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For Political and Economic Democracy

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1937

Weekly Twopence

WELSH "PROSPERITY" PLAN WILL FAIL

Futile Bid For Export Markets While Demand For Coal Decreases

REARMAMENT NEED NOT BURDEN US

REARMAMENT FOR BRITAIN MEANS PULLING DOWN THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR A GENERATION TO COME AND EVER RISING BURDENS OF TAXATION.

So said Mr. Neville Chamberlain last Friday. Two days before, Sir Robert Horne, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he was all in favour of financing a large part of the rearmament programme by loan. He did not think it right or in the interests of the country or of its prosperity that this generation should bear the whole burden of that which was going to the defence of everybody for many years to come.

He added:

"I think that we shall, in the next Budget, have a 5s. income-tax. I think that the Chancellor will ask us to bear that amount for rearmament. It will require a very considerable loan beyond that to meet the charges which are very rightly being imposed upon the country at the present time."

THE BANKERS' WARNING

This is what the bankers have to say about rearmament:

Mr. Rupert Beckett (chairman, Westminster Bank): Rearmament has contributed nothing on the export side. The time will inevitably come when the home market will no longer be able to absorb the entire production and overseas customers will again be needed.

Lord Wardington (chairman, Lloyds Bank): Britain must look ahead to that time when two of the chief causes of our present internal activity have come to an end—our building operations and our rearmament programme—and take all possible measures to fill the gap.

THE TRUTH

So far from rearmament being a burden on this and future generations, it is the very activity which has released purchasing power where it is needed—in the pockets of the people.

It is a silly unnecessary way of releasing purchasing power, but that is what rearmament has done.

The employees of the booming armament industry are enabled to call upon the vast resources of modern production for their requirements of food, warmth and shelter, aye and amusements, and beer and cigarettes—on one condition.

That condition is that they work at making guns, battleships, bombing planes, and poison gas.

A National Dividend would enable them and others to call upon the same vast resources for all they need without having to make guns first.

But if we need armaments it is clear that we can make them and enjoy a higher standard of living, not a lower one.

There is plenty for all, and time and resources to make armaments into the bargain if need be.

The words of Lord Wardington, quoted above, support our contention and give the lie direct to Mr. Neville Chamberlain.

Hore-Belisha Awakes To Need For Safer Roads

THE Minister of Transport has awakened to the need for safe roads. Pressure of protest from every quarter demanding a reduction in the road slaughter is beginning to take effect.

And the demand is beginning to be coupled with a proviso that there has been about enough harassing of motorists. Recently the county surveyor of Oxfordshire said in these columns:

"Shall we instruct the engineers to perfect the roads or shall we attempt to perfect the nature of road users, so that they become not only well-meaning but at all times unerring in judgment?"

Mr. Hore Belisha has prepared a "Memorandum on the Layout and Construction of Roads," to be issued to road authorities. It recommends uniformity of road surfacing—the usual bureaucrats' nonsense.

It is not uniformity of road surfaces, it is safety on roads, whether uniform or not, that the public wants.

Give Them Money

Give to keen men like the county surveyor of Oxfordshire the right financial backing and they will do wonders that others will wish to emulate—given the right financial backing.

Apart from this foolishness about uniformity, the memorandum makes recommendations of a sound sensible nature such as we have reported from time to time.

Abolition of all redundant or obsolete traffic signs is suggested, the reduction of the pause between the red and the green in traffic lights, fly-over junctions where possible at cross-road junctions, and the institution of standard road widths.

It is recommended that dual carriageways should not be less than 10ft wide, and that new carriageways should be at least 20ft wide.

Where a road has to carry, or may have to carry, 400 vehicles an hour at the peak period dual carriageways are recommended with four tracks, each with a minimum width of 20ft. and separated by a central strip of grass verge or other material.

Visibility on bends should be made easy by the banking of corners or other works, such as the removal of hedges which obstruct the view.

There is also a recommendation that wherever practicable on important arterial roads the "clover leaf" crossing, which makes collisions virtually impossible, shall be constructed.

45,000 MINERS LET DOWN BY RECOVERY COMMITTEE

WHILE Sir Robert Horne and the South Wales Trade Recovery Committee plan to bring new "prosperity" to that stricken area by increasing export markets for South Wales coal, comes news from all over Europe of a decreasing demand for coal.

Sir Robert Horne estimates that an output of 1,000,000 tons is required to provide 4,000 men with a year's work, which his committee mistakenly imagines means prosperity. Total unemployment in the mining area is 45,218.

Thus maximum coal output required to bring maximum prosperity in South Wales is some 11,000,000 tons.

But—Italy, since 1934, has cut her coal imports from Britain by a third, Turkey is subsidising her own coal exports, Canada is buying less from Britain, Germany's exports (Government subsidised) are increasing at the expense of South Wales.

Latest figures available show that 1936 cargo exports from the Bristol Channel ports amounted to 11,937,719 tons compared with 14,447,651 tons in 1935—a decline of more than 2,500,000 tons.

These figures are the lowest recorded in this century except in the Strike years of 1926 and 1921. No fewer than 18 countries have reduced their purchases of coal from South Wales.

Apart from France, every State with a Mediterranean sea-board purchased less coal from South Wales than in the previous year.

German Boom

Germany's exports of coal in 1936 were again increased almost entirely at the expense of South Wales, by a policy of ruthless price-cutting made possible through Government subsidies.

Last year German coal exports showed increases of 1,600,000 and 5,700,000 metric tons, respectively, over 1935 and 1934.

In the same period, shipments from the Bristol Channel ports, which serve the South Wales coalfields, declined by 2,500,000 tons compared with 1935, and 2,700,000 tons compared with 1934.

It is understood, too, that the Brazilian Railways have covered their requirements over the next three months with German exporters. This market was formerly supplied by South Wales.

Coal exported by Germany to Italy in 1936 amounted to 5,343,376 metric tons compared with 4,424,559 in 1934.

Under the new Anglo-Italian Agreement, Great Britain has been given a coal quota of 1,600,000 tons to 1,800,000 tons for 1936 to 1937. This compares with 4,700,000 tons shipped in 1934, and more than 7,000,000 tons in 1930.

South Wales Decline

The Turkish Government has announced its intention of subsidising its coal exports up to 4s. per ton. During 1936, 74 per cent. of the output of Turkish bunker coal sold was supplied to Greek steamers.

Exports from South Wales to Greece in that year fell by 35,000 tons compared with 1935.

Turkey also increased its coal exports to Italy by 160,000 tons in 1935. Export figures for 1936 are not yet available, but

in view of the tremendous fall in South Wales exports to Italy (1,500,000 tons) it is expected that Turkish trade will have benefited.

Exports from South Wales to Canada declined by 113,217 tons last year, while Canada's imports from Germany increased from 31,000 tons in 1934 to 266,913 tons in 1936.

This reduction of 100,000 tons will be aggravated by the new Canadian-Russian Agreement, which allows the importation of 250,000 tons of Russian anthracite into Canada (which might displace approximately 500,000 tons of Welsh anthracite).

And from all over the world come details of inventions that will eliminate or decrease the use of coal.

It must be obvious even to such eminent economists as Sir Robert Horne that a boosting of the coal export trade is no way to help the distressed areas.

Cabinet Bars Dukes From Visiting Edward

THE Duke of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester have been told by the Cabinet that they do not consider it advisable that they should visit the Duke of Windsor in Austria. The voice of England has spoken!

The visits were to have been private, the Royal Family being anxious to make it known that the close ties which have always existed between them are not broken by recent events. The Cabinet, we learn, is graciously permitting the Princess Royal to visit her brother.

Meanwhile, 50 Jacobite undergraduates at Oxford, led by Mr. Peter Geach, of Balliol, have proclaimed Rupert of Bavaria King of England "because the House of Windsor had failed to defend the dignity of the Crown and the liberties of the people." Some newspapers have given prominence to this escapade and used words like "scurrilous" and "high treason."

The matter does not seem very important, but Jacobites are entitled to their opinion like everybody else. We would suggest to them, however, that while our present Cabinet continues in its unbridled flouting of the people on the one hand, and the decencies of family life on the other, the House of Windsor will not have much chance to defend anything.

Prosperity— On A Fortnight's Grace

TOTAL bankers' clearings for England and Wales are reported to be £40,616,574,000.

At first sight the figure might be taken to be the total of all cheques drawn in England and Wales, but this is not so. If you draw a cheque on my bank payable to somebody dealing with the same bank, that cheque does not pass through the Clearing House. Similarly, cheques drawn for cash to pay wages, do not pass through the Clearing House.

There are five big banks. Out of every five cheques drawn the chances are that one will be payable to somebody dealing with the same bank, so that the Clearing House figure would be four-fifths of the total cheque turnover, giving a grand total somewhat in excess of 50,000 millions.

Bank Deposits are, roughly, 2,000 millions, so that the rate of circulation is approximately once a fortnight. It may be said, then, that on the average people and businesses who have money in the Bank, have it for a fortnight only.

It does not need statistics to convince most people that, on the average, wage and salary earners spend most of their wages or salaries within a fortnight, so that we have a picture of so-called prosperity which shows the employed population living on a fortnight's grace and hoping the wage or salary continues, and the employing population living on a fortnight's grace and hoping that sales will continue to come in before the fortnight is up.

This gives a true idea of the extent of our so-called Security and Prosperity.

Pretty Sinister

REFERRING to the negotiations for a large French credit from British banks, *The Times* last Friday muttered darkly about widespread rumours that the franc was to be devalued heavily.

There were strong suspicions in "responsible circles" (unnamed) that this whispering campaign was being accompanied by "bearing" operations against the franc.

It quoted M. Vincent-Auriol, French Finance Minister, as "fully aware of the machinations now in progress."

The next day the *Daily Herald*, which plays ball so happily with *The Times*, and whose editor is so friendly with the Bank of England, announced the result as follows:

Agreement has been reached between the British, French and United States Governments to punish French speculators by arranging an upward movement of the franc.

This will result in heavy losses for French financiers who have been taking part in the campaign against the franc and have been reckoning on the franc falling in value.

It appears, however, that a group of British banks, headed by Lazard Brothers and Co., Morgan Grenfell and Co., and Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons had arranged to give a credit of £40,000,000 to the French Railways under the guarantee of the French Government.

So it was not a direct loan to France after all. But it will save the franc. And the profitable transaction is a punishment for unnamed miscreants.

It all sounds pretty ghastly, and you would expect a violent public outcry—a demand for the names of these sinister Frenchmen who plot the downfall of their country's money.

The funny thing is that France has mortgaged her railways now, in much the same way as we have prophesied that Britain will probably mortgage the coal industry to secure the American War Debt.

As the *Birmingham Gazette* put it, innocently but ominously last Friday, "the bankers may have something to teach us yet."

THE ALBERTA EXPERIMENT

An Interim Survey
By Major C. H. Douglas

Will be published in March
by Eyre and Spottiswoode.
The first chapters of this
book on this most stirring
and momentous piece of
current history will appear
in the next issue (March) of

THE FIG TREE

COMMENTARY

Power Politics

THE outcry of a section of the public against the proposal to establish a "shadow" aircraft factory at White Waltham, near Maidenhead, has resulted in the project being withdrawn.

It was felt that starting a factory in such a district would be unfair to the local inhabitants and unfair to the unemployed in the Distressed Areas, where it might be established instead.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of it, the important fact is that complaints from Tyneside, South Wales and Lancashire were sufficient to force Mr. Baldwin to say that the Ministry, recognising the "wider considerations" involved, would seek a site in Lancashire.

Great Taxation Fraud

TAXATION takes money out of our pockets so that we cannot spend it on the things we want.

That is unpleasant for us and it is also bad for those who wish to sell us the things we want. It reduces their incomes and purchases just as it reduces ours. It does nobody any good. Its effect is to prevent people buying some of the things that exist, or could be produced in abundance.

Even if the money taken from us in taxation were paid over to Government servants (which it is not), it would be unnecessary; for to take it from us for that purpose is to assume that there is a scarcity of the things people want to buy—and that the producers must go without certain goods in order that non-producers may have them. That is just nonsense that should not be tolerated.

Thanks to machinery there is now plenty for everyone. Taxation is completely out of date. It is a survival of the days of scarcity.

Robbery in Kenya

THERE is, or could be, plenty in the British Crown Colony of Kenya, just as in any other part of the world. In spite of this undisputed fact, there is a proposal to inflict extra taxation on the people of Kenya.

Hitherto there has been no income tax there. Now an income tax is threatened. In the Supplement issued this week (see back page) Arthur Welford writes an important article on the subject, suggesting how the people of Kenya can resist this projected daylight robbery—for that is all it is.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

for a Social Crediter's Notebook

George Turner, of Westcliffe, who was fined 5s. at Southend today for keeping a dog without a licence, said he had been out of work for a long time and only got 16s. a week.

The magistrate told him he would be well advised to get rid of the dog, for with 16s. a week to keep himself and his wife and child he could not afford to keep a dog. — *"Evening Standard,"* November 24, 1936.

Penalties imposed under the Milk Marketing Scheme since its inception was approximately £23,000, of which £15,000 had been paid. Seventy-five petitions in bankruptcy had been presented by the board resulting in the adjudication of the defaulters as bankrupts. — *"Daily Telegraph,"* November 11, 1936.

The municipal fathers of Koenigschuetz, Germany, decreed a municipal tax on the advertisements of shopkeepers. But when the officials toured the shopping centres to determine the amount of taxes, they found that every shopkeeper had ceased to advertise. — *"The Star,"* December 2, 1936.

Because he could not afford to keep his baby girl, John William Charles Stepney (24), of Purcell Crescent, North Fulham, threw her over a railway bridge at Love, Lane, Blackheath. — *"The Star,"* December 2, 1936.

Year's cheque clearings up by £3,056,823,000. Reflection of better domestic trade—sound basis for New Year optimism. Total clearings for town and country for 1936 £40,616,574,000. — *"Evening News,"* January 1.

Owing to poor [?] world harvests, Australia is to be allowed to grow 600,000 acres more wheat than last year. This is the first increase for four years, in which time the area sown has been reduced by four million acres. — *"Sunday Times,"* September 27, 1936.

The Idea Spreads

THE Natal Technical College, Durban, may be forced to close down. Not for lack of students but for lack of money.

A letter in a leading South African newspaper—*The Natal Mercury*—printed under the familiar words "United Demand Necessary," indicates that in this country also people are being awakened to sovereignty.

"Political agitation on this matter is undesirable; that is, of course, the usual party strife in which we get hot and bothered over abstractions.

"There is, however, the alternative of coming together in a united demand signed by every elector in the divisions that the Government shall carry out the wishes of the people. Is not that the function of a democratic Government?"

"Let us put it to the test. No petition or protests—these are only the implements of people who wobble at the knees. A signed demand would let our representatives know what we wanted; they are our servants, not our masters."

