

This process is well advanced to-day.

Surely, the economic question is the one that really counts. What matters it that we are giving an education, the beyond the requirements? The higher the education, the more likely in the present What matters it that we are giving an education more likely is the coming generation to overthrow the present financial chaos.

N. F. EILOART.

Sir,—I beg to suggest that "Aremby" has succeeded, where so many have failed, in founding his criticism which is all that securely, and free from the impressionism which is all that is behind such well-worn phrases as "Education for tial in this, as in other weaklang is to know what is wrong, tial in this, as in other problems, is to know what is wrong, and there can be little doubt that education as a system is wrong, because it is defined as a system to the control of the c wrong, because it is definitely directed to fit a social system which we have escaped

One offers opinions on the subject with much diffidence, but I think we may be the general requirebut I think we may hazard a guess at the general requirements of the appropriate that ments of the appropriate curricula. It is perfectly clear that the vocations of the future will call for either the scientific spirit or artistic ability, the former for the acceleration of spirit or artistic ability; the former for the acceleration of man's control man's control over the natural, the latter for the provision of adequate appears to the provision of adequate appears to the provision that of adequate amenities. We may be sure, and thankful, that the efficient clerk with literary tastes—and mean character—who is now the many the model of the many tastes—and mean character—who is now the model of the model who is now the model product of the educational system must give way to the executant in the sciences or the arts. But pedagogy has for so long been feeding its soul on "literature" that it is doubtful whether there is sufficient elemental honesty for the development of the scientific spirit; and it

is certain that the teaching of the useful arts has not yet been adequately attempted.

I sometimes think that music and art critics, who write so ably yet so far above the heads of many of their readers, may much more profitably for the public take a lead in encouraging the practice as distinct from the mere appreciation of the arts. At present their criticisms tend to make people priggish, and I recall a lady of a vinegary disposition-much given to "bon mots" and the latest "classic" who preferred to read a certain critic's sneers at the British National Opera Company to attending the performances herself. Such is the power of words over sense! I speak from experience when I say that appreciation and enjoyment are enhanced beyond comparison when one has tried to acquire executive ability. Yet the teaching of music, for instance, is the happy hunting-ground for the worst swindlers and rogues in the whole money-scramble, simply because those who should have guided the public with the formulation of general ideas have been content to chatter round and about the chance results and have neglected the whole subject of methods. I have mentioned music, but there are other pursuits, roughly styled the decorative arts, which are already increasing in the general taste and for which credit must be given, not to the art critics and experts, but to such excellent journals as "The Amateur Mechanic. The curious worship of an abstract something termed Beauty is a sham, but when beauty is reincarnated into "something attempted" the word will carry its proper significance. It would seem, then, that our educational system needs to aim at developing the will to do things, and in this decline of the system of forced labour to prepare the type who will be lord of the future, viz .- the amateur.

THE SOCIAL CREDIT LIBRARY.

Sir,—A sufficiency of rope is a prime necessity for a successful hanging, even if self-conducted, and few of your readers can now fail to realise that "G. B." is in a sorry state of suspension over the Douglas Theorem. May I suggest, therefore, that in his review of my book, "The Solution of Unemployment," he has not grasped a point of some importance of creater? some importance at present?

One of the greatest bugbears we meet is the man who refuses to study Social Credit because he knows it is wrong; he is equally matched with those among ourselves who refuse to study it also, either because they know it is right, or expect it quite shortly to be inaugurated. And yet with the current Food Commission fiasco, the Miners' difficulties, Housing, and the present interest in eugenics and racial problems and such topics, there never was a time when it was so easy to lure the thinking man of good-will into some interest in Social Credit, as being the remedy he is really seeking. As we are attempting to build a bridge from the present crumbling order of society to a new one, some documented survey of the whole structure and material of our "pons asinorum" seemed to me worth attempting and, in discussing its construction, I have found there are scores of questions—banking, the Dawes Report, the population question, League of Nations, etc., etc.—on which the intelligent inquirer demands an explanation relevant to our views.

To omit greater points, as regards "G. B.'s detailed criticism, so far from blaming Germany, I specifically stated it was "idle and foolish of us to expect any mercy" from her. I have not consider the state of the her. I have not accused or even quoted the Mail and M. Poincaré for such a wild statement that "Germany is attaining a monopoly of the world's markets." Dagonet's actual view of Prohibition mentioned by "G. B." is directly alluded to by myself, so that without going further, from other evidence, also, I must conclude that his critique of the book is not a review, but more leaves to the solution of the book at the solution of the book are the solution of the soluti is not a review, but merely a view, and a cursory one at

Your reviewer is, perhaps rightly, distressed by my own "cocksureness" in exposition. May I pay tribute to the modest diffidence of his own judging the "field" of currency reference references to the contract of th rency reformers, in which he barely awards Major Douglas a "place"? After that, neither Major Powell nor myself could expect even an "also ran," but must accept his sentence of "disqualified" and "warned off the course" as being as final as the edict of the Jockey Club.

W. H. WAKINSHAW.

QUALIFIED IMMUTABILITY!

