The Times makes a great song about the 'vigour and independence' of present American writing. Without looking too closely at the 'independence,' we notice that the newspaper which is kept permanently in 'the right hands' by a trust deed, does not splash itself with the vigour and independence which lies nearer to its doors seemingly unnoticed.

The number of patients in mental hospitals (arch. asylums) increased during 1953 by 2,096, compared with an average increase during the past five years of 1,309. This acceleration in the rate of confinement does not appreciably affect the number of insane still at large in parliament, Fleet Street and elsewhere.

Have you seen The Social Crediter's cartoon of "Mr. Eden Bringing Home the Sheaves"? No?—Well, that's all right—perhaps even better.

After addressing seventeen hundred people in Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C., the Archbishop of Canterbury was presented with six garnets (which will go into the primatial cross) and a nylon rochet.

According to the Vancouver News-Herald for Sept.

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The Best of Both Worlds?

Ultimately (a blessed word, like Mesopotamia), the pragmatical test—"does it work?"—has always seemed to us the only possible test which does or can satisfy. However fanatically a man may profess to be above or beyond experience and accessible exclusively to Revelation, his very profession is, in fact, rooted in pragmatism. The real objection to pragmatism as it is understood on the part of (say) a Catholic seems to us to arise from neglect of a factor present in all experience, the time factor. Pragmatic, "that which has been done," is quite unnecessarily associated with the market-place, the world of business, and, derivatively, from the nationality of the author of philosophical Pragmatism, James, with the American world of business. Thus it shares the uncertainty of the stock markets. There, what 'works' on one day, does not work the next, and the gainer from the sale of shares on Monday may be a heavy loser from the repetition of his action on Tuesday. There is, as the translators of the Epistle to the Ephesians had it, 'a fulness of times,' and it is not until that fulness is attained that judgment can rightly operate.

For this reason, we do not dissent from the pragmatical note which is sounded continuously in an article by Mr. Christopher Hollis in the September number of Encounter, entitled "Catholicism, Communism, and Liberalism." There are in this article many good things. We agree, for example, when Mr. Hollis writes that "La démocratie est une chose beaucoup trop sérieuse pour qu'on la laisse aux politiques, et la trahison des clercs est writ too large over the image and the superscription, if they are his,"—that is an answer was: "Caesar's." "Well," said Jesus, "give Caesar the image and the superscription, if they are his,"—that is, if they belong to him. This is a question of ownership, not of authority. What Mr. Hollis is preaching is rank Manicheism. If there were two authorities, there would be two Creations. There may be two powers, or many powers (as princes and principalities); but there is one authority, and the problem of human life and society is to canalise it. There is the power to be wheat and the power to be tares; but there is no power to convert the wheat to tares, but only power to destroy both wheat and tares, or to preserve either, or to grow either; but authority, not power, decides which it is that may "feed my sheep."

Musings from a Seat on the Powder Keg?

"The modern party is the child of democracy—of adult universal suffrage—and it is not surprising that those who feel disquiet about the present condition of democracy should put the blame on the parties and seek the remedy in some revision of their organisation. The outraged indignation expressed by a few politicians at the party oligarchies and party machines is the symptom of a dissatisfaction which is very much more general."

"Month by month in academic quarterlies, year by year in monographs and books the research workers pour out their findings. No one will wish to deny that they are valuable; but a serious criticism of contemporary political students is that the ever-increasing accumulation of facts about the working of the parties has so far led to no theory of party government."

"The political research worker may lay bare the machinery of parties; but he never reveals the real springs of behaviour. The modern engineer, it is worth recalling, would be helpless without a theory of dynamics."

"...your Correspondent claims...[to]...point to the kind of questions which should be being asked. The most important of these questions is whether there is any relation between the manner in which British parties have developed in the past 80 years and the democratic principle that sovereign power resides in the people as a whole and is exercised by them through representatives of their choice."

"...there is nothing in the democratic principle—in the granting of sovereign power to 35,000,000 people—which implies that these millions of individuals should be or can be initiators or formers of policy. Indeed, if this function is ever claimed for the mass of the electors, then democracy...is absurd. The only function that can be assigned to them is the fundamental function of choice, the only power is the sovereign (and indispensable) power to dismiss their rulers."

"The only justification of any form of government is that its policies are rooted in the national temperament, the national needs, and the national customs."

"Ostensibly directed to criticism in advance of policy-making by the forthcoming Labour Party Conference, a Special Correspondent of The Times introduces the above passages in an article published on September 25. He has the impudence to say there has not been a "serious major work of political theory in this country during the whole of the past 70 years of political experiment."
Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes?

A series of type-written bulletins entitled Social Credit Research, emanating anonymously from 2124 W. 39th Ave., here in Vancouver, has recently come to my attention, and now, I myself, at my own request, am one of the recipients, Volume 1, No. 19, under the title "The Enemy Within," professes to deal with the "worst enemies of Social Credit ... within the movement" who are asserted to be guilty of "monumental boners" such as the "flat declaration that the shortage of money in Canada in 1953 was six billion dollars." (A billion in Canada as in U.S.A. means one thousand millions.) Now the amazing thing about the Researcher's criticism of this statement, which may or may not be an exaggeration, is that while the anonymous critic states that the addition of six billions to the money in Canada that year "would have raised the general price level 120 per cent.," no reference is made to the fact that under Social Credit, this six billions—if that is the correct figure—or most of it, would be used to reduce prices. It would not be an addition to money but a deduction from prices and therefore an addition to purchasing power. Surely such an omission coming from one of "those within the movement" complaining of "those within the movement," is not less harmful in its effects than the "fantastic boner" ridiculed, especially as it originates within a professorship research group the members of which prefer to remain anonymous to the public.