CHARLES B. MUSSARED

The Power of the Cabinet

A CENTURY and a half ago Mr. Dunning, M.P., moved in the House of Commons, "That the power of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished."

Now Mr. Dingle Foot, the Liberal M.P., has moved, "That the power of the Executive has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished."

To a journalist he said, "No one who has sat in Parliament during the last five years could fail to notice the steady encroachment of the Executive at the expense of the House of Commons and the Law Courts."

Secret Diplomacy

AT about the same time the executive committee of the Women's Liberal Federation in London passed a resolution condemning "the growing tendency of the Government to settle all international problems outside the League of Nations by the old methods of secret diplomacy."

What happens is that the Cabinet settles all major questions of policy behind our backs and then announces them as *faits accomplis*. Under a system of true democracy we, the people, would dictate in matters of general policy and the Cabinet would simply implement these popular desires by suitable political methods.

The Right Way To Get Recruits

INCREASED pay and more leave will be offered as new inducements to join the regular Army early in March.

War Office announces that these improvements will form the basis of a new recruiting drive:

Increased pay for all—officers, N.C.O.s and men; Improved travelling arrangements, more free travelling;

Increased marriage allowances; marriage allowance to be granted at an earlier age (age is now 26);

Better barracks; More leave;

Trade and vocational training for all, so ex-soldiers may get good jobs in civilian life.

We have repeatedly pointed out in these columns that the right way to get recruits for the army is to make the job more attractive.

There is no lack of producers willing and anxious to provide the food and clothing, the amusements and luxuries, everything in fact that the soldiers and their dependents want to buy with their extra pay.

And by the same token there is not an atom of need for anyone else to go short of anything at all.

Spending soldiery make prosperity for all who supply them.

WHY PRICES WENT UP

Question in the House of Commons by veteran Socialist M.P. Will Thorne: Why have the prices of sugar, soap, and coal risen recently and what is the Board of Trade doing about it?

Answer by Dr. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary: Sugar is dearer following increase in world prices. Soap has gone up because oils and fats to make it are dearer all over the world. Coal mainly because general trade recovery has led to a greatly increased demand.

For NEW READERS

Read about Social Credit and then see how much more interesting your daily paper becomes.

SOCIAL DEBT OR SOCIAL CREDIT.

By George Hickling (*Ready shortly*)

WHY POVERTY IN MIDST OF

PLENTRY? By the Dean of Canter-

bury 4d.

WOMEN AND POVERTY. By Jean

Campbell Willett 4d.

APPROACH TO REALITY. By Major

C. H. Douglas 3d.

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C. H. Douglas 6d.

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ton Chamber of Commerce

Report 6d.

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Six Propaganda Folders:

WASTE; THE CHOSEN FAST OF

GOD; FEEDING RAVENS; A FAMILY

NEEDS MONEY; FOREIGN TRADE;

WASTED LIVES (4 of each 1s.)

(each) ½d.

Leaflets:

"ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN

You" (2s. per 100) ½d.

WAR (2s. 3d. per 100) ½d.

WHY PAY TAXES? (*Ready shortly*)

TYRANNY. By C. H. Douglas. ½d.

Obtainable (postage extra) from

SOCIAL CREDIT

163A Strand, London, W.C.2

The attitude of politicians and economists to unemployment was discussed by Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of Agriculture, at Shell Mex House, London, last night.

"The only device which man has yet discovered, by which the wealth of society can be distributed, is by work in the field, the factory, or the office," he said.

"Unless there is distribution it is no use producing. That is why politicians guide themselves mainly by those policies which produce the greatest amount of employment." — *"Daily Telegraph,"* November 11, 1936.

A 72-year-old woman, who did not disclose to the Public Assistance authority that she was earning 2s. 6d a week, went to prison for seven days in default of paying a fine of 50s. imposed on her yesterday at West London Police Court. — *"Daily Express,"* January 1.

For five years and more such immense stocks of grain have been held in the silos of the wheat-exporting countries that Governments have tried to restrict production, and sales have been subsidised to save the mass bankruptcy of overseas farmers. — *"Sunday Dispatch,"* January 3.

The future is full of anxiety. Foreseeing a possible famine this year, the great producing countries have this winter put down record acreages to wheat. America alone has sown 57,200,000 acres of winter wheat. — *"Sunday Dispatch,"* January 3.

The world wheat shortage, which is raising the price of bread and bringing fortunes to speculators in Chicago, Liverpool, and other international wheat markets, is causing anxiety in every country in the world. — *"Sunday Dispatch,"* January 3.

CORNER FOR WOMEN

MENDING . . . Old Socks, Old Clothes, Old Toys: Is It The Woman's Job?

By Mrs. B. M. PALMER

SAYS Charlotte Brontë in "Shirley": She by no means thought it waste of time to devote unnumbered hours to most elaborate stocking mending. She would give a day to the mending of two holes in a stocking any time, and think her "mission" nobly fulfilled when she had accomplished it . . . a weariful process, but considered by Hortense Gérard, and by her ancestresses before her for long generations back as one of the first "duties of women."

Charlotte knew it was waste of time—what would she have said of the modern mania to "make work"?

"Mend, mend, mend!" said a woman of today. "Half my life is spent in mending. Old socks, old toys, old clothes. I suppose it's a woman's job."

It most emphatically isn't! Why should we have to mend things that can be made in enormous quantities by mass production?

Old hand-made lace, perhaps, or beautiful embroidery—but why mend socks? A man and boy with a knitting machine can turn out twenty-five thousand a week, and make more than a million pairs a year.

SO WHY DARN?

* * *

When you get behindhand you spend a whole evening at it. This is real waste of time, forced on you by the mere lack of money to buy the socks turned out by the machine.

But I'm afraid you'll have to keep on doing it till you get your National Dividend.

* * *

I HAD a letter from a man a short time back, addressed to the Women's Corner.

He says: "Every woman has her own way of getting what she wants. I challenge any man to deny it!"

"You will read that as a joke. All right, laugh at my joke!"

"Once my wife and I lived in rather a dreary road in rather a dreary suburb. We jogged along. Then I got a rise, rather a big one."

"My wife knew what she wanted, and quite soon, somehow, it became what we wanted, and now we live in a much better house where the children can be near a good school."

"She got what she wanted. Yes. It does me good to think of what will happen when the women of England see that it is possible to get a National Dividend."

"A nice little income quite apart from what they earn, or what their husbands give them, an income that no one can take away. Why, they won't be happy till they get it."

"It would be nice to run some charabanc trips for women, to visit Lancashire and see the cotton spindles smashed up. Then to come home, to spend the next day turning sheets sides to middle."

"Or a little motor tour in Scotland, to see the milk being poured through a drain-pipe into the river. (I have seen a photograph of this being done.)"

"Men pulling down, destroying, cramping and restricting, while women spend hours in mending and economising, trying to set right what has been set wrong."

"Why it's more than flesh and blood could stand."

"Once bring it home to women that the dividend is within their reach, and that only the stupidity of man is keeping it from them, and I don't think we should have much to worry about."

"Yes, women have their own way of getting what they want."

* * *

THANK you, correspondent. You say some nice things about us. I hope you are right. Now, women, it is up to you to rise to the occasion.

New Tactics For New Times

AT a meeting of the Women's Freedom League on January 27, Mrs. Teresa Billington Greig suggested that the leaders of the women's movements throughout the country should together decide on one aim—which by reason of its universal appeal would attract a majority of women. The societies should then make a concerted demand for this one thing.

The following methods were suggested: Women should hold meetings at every election even if their societies could not afford to run candidates, and should make it clear that the women's vote in that particular constituency would be largely influenced by the candidate's response to their agreed aim.

The first thing to be done then was to decide what the aim should be.

The success of Mrs. Billington-Greig's admirable proposal will depend upon the objective chosen, which must be definite, attainable within a reasonable time, and have a universal appeal to women, and upon the demand being for results and not for methods.

A meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, February 11, at 7.30. Women specially urged to come.

WOMAN WHO CAN BUY ALL SHE WANTS

THERE is at least one English woman who can buy anything she wants.

Mrs. Eugenie Daubeny is said to have the world's best job. She is going out to South Africa with unlimited cash at her fingertips, and unlimited opportunities of spending it.

She is to represent a dress designer, an interior decorator, and a jeweller, who are providing her with an outfit worthy of a princess, and jewellery to the value of £20,000.

She is an ambassadress of trade—a walking advertisement.

Lack of Food—or Money?

FIVE women health officers, interviewed at a meeting of the Women's Public Health Officers' Association, were asked the following questions:

What are the outstanding problems to be tackled to make an A1 nation?

How should the problems be tackled? Four out of five quoted food, or lack of it, as an outstanding problem.

Only two out of five realised that it was a lack of money problem.

WOMEN—WAKE UP !

By M. B. de CASTRO

WHY have women not realised the full contents of the franchise? Why have they, as usual, allowed themselves to be led by their menfolk, and saved the Parliamentary Vote for Elections only?

A franchise is a charter of liberty; it is usable in other and better ways than putting a paper in a ballot box in favour of a Conservative, Liberal or Tory representative.

It is a symbol of a power which can and should be above Parliament, i.e., "the Will of the People." I think women have failed to use this power effectively. I think it is time they sat up and took notice, and did so. It is in fact almost too late.

In our suffragette days there was a book called "This Man-made World." It was American—amusing and fairly informing.

It pointed to the mess that purely masculine management had produced. This can safely be said still to be true.

If only in England, where the women outnumber the men to the tune of hundreds of thousands, there had been any really independent, individual thought or action taken, much that is now in the melting-pot might have been saved.

It has been suggested that we should "appeal to the mothers" through the children. I disagree.

The mothers have the most important job in the world, and if it is properly done it is a full-time job; too full sometimes.

I will appeal to the millions of girls who are not mothers—even if they are, some of them, wives.

I ask them to remember that they are "surplus" women, which means that millions of them never will be mothers—or not unless we set to work to make polygamy legal!

Five out of six of those girls can, if they choose, make their mark on civilisation.

Now is the appointed time. Very soon it may be too late. We are within measurable distance of the next world war. It will, unless we unite, decimate our men for the second time in 25 years. Only united action can stop it.

The united action of the million or so maids, old and young, would go an appreciable way to doing it.

Who will join hands today to form a nucleus, to make the core of an army of women voters who can and will bring pressure to bear upon the so-called "representatives" of the people of England assembled in Parliament at Westminster?

The suffragettes "marched on Westminster." It may be necessary to do so again. Let us meet and discuss the idea—the possibilities—and others.

Anyone interested in meeting Miss de Castro personally can do so by appointment via Mrs. Palmer.

*Extracts from an address by Miss de Castro to a special meeting of women at the National Dividend Club.

SOCIAL CREDIT LITERATURE

THE FIG TREE, Edited by Major C. H. DOUGLAS (Quarterly 3s. 6d. or 10s. a year)

The following are SIX Standard Works by Major C. H. DOUGLAS

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY (4th Edition 1934). (The original statement of the philosophical and proposals of Major Douglas. First published 1918)	3s. 6d.	THE CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTION (2nd Edition 1934). (Demonstrates that governments are controlled by international finance, with a commentary on world politics)	3s. 6d.
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The Great Illusion

ONE of the surest ways of paralysing action that could and should be taken is to propagate the idea that it can't be done without the co-operation of *somebody else* who happens at the time to be *somewhere else* also.

A mere artifice, a mere imagination—but how readily it takes root in the minds of men, for it exploits and capitalises inertia; it provides a plausible (though false) escape from personal responsibility.

The ostrich, when it buries its head in the sand, deludes itself that by banishing its own sight the hunter is thereby banished also.

In many movements today much well-meaning effort is foredoomed to futility—or worse—by illusory methods like that of the ostrich. Yet their objectives may be as sound as the ostrich's desire to escape the hunter.

IT is one of the greatest of modern illusions that a problem becomes easier to solve the bigger it can be made.

Matters of a purely national concern are submitted to the babel of international politics, and become the subject of World Conferences, each of which ends in frustration and the preparation for another.

The eyes of the fool are in the ends of the earth.

For twenty years men have sought peace in leagues and conferences of nations, consistently ignoring that war within their own frontiers—the war between debtors and creditors—which has its casualties in prisons, casual wards and workhouses, in distressed areas, slums and mortuaries.

If we set about achieving *peace in Britain*, we shall have done something practical and concrete towards world peace. But if we wait for someone *somewhere else* to do something before we ourselves act our possible and local part (which needs no consent or conference of foreigners), the next war is certain.

Many have concentrated on disarmament as a means of achieving peace. But armaments do not fight, men do; and armaments are an effect, not a cause. Real peace has no need nor fear of arms.

BENEATH the universal chasing of shadows lies the false assumption that we cannot act individually and nationally without international co-operation.

The same illusory principle is urged against the practical proposition of Social Credit, by vague references to the International Exchanges, and forebodings of disaster to British credit abroad. Ridiculous bogey!

To suffer the tyranny of scarcity—and, for millions of our people, utter destitution—in order to sustain our financial credit abroad is as sensible as *hara-kiri* to humiliate an enemy.