Sir,—I think it possible that Mr. McKenna's speech to the shareholders of the Midland Bank was ironical in intention

Samuel Butler, in " Evolution Old and New," referring to the great naturalist, Buffon, points out that many subsequent writers have missed the trend of his argument in favour of "descent with modification" simply because Buffon, with one eye directed towards the Sorbonne, would from time to time contradict himself and gravely announce the immutability of species.

FEBRUARY 12, 1925

In like manner, Mr. McKenna first showed how the banks create money, then said that nothing of the sort happens. He demonstrated the mutability of the value of gold, the adaptability of a managed currency; in fact, the impossibility of working a currency based solely on gold without 'management."

I fancy it was then that he remembered the susceptibilities of his audience and the watching eyes of the governor and company of the Bank of England, and he said that after all the gold standard was the best. Why? Nine people out of ten think it so. "Those that have ears to hear, let them LAWRENCE MACEWEN.

ST. PAUL'S.

Sir,—May I make a protest against the article entitled St. Paul's in your issue of January 20. I make it without the client. the slightest hope of influencing the writer of it, but for the sake of the reputation of THE NEW AGE.

Time was when THE NEW AGE was an upholder of real learning and culture, as well as of real economics, and an effort, such as the one I am referring to, could never have been printed. Its readers expected to find artistic criticism by writers who really did know something about their subject. Mr. Somerville admits to more knowledge of boxing than of architecture, and without wishing to be rude, it is difficult not to believe him.

I am not a lover of St. Paul's: it belongs to a style of architecture that has never seemed worth the trouble to me, and I wouldn't subscribe a penny to its upholding; but that fact fact cannot lessen my regret that such an article could

tact cannot lessen my regret that such appear in The New Age.

Sir, believe me, economics without culture is like faith without works. There is no possible argument for continued existence but the cultural one.

NORMAN F. WEBB.

THE RIGHT WAY.

Sir, I am afraid I must confess that I do not expect the leaders to be much under thirty, for the lying down of the lion with the lamb which announces the coming of the age of the Babe I always understood to be one with the lamb outside. I would note that I was very careful not to exclude the flapper, for I have great hopes of her, as I have explained elsewhere. If G. B. means Mr. Shaw I am afraid Mr. Crafte. Crafter has not read Saint Joan to much effect. I most sincerely wish him success in a revolution of ideals, for all roads are right if they lead out of the Maze. But, as I suggested in the article which started this correspondence, think he is more likely to succeed if his hearers have their bellies full rather than empty, though under such circumstances the ideals may be rather less strenuous ones.

M.B.Oxon.

[Finis.—ED.]

Financial Literature in 1924.

With the permission of Messrs. J. Whitaker and Sons we are reproducing from their "Cumulative Book List" for Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on the Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on the Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on the Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on the Banking and Delta list of the Banking and Delta list of the books published in England on the Banking and Delta list of the Banking and Delta list Banking and Finance last year. As we have recently received several inquiries from readers, which have necessitated our consulting. our consulting this list, we have no doubt that our publication of it here will be generally appreciated. We add thereto a selection of books on political and economic subjects from the same source, which seem likely to be useful to students of the New Economics.

Books on Banking and Finance.

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February 10th.—"SOCIAL CREDIT," H. DRUMMOND, 7.30 p.m., Kensington I.L.P., Hayes Hall, Sheil Road, Fairfield February 13th.—Group Meeting. Discussion, "HOUSING PROBLEM, 7.30 p.m., Walker's Buildings, Whitechapel. February 16th.—"DEMOCRACY & FINANCE," Capt. W. O. FIELD, B.A., Beechcroft Settlement, Hollybank Road, Birkenhead

CENTRAL LONDON GROUP.

The Rev. N. E. EGERTON SWANN will open a discussion on "INTERPORT" on "INTEREST" at the usual fortnightly meeting on Thursday, 12th Fals. day, 12th February, at 70, High Holborn, W.C.1, at 7 o'clock. Visitors welcomed.

"NEW ECONOMICS" A CLASS for the study of the will be held at 52, Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, W.2, on Monday evenings, fortnightly. Next maeting Feb. 16th, at 7.45 p.m. evenings, fortnightly. Next meeting Feb. 16th, at 7.43 FIR. Conducted by Mrs. A. E. POWELL and MISS HESKETH. A charge of 1/2 per head will be asked from those joining to cover lighting and heating expenses.

"Letters to the Editor" should arrive not later an the first to. than the first post on Saturday morning if intended for publication for publication in the following week's issue.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and ade payable to "The payable to made payable to "THE NEW AGE PRESS.

All communications should be addressed, W.C.1. Manager, THE NEW AGE, 70, High Holborn, W.C.1.

The Subscription Rates for "The New Age," to any address in Great Britain or Abroad, for 30s. for 12 months: 15s for Carethe: 7s, 6d. for 3 months: 7s, 6d. 30s. for 12 months; 15s. for 6 months; 7s. 6d. for 3 months.

Published by the Proprietor (ARTHUR BRENTON), 70 High LIMPED to Temple Avenue, E.C. 4.