Another paragraph of this S.C.R. bulletin, No. 19, is as follows:—

"The upper limit of the deficiency as shown by our table is less than $600 million; not $6,000 million, as stated in the incident to which we refer. There may also be an illusion that in putting the banks on a 100 per cent. reserve basis, a sum equivalent to current bank credit must be created and put into circulation, and the national money will be put behind it. It will not leave the books of the banks, and it will simply create a situation in which the banks will be able to pay their depositors on demand, not 10 per cent. of their deposits, but 100 per cent., i.e., "sound money."

This implies that Social Crediters are in favour of a 100% bank reserve, a proposal which reminds me of Professor Soddy's £ for £ scheme but is nowhere to be found in Douglas. Common sense suggests that if an exponent of Social Credit wishes to confine his instruction to the financial proposals, as the writers of S.C.R. seem to want to do, his best beginning would be to make sure that his pupils familiarise themselves with the evidence of the bankers themselves that bankers are unique among manufacturers in themselves that bankers are unique among manufacturers in...
Volunteers Wanted

The Secretariat has so far failed to obtain decentralised personal assistance of a kind easily given according to the varying circumstances of individuals in regard to aptitude, leisure time available, and so on, and, when performed under supervision in a centralised office, routine and almost automatic in character.

The establishment of a Belfast headquarters for the Secretariat's publishers and business agents now provides for essential services which do not impinge on policy. There is every indication that this experiment under Mr. Lyons's management, is successful, and doubtless its range and scope will increase.

What is now highly desirable is the organisation of work of quite a different kind, performed voluntarily but punctually, as the volunteer may arrange for himself, avoiding, nevertheless, the temptation which seems from experience almost irresistible, to convert an agreed task to some not only subordinate but totally divergent end—and, incidentally, to neglect it or throw it up if there should appear any check upon this kind of exploitation. Holidays are now, in most cases, over for another year, and it is deemed a suitable time therefore to ventilate this matter. A list of required services is appended:—

List

(1) SINCE THE PRIVATE POSSESSION, ALMOST THE SECRET POSSESSION, OF IDEAS IS OF NO SOCIAL IMPORTANCE UNLESS THEY ARE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION, FIRST PLACE ON THE LIST MUST BE ACCORDED TO THE VOLUNTEERING OF ASSISTANCE TO THE DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGNS. MR. JOHN MITCHELL. Volunteers should write direct to Mr. Mitchell at Rockhouse Farm, Lower Froyle, Alton, Hants.

Subordinate functions, each of which is of importance in its own way, are as follows:—

(2) Cutting, from papers provided (e.g., The New Age, The New English Weekly, etc) letters, articles and reports of addresses by the late Major C. H. Douglas; pasting on sheets of uniform size, with source and date entered in ink. Forwarding to agents. (Confidential: not to be duplicated, except on instruction.)

(3) Collecting from published books and articles in The Social Crediter by Major Douglas, statements of an axiomatic order, or aphoristic order, according to given examples, classifying and indexing them. (Confidential: etc.)

(4) Copying documents by photostat methods. (Confidential: etc.)

(5) Undertaking responsibility for safe storage (exceptional risks excepted), with liability for expeditious accessibility to accredited persons. (Confidential: in this and other matters out-of-pocket expenses may be claimed by previous arrangement.)

(6) Duplicating (equipment, excepting typewriter, provided).

(7) Assistance to Mr. C. G. Fynn and under his direction in soliciting advertising for The Fig Tree.

An Outspoken Editor

It is only in The Scotsman that we have seen reported the courageous presidential address of Mr. Douglas C. Stephen, editor of the South Wales Echo, to the annual conference of the Institute of Journalists meeting at Cardiff. Remarking that it was not clear what part the Foreign Office played in the attempt to ban a book on German War crimes by Lord Russell of Liverpool, Mr. Stephen went on (The Scotsman, September 17):—

"The net result is that the book has received infinitely more publicity than it would have done in ordinary circumstances, so that the would-be censors have thwarted their own designs and created an effect exactly contrary to what they originally intended.

"Censorship in war-time for reasons of military security is a necessary evil, but censorship in peace-time for reasons of political expediency, or for any other reason, is monstrous.

"There is, perhaps, another lesson in the case for us all. It shows how we can stand on our own feet and make our own protest without waiting for the Press Council to do it for us. There are many other ways, involving the problems of good taste and good manners, which arise from the very nature of our profession, in which I suggest we could do likewise.

"An even more impressive example of how effective newspapers can still be in exercising their powerful influence on events, when it is used responsibly, is the Crichel Down case, which will surely become famous as an outstanding example of how private rights can be vindicated even against the most persistent and tenacious of the bureaucrats.

"It is a sad and chastening thought that if we had only had the courage to fight with the same tenacity in defence of our own professional standards as we have for the righteous causes of other people, the demand for a Press Council would never have arisen.

"I am glad that some of the more responsible papers have had the courage to show that they are no longer prepared to be bound by the docile theory that dog does not eat dog, and have had the courage to expose the exploitation of the criminal and notorious people who will sell their souls and garnish their sordid stories for huge sums which are wholly disproportionate beside the rewards of the working journalist."