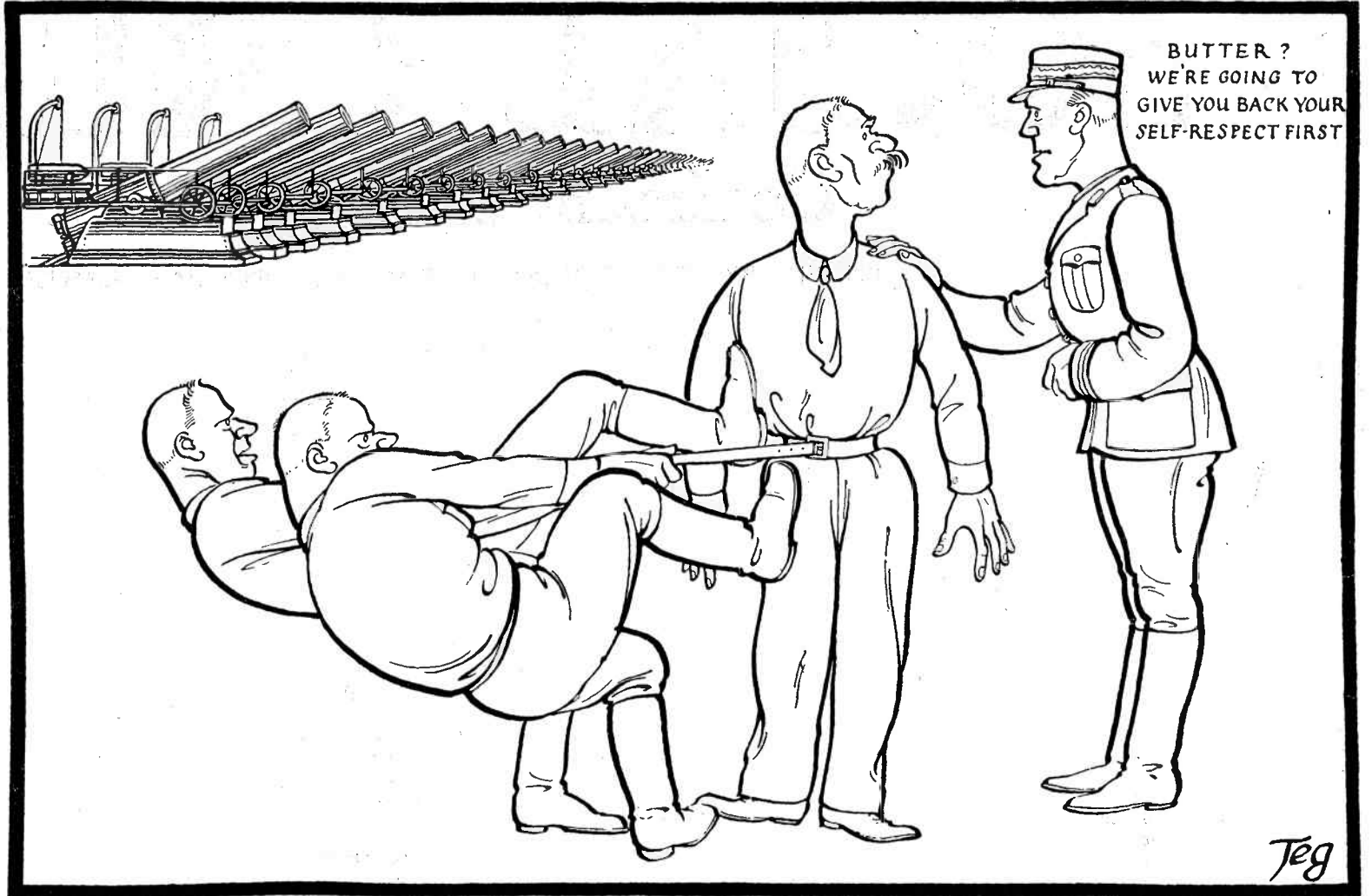
It is as sensible to believe that we cannot abolish slums and poverty until every country in the world agrees to do the same, as it is to assert that we cannot distribute our herring catch in Britain without European consent.

Yet just this idea, nebulously accepted, paralyses the individual. Helplessly, he sterilises his own sovereignty and initiative—a slave to a false abstract idea.

THE truth is that men are men, not nations, not classes, nor parties. There are no distressed areas, there are only distressed men.

"I'm only one man," says the mind seeking escape in the false slogan that the herd is greater than the individual.

We are all "only one" and each of us must act if we want peace and plenty in our time.



By courtesy of "The New Catholic Herald."

Hitler's Guns Instead of Butter Campaign Continues

Next Year's Slump?

NOW that "Prosperity" has returned, some of our professors of economics have begun talking gloomily about the forthcoming slump of 1938-39.

I cannot help feeling that this is just a precautionary move on their part. As, admittedly, they have no idea what is going to happen next, they argue that depression is the better part of valour, and begin prophesying a slump so that if one comes they can walk about in their professorial capes with a knowing air.

IN case we should get too dispirited, *Evening Standard* City Editor S. W. Alexander tells us we shall never have a slump like the last one again.

It was an abnormal one, he says, and will not be repeated.

For instance, there was the War Debt plan which had to break down before the creditors realised it was unworkable.

There was also the suspension of the Gold Standard which still further undermined confidence.

These doubts and fears germinated and begat hatred, intense nationalism with rigid protection of markets, dictatorships and the growth of armies.

Then with a touch of illogicality he adds that a big contributory factor towards the depression was the neglect of our own armaments. But happily we are never likely to adopt such foolish policies of disarmament again.

These fears, he says, have been so strong as to cause some people to take heed only for today and to make no plans or provisions for tomorrow. It has even had an influence on the size of our population.

ALL this represents a defeatism completely foreign to the character of the British people.

It is doubtful whether anybody will be able to draw much comfort from these words. The burden of War Debt—the interest on that vast sum created out of nothing and lent to us, the owners of it, by the banks—remains around our necks like an old man of the sea.

Payment of instalments on the astronomic sums which we owe to America are, it seems, to be resumed. Suspension of the Gold Standard was a slight easing of the burden, yet it may one day be restored.

Fears, hatreds, dictatorships persist and will continue to do so while the economic causes remain unchanged.

This leaves the glorious and heartening prospect of rearmament which we have so foolishly neglected in the past.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, writing about this in the same issue of the *Evening Standard*, says that defence estimates for the current financial year amount to £160,000,000, though there will probably be a series of supplementary estimates which may increase these figures.

During 1937, our programmes will remain very much in arrear, and not until 1938 will the big results begin to show.

He adds: "It will, of course, be utterly impossible to meet the expenditure of 1937 without heavy borrowing . . . Mr. Chamberlain last year increased his income tax by 3d. to 4s. 9d. in the £."

"It would seem very natural if he this year advanced it by another 3d. to the full five shillings."

But he says, "We cannot contemplate a prolonged period during which the armed forces of Europe will continue to develop and subsequently be maintained at their hideous maximum level. Events are certainly moving forwards towards a climax."

Exactly. This dazzling system of ours works after a fashion only when expansion is taking place. Just now, for example, the most surprising firms, engaged in the most apparently peaceful labours, have government contracts for the manufacture of armaments, while nearly everybody—down South at any rate—benefits indirectly from these copious streams of money injected into the production system.

But as Mr. Churchill ruefully admits, we are moving towards a climax. This climax is either a fearful explosion or a sudden slowing down of this divinely appointed rearmament programme.

What follows then? Another slump. And with all due respect to the City Editor of the

"We are moving towards a climax—either a fearful explosion or a sudden slow down of this divinely appointed rearmament programme. What follows? Another slump—"

Evening Standard, I believe it could easily be as bad as the last.

The mystical school of Astronomer-Economists who observe booms and slumps in the same way that astronomers observe the motions of heavenly bodies, will put it down (if they are alive to tell the tale) as another ex-terrestrial phenomenon, and by drawing graphs of previous slumps, prophesy its duration and severity.

At one time it was believed that diseases fell into this category, and the pioneers of hygiene were not only scoffed at for their fantastic notions but thundered at from the pulpit for their presumption in thinking to fly in the face of Providence.

There is something worse than defeatism about. It is a fear, deliberately encouraged by those who pull the strings, that if we alter the rules which govern the supply of our bread and butter, something terrible will happen.

The truth, of course, is that something terrible will happen if we don't—something even worse than what is happening to us now.

HOW are we going to avoid this catastrophe? Some people say we should insist on some particular alteration of the rules which they feel to be necessary.

Such people are called monetary reformers, and there are about 120 different groups.

Supposing the readers of this journal were convinced that Proposal Number 117 was the one and only—what then? How could we insist on its being put in force?

We couldn't unless we had first discovered how to bring pressure to bear in an effective manner. And even then, by demanding some particular method we should be laying ourselves open to trickery and bad faith on the part of those who wished the plan to fail.

It is results we all want in terms of human satisfaction. A people's determined demand for results may yet avert disaster.

G.W.L. Day

NEW READERS SHOULD READ THIS

1. YOU are short of money to spend and you therefore go short of goods and services which you want.
2. The majority of Britons are in the same boat.
3. At the same time the goods we all want are being destroyed and their production is being restricted, because we have not the money to buy them.
4. Sane people know that such destruction and restriction while people are in want is sacrilege.
5. Unless you protest with all your might your silent consent makes you guilty as an accessory to this foul crime.
6. Your conscience and your self-respect require that you do your duty as a voter in a democracy by insistently demanding the Abolition of Poverty and the issue of National Dividends (without taxation) to all, as a right and not as a concession.
7. National Dividends are claims on the goods that are being destroyed and the production that is being restricted.
8. Don't waste time arguing methods. DEMAND RESULTS at once and urge others to do so.
9. This is YOUR JOB and you cannot leave it to another and retain your self-respect. They also have their part of this great task to do. They cannot make good your failure. (See Electoral Campaign form on back page.)
10. IT'S UP TO YOU.

Children Go Starving to School

THERE are children attending elementary schools in London who are unable, by reason of lack of food, to take full advantage of the education provided for them.

This was reported to the L.C.C. Education Committee last week by the Special Services Sub-Committee, which adds that during the coming financial year the funds available will be insufficient to defray the cost of the food required.

Why are the "funds" insufficient? There is plenty of food. Many children, too, do not get enough sleep, owing to overcrowding and vermin—and it is all unnecessary in this age of abundance.

Here is a chance for parents and teachers to demand an adequate standard of living for all.

THIS AGE OF PLENTY

He admitted there was a total of £4 7s. per week going into his house, and said he could not afford to make any contribution.

The Clerk of the Court: You have a wireless set?—Yes, and a piano.

You smoke?—Yes.

Aren't those luxuries?—We work to live, not to live in penury.

You could give over smoking to contribute?—I hope you are not going to take the bread away as well.

Don't try to be rude.

What do radio, piano, and tobacco manufacturers really think about it?

To Burn Three Million Bags of "Surplus" Coffee

The Brazilian National Coffee Department is to undertake the incineration as soon as possible of another 3,000,000 bags of surplus coffee.

An alternative proposal to reduce production by the destruction of some 750 million coffee trees in Brazil has not found general acceptance among growers.

Millions of people all over the world, denied coffee because they have not the money with which to buy it, must ask themselves, Why this destruction?

Never Unveiled—Never Paid For

On the grave of Africa's greatest black warrior—Chaka, King of the Zulus—there stands a memorial which has never been unveiled because the Zulu nation is still in debt over the erection of the monument. This item of information was given at the recent meeting of the South African Historical Monuments Commission.

New Zealand Money Chief Travels 12,000 Miles To Tell Us What We Know

MR. WALTER NASH, the New Zealand Finance Minister, it would appear, has travelled twelve thousand miles to London only to tell the British Government what it already knows.

The purpose of his visit is to negotiate a new trade agreement to take the place of one signed at Ottawa in 1932.

He wants to increase the sale of New Zealand produce in the United Kingdom, and offers in return increased purchases of British manufactured goods.

In almost every speech Mr. Nash has made since his arrival last November—and he has made at least three a week on average—he has stressed the need of a large proportion of Britain's population for more and better food.

The British Government knows about this already. Did not a King himself, whom Mr. Nash helped to dethrone, impress on it the horrifying conditions in the distressed areas?

What Mr. Nash overlooks, apparently, is that these millions of people in want lack the money to buy.

Hardly Tactful

Had Mr. Nash, and the government he represents, succeeded in abolishing poverty and giving freedom in security to all in his own country, his action in constantly drawing attention to Britain's submerged third (it is no longer only a tenth!) would be excusable, but he has not so succeeded.

In the circumstances, his action is hardly tactful, for he wishes to secure concessions from his hosts, and they will not like to be constantly reminded of these things, which, quite obviously, they wish to forget.

The Beam and the Mote

The beam of poverty and insecurity in New Zealand may not be so large yet as the mote in Great Britain, but this is due to good luck, not good management.

The New Zealand Government has yet to show that it intends to make those who control the financial system, so to alter it that it reflects the facts of plenty. So far no action to this end has been taken.

Until such action is taken and succeeds, it is futile for Mr. Nash to point to those in the United Kingdom unable to buy all they need; there are others in like case in his own country.

Squeezing Them Out

UNDER the heading "Socialism in New Zealand" *The Times* of January 28 published a letter from a Mr. Henry Studholme. The following extracts are significant:

Letters which I receive from New Zealand do not express the same satisfaction with the present state of affairs as is apparently felt by the Finance Minister. The Labour Party promised increased purchasing power, and were returned at the 1935 elections with a huge majority. Socialism, which is now their declared object, was not mentioned by their candidates.

The owner of a small sheep and dairy farm writes that her rates and taxes have gone up from £190 to over £1,000 a year since the present Government came in. After struggling with mortgages and a series of bad years she was at last beginning to see daylight. With this new burden, however, she is unable to carry on, and is preparing to cut up her property into smallholdings if she can find any purchasers.

The statement that socialism, which is now the declared objective of the government, was not mentioned when the election was fought, is borne out by "The Case for Labour," published over the name of Mr. Savage, who is now Prime Minister, on the strength of the promises made therein.

In this interesting statement, Mr. Savage made it clear that the farmers were not to blame for their difficulties, which arose from a financial policy over which they had no control.

He promised them assistance; if the case quoted in this letter is typical of his assistance, they would do better without it.

PRICELESS

Extracts from two advertisers' announcements in *Daily Mail* of January 12:—
(for Blankets)—"In spite of the rise in wool from 2s. to 3s. 3d. per lb. within the last eighteen months—"
(for Cotton Sheets)—"Advance in wages, cotton prices and reductions of spindles. All must eventually mean higher prices"

that men have fought and died for through two thousand years, tumbling about our ears.

Doubtless both Mr. Savage and Mr. Nash regard themselves as champions of democracy, yet what they are engaged in doing is to bring it into discredit.

How far they are from being democrats was demonstrated when they connived at forcing the abdication of King Edward, without consulting the people of New Zealand.

Evidently they, instead of regarding themselves as representatives of the will of the people, consider that by their election they have been empowered to make the people do or accept what they think good and desirable.

This is not democracy, but in so far as people think it is, it will lead, in New Zealand as elsewhere, to democracy being discredited, although in fact it has never been tried.

Real democracy is only possible when the people realise their sovereignty and, ignoring party labels and platforms, unite in demanding the results they want and in forcing their representatives to obey them.

Will New Zealand show the way?
M.W.

NEW ZEALAND'S LITTLE HITLERS

MR. SEMPLE, New Zealand Minister of Public Works, is reported in the *Dunedin Evening Star*, November 29, 1936, to have said:

"The same principle is to apply everywhere. If farm labour is available and men in towns and cities capable of doing the work refuse to go, then their sustenance will be stopped.

The Government is determined to discourage men loafing around the cities and towns when there is work to do."

The voice is that of Semple, but the words might equally well have been spoken by our own little Kingsley Wood or Ernest Brown.

The source of inspiration is identical, it is to be found in the bankers' philosophy that people must be made to work by keeping them in a state of perpetual insecurity—poverty in plenty in fact!

Disappointed

STAY-IN strikers at freezing factories throughout Auckland Province recently refused Minister of Labour Armstrong's advice to return to work pending a settlement of the dispute by conference.

"It is a challenge to the Government as to who shall govern," he stated, "and we may have to face that issue."

Mr. Armstrong explained that his negotiations with the employers were "proceeding nicely towards a settlement" when the stay-in strike checked further progress.

He was unable to help the men, he said, if they had no confidence in the Labour Government.

Evidently labour, like the farmers, is finding that promise and performance differ disappointingly!

Discrediting Democracy

WHAT is happening in New Zealand is but a repetition of what happens in other democracies. It has led to the suppression of all democratic forms in a number of countries—e.g., Germany, Italy, Portugal, Newfoundland.

