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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The celebration at the Savoy Hotel last week of Miss Amy Johnson's interesting achievement in flying from England to Australia was not undertaken so much to applaud her exploit as to exploit national market-snatching, we have to view the competition to its bearing upon commercial tion. The unanimous insistence of the Press in line with its established policy of taking every optortunit. in line with its established policy of taking every op-portunity to magnify every feminine achievement of course to collect users, a pennies and swing of course; to collect women's pennies and swing women's votes. But the real significance of the event lies. event lies, as we say, not in the achievement itself, but in the circumstance of the but in t but in the circumstances in which it took place. If anybody, and the circumstances in which it took place. anybody walks across Niagara Falls on a tight-rope, be no celebration. no celebration. There would, however, be a very elaborate celebration. There would, however, be a constitution of the would be received in the model to sell tight-ropes. of the world were in competition to sell tight-ropes.

Now that the excitement is dying down some women, in the Press are suggesting that after all tacular acts than that of flying; and it is just as well initial ungoverned adulation tended to make women instant of the air instead of tapping a typewriter. For Initial ungoverned adulation tended to make women dream of the air instead of tapping a typewriter. For instance, the News-Chronicle had said: Here is an ing to speak of, who gets hold of a second-hand crdinary, was intended for foreign consumption, and was not meant to be believed by the girls at and was not meant to be believed by the girls at home. Considered as a national advertisement of structing aircraft it was not the thing: it created structing skill and enterprise in designing and continuous structing aircraft it was just the thing: it created the impression that British machines were fool-proof a child can drive it ")—which, by the way, was world insofar as the word "ordinary" created a world wide impression that Miss Johnson was typical

of British girlhood-that her intrepidity was a random sample from the bulk of the breed-this would subtly strengthen the hands of British diplomacy abroad. This is not fanciful. The United States have, for years, been exploiting successes in sport for this very end; and our own War Office, not long ago, intervened to prevent the Football Association sending a team to Germany, objecting that the players selected were not good enough to represent this country. It all goes to show how fierce and close is international rivalry in these days for such intrinsically irrelevant considerations to be elevated into important factors in high policy.

What makes Miss Johnson's exploit of peculiar significance is that the aeroplane is an implement of sport, commerce, and war. It is the key machine of the age, and the country which can show superiority in its construction and handling attains a prestige beside which superiority in other directions takes a bad second place. No wonder, then, that from the King down to his humblest subject, everybody was "bucked" that Miss Johnson's daring adventure came off. There could not have been a more opportune and effective reply to the American slogan: "Britain is played out"; and its worth to this country would not be measured by a hundred times the £10,000 and other presents which this young lady has received. Our one regret is that the money was not a gift of the State. What our rulers were thinking about to let Lord Rothermere be the star in the piece we cannot imagine.

In the August issue of the N.T. Post, a local journal published by the Newcastle-on-Tyne section of the Union of Post-Office Workers, there is an article on the High-Value-Packet service which was referred to in a recent number of THE NEW AGE. The writer

The packets, which are prepaid with the ordinary registration fee of 3d. in addition to postage, receive special treatment in being signed for individually at every stage from postage to delivery. In short, the H.V.P. scheme is a restoration of the hand-to-hand check, with extra precautions. Postmen do not collect or deliver them.

In our office they are delivered to bank messengers across the counter. In London a sorter accompanies the

postman on his rounds to deliver them. Registered packets posted by other members of the public, even if extra fees are paid for insurance, are not treated with the same care.

In another part of the article reference is made to the public's registered packages which are "dealt with in bulk, irrespective of the fees paid, and handled, as has been stated by a London magistrate, 'like sacks of potatoes.'" The writer goes on to refer to a longstanding plea by the Union for a general restoration of hand to hand checking, and remarks that their claim has been brought a stage further by the introduction of the H.V.P. scheme. He refers also to the delay to the dispatch of ordinary registered correspondence which is being caused by the extra work laid on the staff. We have no comment to add to those we have already made except that the H.V.P. mail-bags will now be objects of the thieves' attention, and we do not doubt that the size of the prizes will call up more elaborate ingenuity on their part.

In our issue of July 3 (Lambeth Conference Number) we discussed at length the question of the Vatican Coinage. According to the Paris edition of the Chicago Tribune of August 5 the arrangement for the coinage to proceed has now been settled.

"The sovereign prerogative of money coinage was insisted upon by the Pope in negotiating the Lateran Pact..."

"The Pope's coinage has no economic significance. Its principal function is to give tangible value to his claims to independent temporal sovereignty." (Our italics.)