It will yet, if left unchecked, bring all

L5,000 Million Not Enough—A Correction

Under this cross-heading in last week's notes, it was stated that the money income of the people of the U.S.A. in 1936 amounted to L5,000 million. The correct figure is L12 thousand million, as was shown by the quotation from the Brookings Institute report which gave the figure in dollars as 60 thousand million.

NO COMMENT CORNER

BEACONSFIELD Council have approved a recommendation that a new helmet be purchased for the chief officer of the Fire Brigade and the existing chief officer's helmet be repaired and adapted for the second officer.

To raise money to build working-class houses in Flimwell, a village on the Kent and Sussex border, the vicar and a band of villagers are touring the district, giving plays in halls and schools.

The plays performed are written so as to call attention of audience to bad housing conditions.

All Italian school teachers must wear Fascist uniforms while teaching.

Men teachers who are officers in the Fascist Militia must wear the black uniform of the Party while women must wear a white blouse with a Fascist badge and a black skirt.

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These Are The Excuses Advanced To Support The Party System

IT is well for the sake of right judgment to consider at the close of this criticism of the Party System, what may be (and is privately) said in its favour by those who make their living from it. What excuses do they offer?

First this:—

States, as all the world knows, and as those who know the world least are never tired of informing us, are organic things, not mechanical. You cannot make a State: it has to grow.

The British State at the present moment has enjoyed a peculiarly unbroken continuity of institutions.

Not a particularly unbroken continuity compared with many States in history; but, during the last 150 years at least, a peculiarly unbroken one, compared with the great States of Europe, its rivals.*

*

Among the other institutions of Britain which have been developed during this comparatively long period of unbroken continuity stands the Party System.

* This was written 25 years ago.

Will advertisers please note that the latest time for accepting copy for this column is 12 noon Monday for that Friday's issue.

Announcements & Meetings

Notices will be accepted in this column from affiliated Groups at 6d. a line, minimum three lines

Cardiff Social Credit Association. Meeting at 10, Park Place, on Tuesday, February 9, at 8 p.m. Subject: "The Nature of Social Credit." Speaker: Capt. A. O. Cooper.

Cardiff United Democrats. Meetings each Wednesday at 34, Charles Street, at 8 p.m.

Liverpool S.C. Association. Hon. Secretary, Miss D. M. Roberts, Fern Lee, Halewood Road, Gateacre, Liverpool. All enquiries welcomed.

Northampton. Anyone in town or surrounding districts interested in the active side of Social Credit, please communicate with the local Secretary, 14, Victoria Road, Northampton, or 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Poole and Parkstone Group. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m., The Studio, Hermitage Road, Parkstone. Inquirers welcome.

National Dividend Club. Electoral Campaign. Enquiries are invited and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary: Capt. T. H. Story, 28, Ashburnham Gardens, Upminster, Essex. At all meetings time is set aside for comments, discussion, questions and answers, for our mutual assistance in the Campaign. Whether yet members or not, all are welcomed.

Wavertree Social Credit Association. Will all Supervisors, Ward Supervisors, Members, Campaigners, and all our friends who have given assistance in the past, kindly take notice. An important meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, at 7.45 p.m. The Bungalow, Heath Road, Allerton. No. 8 car.

Miscellaneous Notices

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Press Cuttings Bureau. Accountant; World's Press News; Countryman; Scottish Farmer; Church Times; Banker. Will anyone willing to act as scrutineers for the above papers please write to Mr. T. L. Mawson, Petit Port, St. Brelade's, Jersey, C.I.

What is it all about—this Social Credit? Leaflet entitled "Ask and It Shall Be Given You" explains briefly yet pithily. It is available at 4d. a dozen (or 2s. for 100; 8s. for 500; 15s. for 1,000) post free from SOCIAL CREDIT, 163A, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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Under its machinery, acting according to its rules, England, until she began to experience her recent embroilments and anxieties, prospered.

She was, until recently, the wealthiest nation in the world; and in the full military sense of military strength, wherein defence is a main part of the problem, she was almost the strongest.

Men of high capacity have continually succeeded one another as a product of the Party System, and in general being an institution in a State whose institutions have been so continuous, it should remain.

*

That is the first and most plausible excuse which its beneficiaries make in favour of the Party System. There is attached to it a converse excuse of almost equal effect which stands thus:—

In a State of ancient institutions—indeed, in any State—you must not lightly destroy an institution, for when you have destroyed it you cannot with ease replace it by another institution.

The political institutions of men are not theories, they are things. Destroy the monarchy, for instance, of a despotic society, and you are bound to supply the gap which it has left by some other definite and powerful organ of government, concrete because it is human, and because it is human necessarily subject to error and to vice.

"Leave well alone" should therefore be a standing motto, so far as primary institutions are concerned, with every patriotic man.

Unless you have some clear alternative capable of concrete expression, and certainly capable of giving as good a result as the institution you propose to overthrow, then an attack upon it is anarchic and profoundly unwise.

But its apologists can also draw up an abstract series of arguments in favour of the Party System today.

*

The Party System, properly worked, reposes essentially upon this doctrine: that to every question there must be a positive and a negative answer: with every policy suggested by a statesman we must roughly and in the main acquiesce, or we must roughly and in the main dissent from it.

An all-powerful Executive, or even an

NINTH instalment of the book by HILAIRE BELLOC and Cecil Chesterton exposing the Party Politics Racket

Executive which submits to the check that can be given by representative bodies or by other organs in the State, affords no opportunity for the discussion, and the balance for and against, of any policy.

The Party System is therefore better than an unchecked or but partially checked Executive; and indeed it was its superiority over such forms of Executive which was the boast of Englishmen over the Continent a hundred years ago.

*

On the other hand (would say both the benefited defender of the Party System and the Don who is happily ignorant of intrigue), actual government by a deliberate body, or even the granting of a supreme power of veto and check to a deliberate body, is in practice impossible.

A deliberate body, in proportion to its excellence in its deliberative character, is incapable of initiative and of directly expressed will.

The best thing we can do for the State, therefore, is to preserve a system under which, while one body of men shall be tempted, in order to preserve and obtain large salaries and power, to put forward a policy which they believe to be agreeable to the commonwealth, and which at the same time they know is so debatable as to require open discussion, another body, commanding followers fairly equal in numbers, shall be present as advocates on the other side to help decide the issue.

In many policies the nation will be so much at one that the play of the two parties will not be called on.

In other cases details only, not general policies, are at stake, and for this the kind of debate known in the House of Commons as the "Committee stage" of a Bill amply provides.

But for the very largest issues in national policy nothing can work for more open or more thorough discussion, and for a more proper appreciation of the national mind, than the presence in numbers, not too

unequal, of two sets of debaters, sent by the electorate to Westminster for the purpose of discussing some great subject which has been put forward as a policy by one or other of the leading teams.

*

Again, the Party System provides (it has often been pointed out) an alternative government. The alternative government is potentially there; no violence, no breach with the past is necessary to establish under our happy institutions even the greatest change in the conduct of the nation.

Many other minor arguments may be advanced—by such as are interested in it—to defend the Party System.

It may be urged, for instance, that in England—whatever is the case with other countries—a faint line of cleavage really dividing the nation into two (but providentially not so deep as to wound its unity) is to be discovered.

There is your English Liberal type, and your English Conservative type, your Chapel man and your Church man, and to this line of cleavage which is a reality, the reality of the Party System corresponds.

Yet another minor argument resides in this: that with the Party System you can get an organisation and equipment of the electorate which you could never get without such a discipline.

Thus we may compare the percentage of voters in contested elections in England with the percentage that come to the poll abroad, and the advantage in our favour may be laid to the door of the Party System.

*

Finally—and this, as it is the least rational and the most ignorant, is with politicians the most powerful argument of all—the Party System works not only well, but better than any corresponding system among our great rivals.

Now, against these excuses it is, fortunately or unfortunately, not difficult to open batteries which leave them in ruins.

The Newages Discover—

By BRUNO BARNABE

ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND

"WE'LL park the car here," said Mr. Newage. "It's a lovely day for walking, and a few miles across country will do us all a world of good."

"I'm glad you said a few miles," said Mrs. Newage laughingly, as she climbed out of the car. "I'm not as young as I was, you know."

"We can always leave you halfway and pick you up later, mother," said Johnny.

"You'll do no such thing! By the way, will the car be all right here?"

"Of course it will, dear. You seem to forget that everyone who wants a car can afford one these days. It'll be as safe as houses."

"I suppose the time will come when I'll get used to what National Dividends have done for us all. It still seems too good to be true."

"IT'S true all right, old lady. Why you've only to look around and view the countryside open to the public to know that it is true."

"Wasn't there always as much as this, dad?"

"Not in the days of 'sound finance,' sonny. Then all farmers planted their crops out in the fields. Now very few do it that way, and if they do they use machines and don't break their backs as they used to."

"How do the other farmers grow their crops, dad?"

"Sometimes they place them in metal trays in ovenlike cabinets. That way the plants supply their own heat. No earth is required, and a few hours' work a day keeps the trays

supplied with water, charged with a few ounces of chemical food.

"By this method farmers can grow five times as much as they did the old way. In the old days we could never produce enough in England of some of the things we needed."

"Do they grow all we need now?"

"Yes, sonny, and with far less labour and no fear of droughts since they supply their own rain from huge reservoirs."

"WHAT a lovely old church," said Mrs. Newage, suddenly. "Do let's go inside."

"Just look at this lovely carving—isn't it beautiful. Those early craftsmen certainly knew their business."

"They did. But now that the machine does most of the necessary labour and has given so many people more leisure, handicrafts for sheer love of craftsmanship have come back. Mark my words, it won't be long before someone turns out stuff as good as that, now that they don't have to worry about how long it takes."

AS they passed out, they were greeted by an old farmer with a "Good day ter ye."

"And to you. We were just admiring your church."

"Ah!—it's foin, and all the better for no tithes, too!"

"I should think so," said Mr. Newage. "By the way, do you happen to know what that

building is over there? We were wondering why it hadn't any windows."

"Oh, that one—why that's one of they new-fangled green'ouses."

"A greenhouse without glass," laughed Mrs. Newage.

"Aye, oi laughed, too, once, but I don't laugh no more. It's wunnerful."

"But if there's no glass—"

"One side of the roof's glass, set so's to let in as much sun as can be. All the rest of the inside's white and acts like a reflector. The heat's done by 500 watt lamps, thermo—thermo—"

"Thermostatically controlled?" helped out Mr. Newage.

"AYE, that's it—fair tongue-twister; oi never can get it roight. Then there be other lights, too, and they 'as 'em on night time an' all. Fair makes the plants shoot up, oi never thowt ter see the loike."

"Why I remember reading about the first one way back in 1936," said Mr. Newage. "I thought at the time how wonderful it was."

"Wunnerful's roight. Maybe you know that each plant needs so much sun, some more'n others, well with that there green'ouse, they makes what sun they like, and you can 'ave strawberries in winter; there's ain't no more seasons as far as crops is concerned."

"No need to worry if summer does come only once in the blue moon," said Johnny.

"Aye that's a fact."

"Well, thank you for all your information; we must be getting along."

BOOKS

HITLER: "GOTT UND ME"

If the Nazi Chief Had To Answer To The People

By Elizabeth Edwards

Hitler and Nazi Dictatorship. Frederick L. Schuman (Robert Hale & Co., London, 10s. 6d.).

IN this book Mr. Schuman "has endeavoured to describe, to explain and to analyse" the National Socialist régime in Germany, and not to denounce or condemn it in any way; but he points out that with a dictatorship which repudiates all scientific detachment any objective analysis provides in itself a medium unfavourable for its presentation.

Mr. Schuman therefore makes an effort to display the inside point of view, and the result is an exciting as well as an informative book.

With some discussion of psychology he derives the phenomenon of National Socialism from the reaction between post-war conditions of life and the psychological maladjustment of the German people to their defeat by the Allies.

He describes the elaborate technique of propaganda by which people were led to believe what was most comfortable, and to pour out reverence and enthusiasm for unworthy ideals; and he makes it credible.

Beneath the tangle of exaggerated and apparently fortuitous ideas which complicate National Socialism, the whole structure seems to be based on a revaluation of the function of responsibility.

Herr Hitler has rediscovered responsibility, a factor that was rapidly going out of fashion in this era of committee management and collective action.

Authority

In his autobiography, "Mein Kampf," Hitler criticised the parliamentary system of government, pointing out that parliaments failed in action because no body of people could be collectively responsible. The responsibility fell between the members and, no-one owning it, nothing was accomplished.

This criticism is valid. It is our own complaint in England today.

But Herr Hitler deduced that because that particular parliamentary system was ineffective, democracy had failed.

The party that he built up, and which now governs the country, is organised on the principle "authority from the top down, responsibility from the bottom up."

Responsibility is concentrated in the hands of a few who are answerable to the dictator; Hitler himself is answerable only to God and the people.

If these last three words were strictly true Germany would be a contented country, but there are two fundamental reasons why it is false.

Firstly, the people have no method of ensuring his responsibility to them, for the sanctions—the armed forces—are with Hitler; and secondly, the people have no mechanism by which to direct their own ends the authority with which they have invested Hitler.

Responsibility

Hitler remains, therefore, responsible only to God, and dependent for his ascendancy on his control of sanctions (including his private army) and his extraordinary knowledge of the psychology of the German people.

Now, to keep security, he entangles the German people in a maze of emotional exaltation which conditions their minds to the meek acceptance of unnecessary self-sacrifice, poverty and discomfort, and to loss of liberty of behaviour, opinion and even taste. They do not see that the world is rich enough for all.

Hitler had not the insight to follow up his early analysis of parliamentary democracy with the synthesis of a democracy incorporating his theory of the responsibility of individuals to the people; so his work must be unstable.

COAL STRIKES

Geography in Education and Citizenship. W. H. Barker, B.Sc. (University of London Press).

THIS is a sensible manual of geography teaching on regional lines. The pupil's observation is to be directed to the study of locality in its bearing upon the development of human society and its institutions.

Geography is to be regarded as "the study of the adjustment of human groups to their physical environment."

Copious maps, charts and diagrams illustrate the method; and the book should be a valuable guide to any young teacher of the subject.

The chapter on Citizenship deals, however, somewhat ambiguously with the coalfields of Glamorgan. One gathers that geographical conditions are largely responsible for coal strikes.

The argument seems to be that industrial discontent in South Wales is mainly due to the configuration of the coal-fields. If the industry were not situated in narrow valleys, where a congested working-class population is bound to be packed into terraces of wrongly-oriented cottages overhung by slag heaps, all might be honey between Capital and Labour.

And this is pushing geographical theory too far into the field of economics. The proper housing of the mining population of the Rhondda, the amelioration of social conditions, the improvement of the public health—these are not contingent upon any alteration in the configuration of the locality.

It is just a matter of Money. Let but the money system be applied to the service of industry and the consumer, and a National Dividend replace the Dole, and the people of Glamorgan will soon overcome the disadvantages of their geographical situation.

H.C.

BALANCE SHEET

A NEW revised edition of Major C. H. Douglas's "The Monopoly of Credit" is out. It has as an appendix the evidence he tendered to the MacMillan Committee.

In view of developments in the U.S.A., the recommendations regarding Great Britain Limited are of topical interest today.

That it has an abiding universal interest is manifest from the biting introduction to the first edition.

"How is it possible for a world which is suffering from over-production to be in economic distress?"

"Where does money come from?"

"How can an unemployment problem, together with a manufacturing and agricultural organisation which cannot obtain orders, exist side by side with a poverty problem?"

"Why should we be asked to have confidence in our money system, if it works properly?"

Perhaps the most fascinating item on which to meditate is the real balance sheet Major Douglas draws up to show us what Britain should mean to us.

Great Britain Ltd.

Assets	Liabilities
(Population, Education, Morale)—	National Debt
Human Potential	Bankers (Potential creators of effective demand)
Policy	Insurance Companies (Mortgage and Bond Holders)
Organisation	Cash at call
Natural Resources	Taxation for Public Services
Developed Power	
Plant (Railways, Buildings, Tools, etc.)	
Public Services	
Goodwill (Tradition, reputation, etc.)	
Work in Progress	
Consumable Goods	

A glorious heritage indeed. The new Jerusalem. The promised land—flowing with milk and honey.

It is ours when we choose to call the wicked husbandmen to task.

W.F.

LETTERS

Social Credit and the Sermon on the Mount

Mr. John Mitchell accuses Catholics of hypocrisy and says that the current policy will not be altered for a Christian policy except under certain conditions, and refers Catholics to the Sermon on the Mount. That Sermon happens to advocate poverty as the ideal for mankind and any man who accepts its ethics must of necessity part with all that he has and not even possess a balance at the bank. Social Credit and the Christianity of the Sermon on the Mount are at opposite poles and have nothing in common. Mr. John Mitchell might for his own good try to understand what the ethic of Jesus implies.

COUNTRY PARSON

*

May I be permitted a word or two of criticism of the article by Mr. J. Mitchell in your issue of January 22?

Mr. Mitchell's wrath over the pastoral letter of last December is due to the following causes.

1. A hasty and badly digested reading of the pastoral.
2. Ignorance as to what is meant by Catholic Action.

In the first place, had he paused to think, he might have realised that "a sound knowledge of Christian principles" includes Justice (Social, Commutative, and Distributive). "Knowledge will be translated into action . . ." Thus you are bound to get real live working for social improvement.

"There is nothing political in such an apostolate." Which means, but Mr. Mitchell evidently did not think it worth while to find out, that Catholic Action is not a political party, but that every Catholic should work in whatever party he belongs for an improvement of conditions. Now, if my Social Credit friends have not been telling me lies, and if my reading of Social Credit literature is true, Social Credit is not a political party, but expects its members to agitate in their own party for Social Credit principles. Thus Catholic Action and Social Credit would appear to be intended to work on identical lines.

Therefore, if the label of hypocrisy is to be attached, should it not be fixed on Mr. Mitchell, who condemns in the Catholic Church what he considers praiseworthy in Social Credit?

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ALBERTA Recent Events

THE Daily Mail on January 27 stated:

"Mr. John Hargrave, leader of the British Greenshirts, who was in Winnipeg today on his way back to London, discussed his disappointment at the result of his visit to Alberta. He has been acting as adviser to the Aberhart £5-a-month-for-all Government.

"Mr. Hargrave seems to have been kept in the dark about official plans and finally ignored altogether.

"He sees no hope that the cherished plan of putting Social Credit into effect will ever be achieved by the first Social Credit Party successful in any State or Province."

*

There is no need to accept this report as any more accurate than many others that appear in the press about this subject. Since it did appear, and may well have been repeated in Canadian newspapers, the following cable was dispatched:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, EDMONTON,
ALBERTA

Official Social Credit Movement emphatically dissociates itself from statements regarding certainty of failure stated here to have been made to Canadian newspapers by Hargrave.—Social Credit Secretariat, London.

We insert this cablegram in order to dispose of erroneous statements regarding its contents which have been reported.

ANOTHER MINISTER RESIGNS

Mr. Charles C. Cockroft, Provincial Treasurer, has announced his resignation from the Alberta Cabinet, giving as his reasons "failing health and business reasons."

Mr. Ross, the Minister of Lands and Mines, resigned on January 5. As will be noted from Major C. H. Douglas's forthcoming book, the appointment of these two Ministers and of Mr. Huggill, Attorney-General, were of special significance.

Fewer Men Make More Cotton

OUTPUT in the cotton industry in 1935 was more than in 1934, but the average of persons employed was less, it is shown by the Census of Production for 1935, on which the Board of Trade has begun preliminary reports.

Figures for cotton are:—

	Gross Output: Spinning and Doubling	Weaving
1935 ...	L74,073,000	L68,809,000
1934 ...	L71,321,000	L67,593,000
	Employees:	
1935 ...	182,153	165,790
1934 ...	183,750	171,350

Export of cotton yarns in 1935 total 141,675,000lb., compared with 130,427,000lb. in 1934. Export of piece goods, per million linear yards, differed little.

Mental Defective Figures Are Highest Ever

The number of mental patients in London increased from 15,670 at the beginning of 1890 to 37,730 on January 1, 1936, an advance during these forty-six years of 18,350, according to the report for 1935, issued by the London County Council on mental hospitals and mental deficiency. The latest total is the highest ever recorded.

While the average increase per annum since 1890 was 399, since 1920 it had been 603.

FROTTI... .. A Dramatic Interlude THE SPINNING MOUSE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. Much of this has already appeared in our cheerful contemporary *The Times*. It is a faithful excerpt of the speeches (of Bank Chairmen at the Annual General Meetings.)

Characters: Frotti, A Man in the Street
 Lord Wardington (Lloyds)
 Rt. Hon. R. McKenna (Midland)
 Edwin Fisher (Barclays)
 Colin Campbell (National Provincial)
 Rupert Beckett (Westminster)
 Edward Orme (Martins)
 Sir Norton Barclay (District)
 S. H. Logan (Canadian Bank of Commerce)

} Bunk Mongers

Scene—A Board Room in the City

FROTTI. "Well, gentlemen, to what do you ascribe our increased prosperity — if indeed it is prosperity?"

LORD WARDINGTON (firmly). "It is not necessary for me to particularise the signs of our increased prosperity. Wherever you look, even in the depressed areas, they are visible . . . signs such as . . . the increased values of commodities . . ."

BECKETT. "By far the most important happening . . . has been the sustained rise of commodity prices."

CAMPBELL. " . . . South Africa and South America deriving benefit from the higher prices of commodities . . ."

ORME. "Low prices and artificial restriction gradually reduced surplus stocks. Reviving trade absorbed them . . . Hence the striking rise in prices. We have recently seen a quite exceptional rise in . . . cocoa, rubber, wool, wheat, and various metals, and all indications point to a continuance of this upward trend."

FROTTI. "Hurrah! Then we really are entitled to be optimistic."

(But at these words there is a general groan. The lights go down and sad music is heard wailing upon a tubach.)

BECKETT (uneasily). "Already the rise has occasioned a certain amount of misgiving."

FROTTI. "Misgiving? Why, you've just said it was the brightest sign of prosperity?"

CAMPBELL (sadly). "If this rise in commodity prices were to go so far as to cause a considerable increase in the cost of living . . .!"

BARCLAY. "We must regard as serious any influence which might cause our costs and prices to rise above those ruling in other countries . . . in fact the effect has been brought home to us by a sharp rise in prices of foodstuffs."

ORME (with conviction). "Higher prices for raw materials mean increased cost for manufactured goods, and this in turn will affect the cost of living. The position is not one to be viewed with easy satisfaction."

LORD WARDINGTON (vaguely). " . . . activity . . . degenerating into . . . a boom . . ."

FROTTI. "Is a boom a bad thing?"

LORD WARDINGTON. "To flatten out a too abrupt curve is surely a desirable objective!"

FROTTI (much impressed). "Yes. Oh, yes, certainly. But—but how can it be done?"

BECKETT. "The only effective method by which the general price level can be controlled is by regulating the volume of money and credit in active circulation."

FROTTI. "Prices can be made to fall . . .?"

BECKETT. " . . . Only through a contraction of credit and the adoption of a deflationary policy."

FROTTI (amazed). "Who can do this?"

McKENNA (frankly). "We have now a highly co-ordinated monetary system. A few great commercial banks work in harmony with the central bank . . . We have an instrument of immense power working as occasion requires under a single direction."

CAMPBELL. "In present conditions the power of our monetary authorities to influence the price of money is almost unlimited."

LORD WARDINGTON (who has been silently reflecting for some time). "Our fault after the War was not that credit was restricted, but that it was not restricted soon enough."

McKENNA (more frankly still). "The remedy certainly achieved its object, but at the same time it seldom failed to do much more than the occasion required . . . rough and ready measures in curing particular evils inevitably brought about a general trade recession."

(The others stir uneasily and look round as if expecting to see the irate ghost of Norman.)

FROTTI. "Then it seems that the banks are responsible for prosperity or depression, and can do what they like with us, simply by lending or not lending?"

(At this the lights go out altogether, and noises are heard like someone putting someone else's head in a sack. When they go up again Mr. McKenna has disappeared.)

LOGAN. "Loans are never forced by the banks on unwilling borrowers. Since borrowers take the initiative in obtaining loans, it is absurd to say that the banks force debt upon them."

LORD WARDINGTON. "I recall various cases where customers of banks . . . were the prey to bitter regrets . . . and complained 'How we wish we had not succeeded in overpersuading you to assist us.'"

FROTTI.—Well, gentlemen, it must be all my fault after all; and certainly, though I have been cursed hard up, no bank has ever yet forced money on me. But tell me, what are our prospects for the future?

(The lights go brighter than before.)

ORME. "I base my favourable outlook for world trade largely upon the increasing production of gold."

BARCLAY. "Sociologists, however, forecast that the population of this country should reach its zenith within the next decade, and that thereafter there will be a rapid and accelerating decline. The ultimate reaction on all business is incalculable."

FROTTI. "Yes—trade, business—but what happens to ME?"

FISHER (taking no notice). "It is necessary to guard against the danger of too much emphasis being placed on the importance of cheap money."

FROTTI. "You mean—if you want to sell money at a higher price, and a depression happens to come, I must not blame you?"

(All nod solemnly.)

FROTTI. "And—and is that all the comfort you can give me?"

(The lights go out again and there is silence. When they go up the room is empty, save for poor Frotti.)

(CURTAIN)

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OUT THIS WEEK

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- MAJOR DOUGLAS ON A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.
- STEAM FOR THE CAMPAIGN—A CONFERENCE.
- THE THIN END OF A WHITE ELEPHANT. By Arthur Welford.
- ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING IN EAST LONDON. By Herbert Dixon.
- FINANCE OF THE MONTH. By A. Hamilton McIntyre.
- PROGRESS OVERSEAS—AFRICA (CONT.). By M.W.
- AND OTHER ITEMS.

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- I know that there are goods in plenty and therefore that poverty is quite unnecessary.
- I want, before anything else, poverty abolished.
- I demand, too, that monetary or other effective claims to such products as we now destroy or restrict shall be distributed to me and every Briton so that we can enjoy all we want of them.
- These distributions must not deprive owners of their property nor decrease its relative value, nor increase taxes or prices.
- In a democracy like Great Britain Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
- So I pledge myself to vote for any candidate who will undertake to support this my policy, and to vote consistently against any party trying to put any other law making before this.
- If the present Member of Parliament here won't undertake this, I will vote to defeat him and his successors until this, my policy, prevails.

Signed

Address

(Signatures will be treated confidentially.)

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No. 7

FEBRUARY 5, 1937

Major Douglas

on a WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

COMMENTING on the situation in Alberta, the *New English Weekly* said of the proposal to introduce an Alberta currency, "We would frankly prefer to see longer and further experiment with the 'Prosperity Certificates' (depreciating money) for road making and other badly-needed developments. The modest but real success attained by this device is not to be despised, and no one has shown why it could not prove a flexible instrument for much more far-reaching developments of Social Credit policy."

In its next issue, January 21, it published the following letter from Major Douglas.

Sir,—While in general agreement with your comment on the Alberta situation, I feel obliged to dissent from your approval of the issue by Mr. Aberhart of depreciating money. No action, so far, of the Alberta Government has been more calculated to increase the handicap under which the Province labours in its struggle for genuine Social Credit.

In the first place, it is fantastically unsound in theory. It is based on the fallacy that a money system *in itself* should mould thought. On the contrary, it should reflect fact. Further, there is no conceivable

relationship between the fact that an individual refrains from spending a dollar, and his bearing a 30 per cent. tax. If his "saving" means anything at all, it means he has reduced consumption, not increased it, and his tax should be borne by the alternative buyer. There are many other objections, but, concisely, the device is the embodiment of deductive logic at its worst.

Finally, it presents a so-called Social Credit Dollar as having marked and obvious disadvantages, to the individual, over that of the financier which is the objective of attack.

I may perhaps be allowed to repeat that the premise that we are all of one mind in desiring a successful outcome of the situation in Alberta, and perhaps even in having faith that such an outcome will eventually be achieved, should not blind us to the fact that good judgment is, most unfortunately, only justified after the event, and that the interval is the heyday of the careerist.

C. H. DOUGLAS

"THEY CAN GET WHAT THEY WANT"

WE are an Association of Schoolmasters, and some of us have been members for longer than we care to recall. In fact, membership has become so welded into our cosmos that we may have become almost unconscious of it. There are those who have become oblivious to it.

Now membership of any association whatsoever has one basic reason. There is one common cause why individuals bind themselves together. They believe that in association they can get what they want.

When the day arrives that we can announce proudly our success in the realisation of our ambitions, and the achievement of our ideals, then the *raison d'être* of our association will have dissolved. But that day is not yet.

To get what we want we have, from time to time, approached authority. Every conceivable method of approach has been tried. Further schemes are still hatching. As the politicians so often tell us, no stone has been left unturned, and every avenue has been explored.

But we have still not got what we want, and we continue, therefore, in our association with each other. Jointly we shall be more formidable in winning the objective.

Now it is notorious that these are days of unparalleled complexity, and the parade of false and erroneous ideas is something in the nature of

This article is an editorial reprinted from "The Liverpool Schoolmaster."

a pageant, or a riot. Perhaps the word bedlam will not come amiss.

We should realise, too, that the voices of authority are often discordant and irreconcilable, for authority can, of course, only be vested in individuals, and they are, along with us, caught up in this maelstrom. Indeed we might suggest without any suspicion of personal disparagement that in their centralised position they are in the very vortex, whilst we are only on the fringe.

As a people we are in the position of him at the banquet, where the table is piled and heaped with the abundance of excellence, the waiters continually adding to the magnificent array, and he going hungry because he hadn't got a spoon.