With the exception of three centuries of interruption from the 11th to the 13th century the Holy See had coined money from the time of Hadrian I. until 1870. What the writer of the above passage means by saying that the resumption of coinage has "no economic significance" is not clear. There are, however, indications of its purport in the terms of the arrangement, which has been signed between the Italian Minister of Finance, Mosconi, and Governor Serafini of the Vatican City.

"The Italian Royal Mint will make the Pope's money. He can coin as much gold as he likes. His silver coinage, however, is limited to 750,000 lire, his nickel coins to 236,000 lire, and his copper to 14,000. The new coins will be denominated lires and will have free circulation in Italy and will be accepted as the coin of the realm. They will have the pontifical arms and effigy on one side and religious images on the other. The convention, which lasts ten years, stipulates that the Pope may not have more than 1,000,000 lire in circulation during the first five years and not more than 800,000 lire the second five years. To keep collectors from grabbing up all the money, a special series of coins will be minted." (Our italics.)

The hand of the credit-monopolist can be seen at work here. There is imposed a limit to the initial issue of currency, and there is imposed a reduction of the limit during the term of the convention. If the Pope begins by issuing 1,000,000 lire he will be obliged to resort to deflation during the first five years amounting to a reduction of one-fifth-a very steep fall even if it commences at once. If we were financial advisers to the Pope we should strongly emphasise the importance of his refraining from exercising his right to issue 1,000,000 lire, but of starting with, say, 250,000 and working up to the final limit of 800,000 during the ten years. This advice would not proceed from any definite idea of a credit-scheme that might be worked on the basis of the Pope's coinage (there may not be one: we have not given any thought to this at the moment) but would be based on the principle that any scheme which were adopted while the present general system of finance is operative would be frustrated by a subsequent diminution in the coinage. On the other hand, a scheme based on an initial coinage issue for which there was scope for expansion, would at least have a chance to succeed.

In this connection it is unfortunate that the Chicago Tribune's report does not contain any information bearing upon one of its headlines, which reads: "Pope Insists On Move In Negotiating Lateran Paper." Presumably the passage was cut out for reasons of space. It is a pity, because the Pope's policy about paper is an infinitely more important matter for discussion than his comage rights. However, we must wait for the missing in formation to reach us from another source, which it is bound to do sooner or later. In the meantime we hope that efforts will be put forth to make Papal coinage and Lateran paper of "economic significance." Here is a chance for students of credit to exercise their incomits. exercise their ingenuity. For instance, is there any way in which the Pope could invest the Papal lire with more purchasing power than the Italian bankers' lire? It may not be technically possible within the restrictions which may be a been imposed within the restrictions which may have been imposed on him (for we may not have heard them all) but if any scheme should be technically possible it would be a fruitful matter of discussion because of would be a fruitful matter of discussion because of the exertional the exceptional powers which the Roman Church has of securing the area. has of securing the co-operation of the population in carrying out her policies.

We print this week the concluding portion of Mr. H. S. Lyons's speech to the Transvaal Landowners Association in Johannach Transvaal Landowners Association in Johannesburg. We expect that our readers have already readers have already appreciated the significance of such a speech as this being made at an important company-meeting. company-meeting, a speech which almost explicitly adopts Social Credit principles and recommends them as a serious of the serious and recommendation. them as a serious proposition directly related to the specific problems of specific problems of a particular business enterprise.

Its publication is to a particular business enterprise. Its publication is, to us, symptomatic of some pretty thorough heartsearching in the property of some pretty thorough heartsearching in the property of some pretty thorough heartsearching in the property of thorough heartsearching behind the financial scene in South Africa. in South Africa. Our Australian correspondent, who recently bantered us in London that Australia might yet teach us something in the Australia might breaking yet teach us something in the way of breaking through the opposition to Social Credit, will have for concede that South Africa was be also fancied in concede that South Africa must be also fancied for the race, even if not made joint fanciet face. the race, even if not made joint favourite.

can boast that it has stirred up a horse-nobbler world wide racet. world-wide reputation to prowl round its stables.

Mr. Montagu Norman Mr. Montagu Norman in South Africa and Sir Otto Niemeyer in Australia Niemeyer in Australia. Sir Otto's visit is a formal business visit. business visit. Mr. Norman's visit is "entirely a rest," according to the Johannesburg Star, it also says that he is to the Johannesburg star. also says that he is travelling under an alias bank possible to infor from the latter that the possible to infer from this evidence that the Africa lords are slightly more nervy about South Africa However, the betting is very close, and the out of will probably be decided by the unpredictable the will probably be decided by the unpredictable the course. Mr. Norman arrive to the course of the cou course. Mr. Norman arrived at Cape Town on 14 in the "Arundel Castle." On the same who Mr. M. A. Janssens a Belgian banker. who Mr. M. A. Janssens, a Belgian banker, who the formerly Belgian Minister of Finance and is now the head of the Société Nationale de Credit et l'Industrie He was the Belgian representative on the Repart nead of the Société Nationale de Credit et l'Industral He was the Belgian representative on the tions Committee of the League of Nations. Way to Johannesburg Star reports him to be on his the Belgian Congo—whether on business or holidades not transpire

On June 25 the Star and Evening Standard both made references to the announced retirement Dr. Tom Jones. He has held the post of assistant secretary to the Cabinet since 1910.