As an association we are in exactly the same position. And as individuals some of us don't even know that such things as spoons exist.

Does it not seem that there is a line of approach to authority whose stark simplicity (naked truth said the old masters of imagery), may prove more effective than the elaborate wrappings of argument and disputation heretofore?

When the small boy under deten-

tion states with disarming ingenuousness that he has got to go to a party, he sees clearly the necessity for a line of action different from that which authority prescribes for him. And we can take a lesson from the innocent small boy. His simple intelligence and unclouded vision discern readily the truth. The difficulty which frustrates the fulfilment of his desire is a man-made difficulty, and can be surmounted.

If all the things we want as educationists (aye, and in private life, too!) are available, there must be a way of releasing them. It is our grave responsibility to confront authority with this simplicity. J.M.B.

Anyone interested in education is invited to write to X.R., c/o The Social Credit Secretariat Ltd., 163A Strand, London, W.C.2.

"CREDIT"

The Late Dr. Walter Leaf on Credit

"Beyond the London area the country was covered by numerous small private banks which made a profit, and assisted industry, by the issue of their own notes. These had grown up chiefly from the credit of the rich men of the neighbourhood, very often the local brewer or cloth-weaver, whose name stood high on the country market. It was easy and highly profitable for him to make loans to his neighbours, issuing notes which he undertook to pay when presented, so long as he could reckon on a fair delay in presentation. If the notes were accepted as currency and passed from hand to hand in the market, then, so long as they were out, the issuer was receiving interest, probably at what would now be considered a very high rate, on his original loan, and paying none himself. He was employing no capital of his own, and receiving a handsome income merely on the credit of his name."—From "Banking," by Walter Leaf (1929), Late Chairman of Westminster Bank; Chairman of London Clearing Bankers (1918-1919); President of Institute of Bankers (1919-1921); Late President of International Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Bowley on Credit
"Further it was found that a nation does not need a well-furnished war-chest or arsenal, but so long as credit can be obtained in neutral countries, munitions could be produced in enormous quantities during the actual progress of the war."—From "Some Economic Consequences of the Great War," by Arthur L. Bowley (1930), Professor of Statistics in the University of London.

WANTED

It would be a useful help if any readers who possess libraries and files of Social Credit literature would volunteer to search for quotations which have been, and are still, frequently used and send them in to the Secretariat office, giving the authoritative source and date.

Here are two examples of statements alleged to have been made by prominent persons, for which we cannot trace the authority:

- 1.—"They who control the credit of the nation, direct the policy of governments, and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people."
- 2.—"Give me the right to control the credit of a nation and I care not who makes its laws."

By whom, where, and at what date, were these statements made?

MORE "SAVING"

MANY years ago a millionaire said that the Douglas proposals were the only ones likely to save civilisation; but civilisation wasn't worth saving.

The Ministry of Pensions has, of course, not yet progressed to so advanced a stage of understanding. It is not even concerned with saving life or health. The Ministry has recently (August, 1936) issued details of a Pensioners' Savings Scheme. The explanatory leaflet commences thus:

"Many ex-service officers and men drawing pensions invest some portion of them when they can. It has been suggested by ex-service men that pensioners might be helped to save in this way through the agency of the Ministry."

Who are the "ex-service men" who suggested this? Are they normally so well off that they "can" save?

Or is it that so many war-wounded men have learned by bitter experience on themselves and their comrades that the Government cannot be trusted to continue the pittance they receive and put some of it aside against the day when the medical board cuts down allowances?

Or is it a subtle scheme to find out first by how much pensions could be cut and who is receiving more than bare subsistence?

As the inner history of such schemes is never known, these questions must remain unanswered.

Anyhow, the leaflet explains in detail how the Ministry will very kindly keep back a weekly sum. The usual tables are given showing, *i.e.*, how 5s. a week saved will in 15 years produce £240.

It assumes the pensioner is still alive and that the 5s. a week drop in his standard of living has not sent him prematurely to his grave. And it also tacitly implies that £240 in 15 years time will be worth what it is today. As there will almost inevitably be a world war in between, that can be doubted.

May the Lord "save us" from such petty pilfering!
H.R.P.

STEAM

FOR THE CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE SHORTLY

DURING the last two years our movement has tried out and tested the reality and truth of the principles set forth at Buxton.

We have proved that the people will unite in a common aim (or policy). The workers in the Electoral Campaign have shown beyond all question that they desire "security in what we have, and a more abundant life for all"—that their will is first to abolish poverty, and attain freedom.

And we have built up a mechanism in the Electoral Campaign effective to force that will through Parliament—to secure that result.

This marks a stage—and the advance into another stage.

The machine is ready—the problem now is to evoke the power which will turn its wheels. And the "steam" for the Campaign lies with the people; in the will to have it so of each individual. Individuals forget that their institutions exist to serve them—yet that is their only purpose. To bring the people to a sense of mastery over their institutions—whether Parliament, District Council, Union or Club; that is the problem. Once that is accomplished, it is they—the people—who will seek out the Electoral Campaign as the natural instrument to secure what they want.

How can this steam be raised? By talking, lectures, speeches, study? Will that bring the public to the point of action?

By publicity in the press—always with the aim of action? None of these should be neglected, but will they be enough? What about small-scale demands producing immediate results—such as have been reported in SOCIAL CREDIT? These are action—practice and proof in one.

Major Douglas, our Chairman, has indicated that the main drive of the movement should now be concentrated in this direction—to arouse this sense of personal sovereignty to the point of action.

It is of first importance that we should make this forward move together; that all should appreciate the reason and aim of this change in the focus of our efforts. To put our principles into local and immediate practice will require the utmost in personal initiative, which full understanding alone can make effective.

To secure these ends a Conference will be held as soon as possible. This will be addressed by Major Douglas.

Groups will shortly receive particulars. All Douglas Cadets are entitled to attend; any such who are not attached to groups are asked to write for details.

THE THIN END OF A WHITE ELEPHANT Income Tax in Kenya

By Arthur Welford

OPPPOSITION—spoken of by *The Times* of October 10 as "growing opposition"—which "swept the country like a grass fire," greeted the taxation proposals of Sir Alan Pim, made last year. The principal tax proposed was an income tax from which Kenya has not suffered hitherto, but from the latest reports it looks as if Kenya will have this thing thrust upon it unless resistance is quickly organised.

This opposition produced a considerable flutter in the Kenya Legislature; victory might have gone to the electors had they stuck to their guns then, and even now they have a chance of saving the situation at the eleventh hour. The Governor at that time (Sir Joseph Byrne) declared in his review at the opening of the session that nothing was further from the Government's intentions than to "force changes intolerant of criticism or impatient of delay."

The affair was referred to the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature for its report. Fair play and all that sort of thing! But when it is recalled that of the eight members of this committee, three officials, one Indian, and one nominated member representing native interests were known to be in favour of an income tax, leaving the three European elected members in a minority, the move appears as a piece of political witch-doctoring that was bound to procure the bamboozlement of the unfortunate white settler and prospective income tax payer.

In December, 1935, the Kenya Government budgeted for a surplus in 1936 of only L9,750, but the realised surplus is actually L100,000 or over.

The *East African Standard* gives the following figures and comment:

Adopt the admittedly low estimate for 1936 surplus revenue over expenditure of	L100,000	
Add savings through reorganisation suggested by Sir Alan Pim (para. 4 (4)) ...	48,520	
<hr/>		
Gives surplus revenue of	L148,520	
From this total deduct:		
(a) An admittedly arbitrary figure of one-fifth of L32,000 estimated by Sir A. Pim for increased pensions, etc., during the next five years	L6,400	
(b) Diminution in native taxation (para. 4 (2)) ...	45,000	
(c) Emergency taxation (para. 3)	96,600	
<hr/>		
We arrive at a total contra figure of	L148,000	L148,000

The above figures would appear to indicate that, after abolishing emergency taxation and after giving effect to the other suggestions of Sir Alan Pim, the 1936 revenue, if maintained during the following years, will meet all requirements for the present without the necessity for further taxation or annual borrowings as suggested.

It is impossible to see any financial reason for imposing an income tax at all, and the subtly worded report of *The Times* correspondent in Nairobi on the prospect for 1937, does nothing to clear the air:

"Prospects for the settlement of the Kenya income-tax dispute are held out

in the report of the Finance Committee, which records the prospect of L100,000 increased revenue in 1937, and unanimously proposes methods of distributing the increase among all communities in the form of reduced taxation."

The method of "distributing the increase" (!) appears to be that the L83,000 originally proposed to be raised by income tax shall be reduced to L43,000. L25,000 would go to reduce native taxation by making the liability age 18 instead of 16, and it is proposed, eventually, to reduce native taxation by L60,000. The sum which it is proposed to raise from income tax would appear to be surplus surplus, for some undisclosed purpose.

Tamed Members?

The three European elected members of the Finance Committee are reported as having agreed—very tamely, it would seem, in view of the grass fire opposition of their electors, and of the above figures—to recommend the acceptance of the principle of a light (!) income tax, similar to that of Rhodesia.

"The elected members emphasise that the discovery of the new revenue has made the introduction of income-tax unnecessary for budgetary purposes, but, as they are anxious to reach a conclusion in the damaging controversy, they are willing to accept an equitable compromise." (*Times*, December 31, 1936).

Compromise! Do they want an income tax that is demonstrably unnecessary even on orthodox financial lines? If such a tax is unnecessary for budgetary purposes, for what is it desirable? To keep as a pet? Or for the regimentation of the people by an unpleasant form of inquisition into private affairs?

They recommend a light tax, then! What sort of weight would it have? The Pim proposals are for 1s. in the L on the first L350 of taxable income (minimum tax 50s.), up to 3s. 6d. in the L on L5,000 or over.

Like a Balloon

The *East African Standard* of September 18 points out that

"The suggested minimum, as also the rate in the L necessary to produce the amount required from income-tax can be arbitrarily varied at any time by the Government, as no provision is suggested in the Report (Pim) whereby the taxpayer shall have any greater measure of control over the Colony's finances than exist at present."

Light? Like the balloon, the quicker it will rise and the higher it will go! Possibly the European elected members of the Finance Committee had some such idea in

mind, for they qualify their acceptance by the proviso,

"... that the Secretary of State instructs the new Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham,* to examine the reconstitution of the Executive Council for the purpose of associating non-official members more closely with the responsibilities of government, and provided also that an assurance is given to the non-native community that they will not be asked to bear the cost of the progressive expansion of the native services."

What a hope! And have not the elected members already thousands of electors behind them whose opposition was "like a grass fire"? It is to be feared that this naive request will be of no more effect than planting Kikuyu lilies to keep leopards off the stock, for Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Secretary of State for the Colonies, is said to be determined

"... to implement Sir Alan Pim's proposal to reduce the native taxation, involving L60,000," and though he has accepted the proposals

"... he points out his inability to depart from the existing principle and practice of the ultimate constitutional responsibility of the Government and the Colonial Office."

It's Up to Electors

It is true that all is not yet lost: the proposals have yet to become law; but, unless the electors of Kenya get moving, this piece of political bulldozing on behalf of financial buccaneers will be swung on them. The income taxpayer will then, in the words of Sir Josiah Stamp, be "able to enjoy all the advantages of a highly flexible, smoothly graduated tax"; in other words, the P.B.I. Taxpayer will experience the doubtful pleasure of being docked of some of his not too fat income in order to repay his own credit to the manipulators who have usurped it.

The electors of Kenya have been offered a pup upon which they have already paid a deposit, but there is yet time for them to back out of the bargain; they can help themselves if they will; they are the electors of their own government which carries out, or should carry out, their orders. Sir J. Stamp has put this very clearly. "If a country is dead set against an impost on political grounds, a scheme that is otherwise workable may be made well-nigh impossible..." In this case it would be made impossible by a simple refusal to pay.

* It is interesting to note that the Imperial Government has decided to retain permanently the present air unit in Nairobi, which will be increased to a squadron as soon as possible.

Progress Overseas

4.—AFRICA

(Continued from Jan. 8 issue)

AS might be expected, knowledge of Social Credit has spread less rapidly in the "Dark Continent" than in such countries as Australia, New Zealand and Canada. But it spreads, nevertheless, and to-day there are individuals or groups scattered from Egypt to the Cape and from Kenya to the Gold Coast.

From Egypt, cuttings come from time to time which show that there are some good Press letter-writers. As far as I am aware, there is no group or association in Egypt, but, doubtless, this will follow.

Further south, in Kenya, Count Serra has formed an East African Association and is issuing a weekly paper, the *Social Credit Review of East Africa*.

The paper is devoted largely to the Social Credit financial technique, but also deals with local affairs from the Social Credit angle. Naturally it is strongly opposing the introduction of that blessing of civilisation—income tax—with which the white settlers are threatened. Whether it will be possible to whip up support for a taxpayers' strike should income tax be imposed, remains to be seen. It would probably prove difficult to do so, as the majority of settlers are up to the eyes in debt, many to the government itself.

Here, as further south, the spread of Social Credit is hindered by the fear that its coming would affect gold-mining adversely.

In the Rhodesias there are a number of individual workers and one or two groups. Propaganda is carried on through the Press and through meetings. Recently, as reported in *SOCIAL CREDIT*, an address was given to the Institute of Secretaries at Bulawayo, which was very well received. This should lead to securing some useful technicians.

Pressure on a Rhodesian

It is reported that some time ago Dr. Huggins, the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, appeared to be distinctly interested in the Social Credit financial technique. Subsequently he visited London, and on his return was asked, "Well, what about Social Credit?" His reply, as reported, is illuminating: "I am told there's to be no monkeying with the currency, so that's that."

Evidently, in Southern Rhodesia, as elsewhere pressure will be necessary to make the Government "deliver the goods." Mr. Huggins and his government will have to be shown that people are determined to get the results they want, and that his responsibility is not to "monkey about with the financial system," which neither he nor his cabinet understands, but to enforce (upon the experts) the will of those who put them into office. In view of the small number of electors, it should be more easy to exercise pressure on candidates than in, for example, Great Britain, but the huge size of the country may offset this advantage. M.W.

Correspondence

The following is an important comment contained in a letter recently received from a Douglas Cadet:

Anybody can go to the Houses of Parliament, but only Members can go to Parliament. Anybody can write to a Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, but people in general cannot, and do not, write to Parliament.

Social Crediters writing to the Secretary at 163A are not contacting THE SECRETARIAT. They are directing ideas to the respective Directors of the Secretariat at their offices through the Secretary. They never write to the Secretariat.

It would be impossible to write to, or go to, say, half a dozen men living in their respective homes at once, except by the process above described.

The Name "Social Credit"

Answer to a correspondent who was concerned about the formation of a new Electoral Campaign group:

Whatever name the new group adopts, SOCIAL CREDIT ought to be pushed by all the members for all they are worth. For one thing, it is the only paper that gives whole-hearted support to the Electoral Campaign, so why should they object to it? If they are troubled that the name Social Credit is often associated exclusively with a financial technique, it is up to them to enlighten the public. Social Credit means much more, as was explained in the leading article in *SOCIAL CREDIT* of November 20 and further elaborated in the December Supplement.

If you consider the alternative to Social Credit, which is International Financiers' Credit (what we suffer now), there can only be one answer: Social Credit every time.

Don't allow anyone to belittle the name under which we have become a world force.

The Spirit

The following extracts sent me by a lone worker in the provinces breathe such a spirit of true insight and loyalty that I feel I must send them on to you.

* * *

"You will have read of the deep impression made at Ashridge when Dr. Tudor Jones gave, as the last lecture at the week-end course on Social Credit, Major Douglas's notes.

"On its conclusion, the head of one of the big banks asked, in contemptuous tones, 'What do you produce, we'd like to know?'

"Dr. Tudor Jones paused, came to the front of the platform, threw back his head, and, looking his questioner straight in the face, said 'I try to make healthy men and women.'

"I delved into Douglas's writings, and you would smile at my marginal notes of admiration and approval.

"His courteous manners evidenced in all his writing have impressed me from the first, and these are also evidence of his love of humanity, comrade and foe alike.

"His deep wisdom of bearing no resentment moves one greatly; a noble quality we hope will be sustained in him, and which we must help to sustain in him.

"We under Douglas should touch the Plain People, who know that they want poverty abolished—bless them!

"One recognised at once the need for action, though I was not able, till I started it, to see the wisdom again of that particular line of action (the Electoral Campaign) in its effect on and appeal to the people.

"Its kind humanity, its innocence and its boldness must appeal. It does and will do so more and more.

"Yes, the poor have the simple, direct outlook on all things. I find it refreshing—abolish poverty. even the 'cut above' ones, after lengthy talk, have still the simple wisdom and appreciate the wording of the Electoral Form in their English, dry way." London M.C.

New S.C. Publications Pamphlets and Leaflets Specially for the Man in the Street

IMPORTANT additions to Social Credit publications are being made, and readers' attention is called to the new advertisements in this week's *SOCIAL CREDIT*, which include the first of them, "Women and Poverty," by Jean Campbell Willett, and certain new leaflets.

So many people are just beginning to pay attention to Social Credit for the first time that the demand for suitable literature for the newcomer is growing. The advertisement in *SOCIAL CREDIT* headed "For the New Reader" has been specially designed as a guide. Mr. George Hickling's new booklet "Social Debt or Social Credit," which will be published this month, has been written by a skilled hand to guide the man in the street back to realities.

It is a remarkable work and should be read by all Social Crediters, as well as recommended to newcomers and all enquirers.

"Women and Poverty" has appeared serially in *SOCIAL CREDIT*, and has been reprinted as a result of widespread demand. Mrs. Palmer reviewed it last week.

The cheap propaganda folders and leaflets listed at the end of the advertisement are recommended for handing to those who show an interest in the subjects treated, and also for enclosing in correspondence and leaving in train, bus and tram. The leaflet entitled "Ask and It Shall Be Given You" is a concise statement, for the complete stranger, of what *SOCIAL CREDIT* means as a practical proposition, and tells him what to do about it. On the reverse is the short article, "First Things First." Both are reprinted from *SOCIAL CREDIT*.

The leaflets are obtainable at greatly reduced rates for large quantities.

Major Douglas's Liverpool Speech Reprint as Pamphlet

The great speech, "The Tragedy of Human Effort," delivered by Major Douglas at Liverpool on October 30, will shortly be reprinted as a pamphlet. Just as his Buxton speech, "The Nature of Democracy," introduced the Electoral Campaign, so the Liverpool Speech ushered in the complementary campaign for arousing the people's sense of sovereignty.

This speech should be studied carefully by every Social Creditor. There could be no better subject for a group meeting than a reading and discussion of this speech.

Next Supplement
March 5

THE FIG TREE

The next issue of THE FIG TREE will be published at the beginning of March and will complete the first year of publication. The current (December) issue contains Mr. Byrne's remarkable article, "Alternative to Disaster," which has aroused widespread interest. Major Douglas's editorial, "Sanctions for All," is brief, but charged with vital importance. His Liverpool speech is also included.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING IN EAST LONDON

Mr. Herbert Dixon Summarises his Experiences*

OUR group at Woodford differs from most others in that from the start we organised for Electoral Campaigning. Appointed Supervisor early in 1935, with only my own activities to supervise, I distributed handbills in the streets and outside meetings until I was brought in touch with enough people to form a small group.

Probably I was unusually fortunate in being able to do this in a few weeks; certainly I was very fortunate in the sterling quality of those who joined me, for the majority have stuck to the job loyally and are working to-day with the same keenness with which they started.

Working in Squads

From June, 1935, we turned out as a squad two or three evenings nearly every week until the General Election in November. There was very little individual work, and no indoor meetings were held, although we had some interesting peripatetic discussions while we were on the job.

On squad nights we met at the spot at which we were to start and worked as a team to the instructions of the supervisor or gaffer for the evening. We had ten regular workers and some "casuals."

A large squad presents certain difficulties in working. If, on the other hand, the group is broken up into two's and three's, much of the increment of association is lost. About six or eight seems to be the best size; if more, the force should be split.

Sound Method

As a very short experience of "door-step" work satisfied us that the general method of the Campaign was sound and effective, we became anxious to increase our working strength, and we tried to combine recruiting with straight canvassing. This was bad tactics.

Much time was spent on "contacts" who seemed to be possible workers, and we used this excuse for arguing when we knew that arguments were taboo.

The work of a squad must be planned, and no plan will work smoothly if members are liable to "get stuck" at an early call. Not only did the recruiting interfere with signatures but it failed to produce one worker. As the Election drew near we dropped all talk and concentrated on getting as many signatures as possible.

Donkey Work

We were surprised and encouraged at the improved results immediately forthcoming, and from that time until quite recently we have ignored the recruiting problem and contented ourselves with using to the greatest advantage the force at our disposal.

To enable us to cover outlying parts of our constituency several members with cars picked up the others, and this worked so well that after the Election we decided, with the Director's approval, to use this method to sound out the East London area, where the ground was fertile for campaigning.

Our work, therefore, has been primarily experimental, not only regarding the twenty East London divisions, but also regarding the effectiveness of a flying-squad.

Considerations of space preclude me from any attempt to describe our interesting experiences, but, in the hope that they may be of some service to others, we have summarised our conclusions, based on the work described above, following, in my own case, fourteen years of active Social Credit propaganda.

Experience Better Than Advice

METHODS.—The best methods of working in any part are more surely found by experience than by advice.

A few weeks' close observation will enable any working supervisor—

and there should be no other kind—to eliminate some little things that waste precious time. The fact that, on the second call, the majority of forms are still unsigned is not easily got over, however, and it is probably the most general problem, since it has its origin in human nature. Few of us do a thing at first sight even if we decide we will do it.

If the elector does not decide and sign when he has finished reading the form then it will almost surely remain unsigned until called for.

Printed envelopes stressing the importance of the contents and asking for it to be ready for the collector we found worse than useless, many being destroyed on the spot. ("Sorry, guvnor, thought it was one of those political things.")

We have obtained and maintained the best results by saying, when leaving forms, that they will be collected within an hour. This helps to bring the majority to the point, whether they sign or not.

It is quite wrong to think that the longer they are left the more will be ready signed. Collecting the same night, however, does not answer in rural districts, where rush tactics are resented and distrusted. ("What, TO-NIGHT? No, I'm just off to bed.")

The Middle Classes

SIGNATURES.—After methods have been revised and improved the results will depend chiefly on the class of voter and type of property.

It is still all too true that "few but the poor feel for the poor." In good-class suburbs the great majority do not want, or rather do not know that they want, the things we are after. The most magnetic speaker with the most convincing arguments will not convert more than a negligible percentage in the time one can reasonably expect to get and to give on a door-step.

To expect good results is to court disappointment and discouragement. There are some Social Crediters who, starting on their neighbour, have worked down their own road without securing anything definite.

Before deciding there is anything wrong with them or the Campaign they should put their pride and a score of forms in their pocket and go down to the nearest slum or poor quarter. They will probably find they have not far to go, and surely our cause is worth such a small effort.

Armageddon or Millennium

For the moment the middle-classes constitute something of a problem although we can get our majorities without them in most parts. However, events are driving inexorably towards us, and already there are evidences that they are beginning to discern the shape of things to come. One day, perhaps too late, they will realise that the alternatives are not the *status quo* or the millennium, but Armageddon or the millennium.

In working-class districts, however, signatures can be secured readily. The speed at which they can be collected depends largely on the type of property. Basements and "upstairs" will slow up any squad.

The percentage that can be obtained depends largely on how closely you can spare the time to work, for there will inevitably be many you will have to miss on a "once-over."

But I am convinced that an overwhelming demand for a National Dividend can be mobilised quickly by a relatively small number.

There is one aspect of our case that makes an almost unflinching claim on the attention of the worker, viz., the destruction of good food; and we use this topic as a variant on the usual abolition-of-poverty introduction.

Laughter

One of our most successful workers got somewhat mixed one evening and informed an astonished housewife that we were on a cam-

paign to abolish good food! Although all the squad keep right down to the job in hand there is seldom an evening but we can all join in one good laugh at our own or somebody else's expense.

POLITICAL PARTIES.—In the whole of East London we saw few signs of activity on the part of the political parties. At party meetings there may be some enthusiasm among their own members but in only one constituency did we see evidence of systematic propaganda work.

Party Voting Usually Negative

The strength of the established parties is generally over-valued, for it is no exaggeration to say that the party political vote is mainly a negative vote. Questioning almost invariably reveals that if the vote has been given to the Conservative it is because of some objection to a trade union or the Co-ops., or some dislike of the other candidate, and very seldom is there hope of useful action by the member.

On the other side there are some who will rattle off the stock phrases against Capitalism, but frequently the only point on which they seem to have conviction is the fact that the opponent comes from a class that never did anything for the working-man.

Among the more educated, you find the vote has been given to the Labour man, not because of any faith in Socialist doctrine but because he appears to be the only one likely to give a kick to the powers-that-be.

In contrast to the older parties both Fascists and Communists seemed to be gaining ground quickly last summer. Probably few had actually joined these movements, but many expressed sympathy with them, and the widening between Left and Right was unmistakable.

Distrust of Parties

In East London proper we found bitterness on both sides and many signs of the trouble which developed later. Fascism was the foremost topic and it was almost impossible to convince some people that you were neither "anti" nor "pro." ("You must be one or the other.") You had to overcome a distrust not met with elsewhere, which was some hindrance to our work. This and other reasons led us to keep to the outer suburbs during the autumn and winter.

By far the most important fact revealed by the Campaign is the supreme value of door-to-door methods. The door-step is a political university and offers a liberal education at a moderate cost of time and money.

The Electoral Campaign is research work, and our pledge form is vital, topical, novel and unique. The reactions to it of all classes, all creeds, all parties, all ages and both sexes, provide a mass of social knowledge that can be gained in no other way.

This is not mere assertion; it is something we have proved. The ineptitude of present-day party leadership is largely due to lack of this knowledge—knowledge of which things interest the ordinary voter and how he feels about them.

The politicians may know the views of the man at the meeting, of the man in the street, but they do not know of the man of the home, nor the woman. The best type of elector does not stop at street meetings and he does not go to party meetings. This does not denote apathy but shrewdness; he knows they have nothing new to say.

Gospel of Salvation

Experienced party organisers are under no illusions as to the value of house-to-house work. Their difficulty is they cannot get the workers. It needs a gospel of salvation to produce ardent disciples.

We, and we alone, have a gospel of both political and economic salvation. We have still much to learn

in our tactics to secure the attention of the electors for our goods, but there is no doubt we have the goods.

We wish that those who remain unconvinced as to the possibilities of securing support from the masses could hear some of the responses we got from the sensible, kindly folk we met at the doors.

Here are a few recalled at random: "Yes, I'll sign *that*, but PARTIES are no good." (East Ham.)

"Thank God! At last somebody's got something cheerful to tell us." (Woodford.)

"God bless you, Missy. It's the likes of you that fight for us; we know." (Buckhurst Hill.)

"Every thinking man should sign that. What's your next step, sir? See the Member of Parliament?" (Walthamstow.)

"The first straightforward thing I've seen in politics since Keir Hardie." (West Ham.)

"You can't tell me anything about food destruction—I'm on it." (Cus-toms House.)

"I'll sign anything that has a chance of making our Member of Parliament do something for his money." (Leyton.)

Assuredly the harvest is ripe; the reaping machine is tuned up. What of the workers? When we start on our 1937 work next month we shall have more active campaigners than at any time previously, but we make no claim to have solved the recruiting problem.

We must, every group must, get workers and more workers. We have been experimenting, and believe we are on right lines, but until we have proved it we will say nothing. Recruiting is the only obstacle between us and victory. Solve that and we can light a light that will never be put out. The very chance of it is an inspiration.

It is said of Waterloo that the French were beaten on the playing fields of Eton.

At the coming Waterloo the Normans will be beaten on the door-steps of London—on the doorsteps of your town, wherever you are.

FINANCE OF THE MONTH

By A. Hamilton McIntyre

THE edict has apparently gone out that we are no longer to use the words "boom" or "slump." Not that the powers that be have any objection to the word "boom," but, in practice, it seems they have found that the more they talk about a "boom," the more other people quietly prepare for a "slump."

It is said on good authority that I.C.I. had already issued internal instructions to prepare for the coming slump in 1940, but whether this is true or not we will probably never know.

Who Inspired Keynes?

The campaign advocating the dropping of these two terms appears to have been initiated in nearly all countries at about the same time, but in Great Britain it has been respectably introduced by no less than Mr. J. M. Keynes through a series of three articles in *The Times*, in the middle of January. It would be wrong to presume that Mr. Keynes just thought of it all in his own little head. Running through his articles, there is a distinct thread of the Socialist financial proposals of some years ago. One might also see in his arguments a touch of P.E.P. propaganda.

Up and Up, On and On

The whole matter is beautifully simple—instead of continuing to go up and down, we are to adopt the Ramsay McDonald method and continue to go up and up and on and on. There seems to me no doubt that this end can be achieved for a certain time, provided everybody keeps in step and provided the total industrial and national debt continues to increase.

The reception given to Mr.

Keynes's ideas by the prominent bankers seems to indicate that they, at any rate, are prepared to fall in behind the band. Of course, he who pays the piper calls the tune.

An examination of the statistics of Clearing House Returns for the year 1936 made me risk a prophecy this year regarding the profits to be disclosed by the leading banks.

Weighing up all the considerations, I was rash enough to wager that the profits disclosed for the year 1936 would show an increase of 8 per cent. on the profits disclosed for 1935.

The balance sheets and accounts so far available seem to indicate that the chosen increase was slightly over 6 per cent., and it seems pretty safe to say that the remaining bank accounts still to be published will show somewhat the same figure.

Propheying is a risky business, anyway.

When is a Loss Not a Loss?

It has never been quite clear to me how the Bank of England could purchase gold at its market value of, say, 140s. and, thereafter, take it into stock, as it were, at its statutory value of 85s. per fine ounce, without showing amongst its assets a figure representing the difference. It seems, however, that the Exchange Equalisation Account bears the difference in its transactions. Economists call this difference a loss, but, to my mind, the whole transactions of the Issue Department of the Bank and of the Exchange Equalisation Account are so divorced from any reality at all that I prefer to use the word "difference" instead of "loss."

In 1931 the Bank held L144 millions of gold. At the end of 1936

the gold holding was L313 millions at the statutory rate. The difference on the transfer of L60 millions from the Exchange Equalisation Account to the Bank on December 15 last was L43 millions, so that it seems reasonable to suggest that the difference over the total purchase of gold by the Bank to date will be about L120 millions.

It was this matter of the difference between L120 millions and the recent L43 millions that used to worry me, as there was no asset big enough in the Bank's balance sheet to contain such a figure; but now that I have received my explanation, everything is beautifully clear. The L120 millions "loss" is all shown in the Exchange Equalisation Account; that is to say, it is shown but it isn't shown, if you know what I mean, because the Exchange Equalisation Account, apparently, is not shown to anyone.

Significant

The exact significance of the 1928 Currency and Bank Notes Act [passed before the Exchange Account had ever been thought of] has apparently not yet been considered. So far as I can discover, the fiduciary note issue can be varied both UPWARDS and downwards by administrative action and without parliamentary sanction so long as it does not exceed 260 millions. As it is now only 200 millions, this leaves scope for a fair amount of elasticity." (Norman Crump, Lloyds Bank Monthly Review—January).

This would make a very fine text for quite a lengthy sermon if space permitted. All Social Crediters should read this extract carefully and realise its implications.

*Mr. Dixon delivered an inspiring address on the theme of this article to a meeting of The 1930 Club in London on December 15.

KNOW YE BY THESE PRESENTS

By W. L. Bardsley

NO mere formula will stand the living test; nor any attempt to avoid the challenge and catch the enemy asleep by a trick, even so true in purpose as the "demand" for a national dividend.

From an article by W. T. Symons, entitled "The Yeast of Social Credit," and published in *Purpose*.
Mr. Symons is, like everyone else, entitled to his own opinions, but he is not entitled to father them upon Social Credit.

He is a member of the Chandos Group, the relationship of which to the Social Credit movement was noted in a letter from Major Douglas quoted in the October Supplement.

In addition it may be said that members of this Group have an imperfect understanding of Social Credit, both technically and in fundamentals.

Some indications of this are set down here to clear up confusion, since Social Credit must not be saddled with extraneous opinions.

(1) They do not understand the A+B Theorem.

(2) They pay lip-service to the proposition

"that the cash credits of the population of any country shall at any moment be collectively equal to the collective cash prices for consumable goods for sale in that country (irrespective of the cost prices of such goods), and such cash credits shall be cancelled or depreciated only on the purchase or depreciation of goods for consumption"

but escape from it by remarks like "no mere formula will stand the living test."

(3) They believe that the technical proposals of Silvio Gesell can be with advantage grafted on to the Social Credit proposals.

(4) They think that national dividends cannot be cancelled on the purchase or depreciation of goods for consumption, but will "pile up" and have to be cancelled by taxation.

The points enumerated are by no means exhaustive, but they are substantial, and can be verified by direct questioning.

The sentence quoted above epitomises the incorrigibly superficial attitude of the Chandos Group to the Electoral Campaign, but it also suggests that in Social Credit we have some kind of trick formula for juggling with finance, and that realities and facts—life—will be found stronger than the formula, so that it must be modified.

Actually such formulae as exist are designed simply to make figures reflect facts. The phrase, however, serves as an excuse for the praise of bank nationalisation and "disappearing money" which follows.

The Valour of Ignorance

Mr. Symons suggests that New Zealand is a step nearer Social Credit by virtue of having nationalised its Reserve Bank, and defends this suggestion by the fact that there has been little protest by the general public!

With gross irresponsibility he asserts that both the Alberta and New Zealand Government "have in fact adopted to a large extent the New Zealand proposals made by Major Douglas."

It is extremely doubtful whether Mr. Symons understands the interim scheme for New Zealand, which he apparently regards as a scheme whereby "interest rates on bank-created debt should be compulsorily fixed at a much reduced figure, and other restrictions put upon bank profits and hidden reserves."

A Brilliant Article

In SOCIAL CREDIT this week the greatest financial authorities are simply debunked.

On the front page Sir Robert Horne's proposals for bringing prosperity to South Wales is shown up as the dangerous and deceptive nonsense it is.

On the back page the solemn, fatuous rubbish of the Big Bank Chairmen is exposed in a brilliant article by Frotti.

Give this week's SOCIAL CREDIT to all your "anti" friends and ask them to reply!

The scheme in question was designed to monetise and distribute the hidden reserves of financial institutions, not to restrict them.

A Malignant Sponge

The fantastic super-taxation scheme—the well-named "disappearing money" of Silvio Gesell—receives most enthusiastic attention.

Its psychological effect, says Mr. Symons, must be very great. Agreed. What does the psyche say when asked to choose between an ordinary pound note and a note for one pound, which will automatically change to one for 19s. 6d. in four weeks and dwindle to nothing at all by the end of three years?

What would the psyche say if told that ordinary pound notes would be superseded by the disappearing variety?

Apparently this horrifying device is favoured because it satisfies Mr. Symons' search for a tax which will prevent those terrible consumer credits from piling up.

Not content with demanding taxation as a means of withdrawing consumer credits from consumers, he advocates the most complete and devastating tax ever yet imagined—a tax on money itself—and says it is not contrary to the fundamental Social Credit principle!

The efforts of bankers to reduce the credit power of landowners and

monopolists seem ludicrous beside this malignant sponge.

Once introduced it would reduce the credit-power of the individual to nil in three years, on pain of buying goods whether wanted or not, it would place a tax upon conservation of resources and a premium on waste.

The device is commended to the half-baked technician because it would undermine the money monopoly. It would enthrone it.

Pseudo-Sophistication

The Social Credit Secretariat, under Major Douglas, stands for the Social Credit financial principles enunciated by him, without adulteration and vitiation from the technical expedients of other schools of monetary reform.

It stands also for the results which Social Credit will produce, however they may be produced, and for the use of the vote to demand those results.

Mr. Symons and his friends are willing to compromise on technicalities in their advocacy of technicalities, and suggest that the popular vote can, by a process of education, be used to demand technical methods.

There is the difference between judgment and lack of judgment, between responsibility and irresponsibility, between sophistication, and pseudo-sophistication.

A DINNER

For the Hon. W. NASH, M.P., New Zealand
On March 22

At the request of a large number of correspondents in New Zealand, a Secretariat dinner will be held at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London, W.C.1, on Monday, March 22, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

The Chair will be taken by the

Rt. Hon. The EARL OF TANKERVILLE

The Guest of Honour will be the

Hon. WALTER NASH, M.P.,

Minister of Finance, Customs and Marketing of New Zealand.

The toast of "The Guests" will be proposed by MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS.

Owing to the prevailing "prosperity" prices have risen, and the dinner will therefore unfortunately cost more than last time.

Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, exclusive of wines, may be obtained by Douglas Cadets from the Social Credit Secretariat Limited, 163A Strand, W.C.2. Please help by applying for tickets not later than March 1.

News from Groups

Novel Suggestion - Steady Action

Bradford

THE following suggestion has been put forward by a Supervisor of the Bradford Group:

Groups should make a point of establishing public notice-boards in important centres of their city or town. These boards should have strong glass panes, if possible, or tough wire netting (though the latter is not so advantageous) to prevent persons marking or damaging the notices inside.

Below the notice-board there should be affixed a letter-box for correspondence and inquiries.

The notice-board could be divided into sections for the use of Supervisors, so that each has his own section. Extracts from SOCIAL CREDIT could be displayed to stimulate interest in our paper.

In this way, the notice-board would have the value of a shop-window and provide publicity at small expense. This is a suggestion which all groups should carry out.

Come on, Propaganda Supervisors!

Newcastle

Continual activity is reported from the Newcastle Group, who steadily pursue the Electoral Campaign and record the collection of each additional 1,000 signatures in succession.

Mr. Downey, one of the most enterprising of the Newcastle members, recently printed and distributed 37,000 football fixture cards carrying local advertisements, which not only covered the cost and adver-

tised SOCIAL CREDIT, but brought in a useful profit to the group funds.

Street-selling of the paper has continued, the success varying in a surprising manner according to local conditions, and the scheme of distributing back numbers of SOCIAL CREDIT stamped with the name and address of prominent newsagents, who in return display the poster at their stalls, is still proceeding. One newsagent reports his weekly sales having risen from two or three to a dozen copies in a matter of a week or two.

To advertise Major Douglas's forthcoming meeting at Newcastle, thousands of back numbers, with slips attached drawing attention to the meeting, will be distributed under the above-mentioned scheme.

Cardiff

A novel way of advertising the Dean of Canterbury's meeting was the distribution of 1,000 back numbers of SOCIAL CREDIT on the previous Sunday with a leaflet insert giving full particulars of the meeting. Ten local newsagents each took 100 copies to distribute with the Sunday morning papers on their rounds.

LIAISON

During January Liaison Officers of the Secretariat visited the following groups:

Sheffield, Manchester, West Didsbury, Liverpool, Hastings and St. Leonards, Brighton and Hove, Poole and Parkstone, Southsea, Bristol, Woking.

D. THOMSON,

Director of Organisation

MR. GIBSON LOOKS BACK

New Year Reunion Dinner at Sheffield

THE Sheffield Social Credit Group held a well-attended reunion dinner on January 5, over which Mr. A. L. Gibson presided, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Kenneth Gray, Chairman of the Group. Mr. J. Wolstenholme, in a very apt speech, proposed the toast of the evening: "The Social Credit Movement, coupled with the name of its Founder, Major C. H. Douglas."

This was received with loud applause, and the hearty singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," followed by three ringing cheers.

Mr. A. L. Gibson, responding, reviewed the development of the Movement from its inception to the present day, and referred to the personalities associated with Sheffield, among whom he mentioned George A. Hall, probably the earliest propagandist in the country, "Old and Crusted," and Miss Alexander. He recalled the early conferences at London, Hope and Swanwick, and described the work done during the years of propaganda — then of the technique rather than of the philosophy.

In 1932 a momentous event occurred. Mr. R. G. Hawtrey, of the British Treasury, travelled from London to Birmingham to debate publicly the subject of Social Credit with Major Douglas. That certified to the world that the Treasury knew all about Social Credit.

In 1933 correspondence between the Green Shirts and Mr. Montagu Norman certified that the Bank of England knew all about it. The two institutions in this country which alone could put Social Credit into operation "overnight" knew all about it. They needed only orders, backed by adequate power, to initiate the mechanism which could produce the RESULTS of Social Credit.

CRIES OF AGONY

Readers Suggest Answering Cries

LAST month we published two specimen letters which might be sent by Social Crediters in reply to appeals to support charities and to letters advertising goods for sale.

The Bradford United Democrats tell us they send the following letter in reply to local advertisers of "situations wanted" and "situations vacanti":

An Open Letter to Employer or Employee

Dear Sir or Madam, — You are either looking for a job or you are in a position to give one. As a worker, you are no doubt capable, but when you stand before your prospective employer, who says, "I can pay you so many shillings per week for so many hours' work," you are in the position of a slave, trying to sell yourself for a wage. You can refuse the offer, but then you will be forced to suffer those hours of despondency which you are now enduring.

If you are an employer, you probably shudder with shame when you say you can offer so little, but you are the slave of your book-keeping system. This must balance and costs must not exceed income. You must balance the books rather than allow your future employees greater abundance and freedom.

The directors of the firm are also slaves to the bank managers—they must keep the overdraft down. The bank managers are slaves to their "London Office" and must keep their books in order and not let their customers' overdrafts get out of hand. The "London Office" is also a slave to the man-made and man-directed rules of finance — and in turn "Aren't We All?"

Enclosed is a cutting of the paper SOCIAL CREDIT with a card to enable you to become a regular reader. It will show you, whether banker, employer or employee, how you can assert your will and obtain the freedom and security you so much desire and which is so amply available

In 1934, on his return from a world tour, Major Douglas, in his historic speech at Buxton, re-oriented the policy of the movement from mere propaganda to action, in which propaganda of a new kind would play a subordinate though vitally important part.

This change of policy inflicted a severe mental wrench upon some of those who, in the earliest days, had been most receptive of new ideas. The new policy was, however, staunchly supported by the mass of Social Crediters, and brought new workers into the ranks specially fitted to instrument it.

Perhaps the malcontents, at any rate the "highbrows" amongst them, considered loyalty to be sentimental. Perhaps some of them were constitutionally apathetic to Action, and preferred to talk cleverly on a subject which could be expounded only after much study and practice. Loyalty was not mere sentimentality. Battles, wars had never been won without it. Douglas, ever since he first became known to them, had justified their trust in his wisdom and judgment. All that the malcontents had achieved was a dispersion of energy. They had done their best to ensure the defeat of the cause they had at heart. If with 100 per cent. of the available energy behind a single policy success would be difficult, the diversion of some of that energy into other directions might make success impossible.

Sheffield had "done its bit" from the beginning, and would continue to do it. It had a set of Supervisors second to none. He wished Major Douglas could have heard the reception accorded to the toast. He would have felt that there was not much wrong with Sheffield.

in this country if we will but assert our common will.

If you require further information, write to the undersigned, who will give you full particulars.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. NORTON,
Secretary, United Democrats,
Bradford.

Mr. Baxter, Supervisor of the Electoral Campaign, says he uses old copies of SOCIAL CREDIT to cut for enclosures with the above letter, and also finds Folder No. 6, "Wasted Lives," very suitable to send with it. (See advertisement "For New Readers" in SOCIAL CREDIT).

A reply to charitable appeals suggested by a reader is as follows:

Dear Sir,—Thank you for the invitation to buy your goods. I want your goods, but my problem is a BUYING problem, and I take it yours is a SELLING problem.

I am willing to help you to sell more by becoming one of your customers, on condition you help me to buy more.

That is fair, isn't it?

The solution to both our problems (which is only a single money problem) is known.

But is it known to you?

You will find the answer in SOCIAL CREDIT, and for the sake of your own better business I suggest you give your newsagent a weekly order for this 2d. journal which is trying to increase your market largely.

To leave so worthy an aim unsupported by yourselves is very unbusinesslike, but I have not noticed your advertisements in that paper. Why not?

Yours faithfully,

(Signature).

SPECIAL NOTICE

Have you read the advertisement of the Supplement on the back page of this week's SOCIAL CREDIT?