"Although the outside world has seldom name, he is considered among politicians a parts be reckoned with, and has played some big politicians, especially in connection, with the scenes, especially in connection, with the in 1926 and various labour disputes."

The gossip-writer in the Evening Standard says the Cabinet Secretariat that it

is an infant among the Departments of State, the few years of its existence it has evolved a manner.

its own. A sort of brisk adaptability, a cheery form of discretion, a hearty aloofness."

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He also says that Dr. Tom Jones has written more speeches than any other Civil Servant. "No Prime Minister has dared to dispense with the historic utterances so neatly, so modestly prepared for him by Mr. Tom Jones. And now, I suppose, Prime Ministers will have to write large sections of their speeches themselves."

The Star says that he has served "with" (not under!) Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Apparently the Cabinet Secretariat was first instituted in 1916, when Mr. Lloyd George was in power, and it was he who recommended Dr. Jones, a brother Welshman, for the assistant-secretaryship. There was nothing in this man's previous career to mark him out for high political influence. He is interested in education sity, and had been for many years a professor and is here to account for his becoming the "Mystery Man of Whitehall," as the Star's headlines tell us.

Notice the reticence of these two ostensible organs of publicity. The information they give amounts to nothing nothings, and if it did, it is given too late to be made use of If Dr. Jones was a power to be reckoned with by politicians, the time to tell us was while he was exercising the state of the was exercised as the state of the st was exercising his power. The only information about him which his power. about him which would interest us now would be what his job which would interest us now would be what his job was and why he had to be "reckoned with." What a sand why he had to be "large part" he played in the coal strike and "other trade disthe General Strike being referred to under whether he will have a successor. The suggestion is Lastly, if not, but there is no definite statement. Lastly, if the assistance is no definite statement. assistant-secretary has exercised all this power, at of the what of the secretary has exercised all this powers?—what are his powers? My secretary?—who is he?—what are his powers? ers? No information! And yet only a day or ago the News-Chronicle was upraiding the ing the problems of marriage, divorce, and what not compared with the revelations which the Press could is governed over the methods by which this country is governed over Parliament's head?

For that can be the only interpretation of this surprised to hear that the anonymous Secretary to the Cabinet was Mr. Montagu Norman himself. But the does not matter if it is not: for whoever he is coal strike reminds us that the coal strike was precipitated by the Cabinet's withdrawal of the coalstrike reminds us that the coal strike was precipitated by the Cabinet's withdrawal of the coalstrike once more John Bull's formula: Jones's, etc., and no doubt it was Dr. sidies to City to announce to the Cabinet at that time in the City was going to boycott any more subsidied. Thereafter his duty would be to watch that the City was going to boycott any more subsidies. Thereafter his duty would be to watch that the Cabinet did not waver on the principle: Contempt more we think of it, that Mr. Baldwin's contempt more we think of it, that Mr. Baldwin's nuts. To suggestions was one of Dr. Tom Jones's nuts allows for the more we think of it, that Mr. Baldwin's complex suggestions was one of Dr. Tom Jones's nuts allow for the provocation that high-finance bolicy (such as this was) to be received heartily.

" Gaw!"

Mr. Wells has written another book of fiction.* There are two main characters in the story: Mr. Parham, an Oxford don (subject: history) and Sir Bussy Woodcock, a very wealthy self-made big business man (who says "Gaw" to everything).

Mr. Parham, who stands for Flag, King, Patriotism and Established Law and Order, wants to "wangle" Sir Bussy into starting a new weekly paper. Sir Bussy is not having any. He stands for the New Things—Big Business, Science applied to Industry, and New Ideas displacing the worn-out standards of yesterday. Sir Bussy is a "thruster." Mr. Parham is a "gentleman" through and through.

The story tells how Sir Bussy becomes interested in spiritualism, and Mr. Parham (against his will) is drawn into several spiritualist seances. During one of these Mr. Parham falls asleep and dreams that he is the ectoplasmic outpouring of the medium; a new being, an ectoplasmic man, the Master Spirit as he is called in the book. Mr. Parham becomes a dream Lord Paramount, a dictator who starts the Duty Paramount League, dramatically closes the Houses of Parliament, and goes bald-headed for the Next Great War. The Next War is shown vividly in a bust-up between the American and British fleets. They just about sink each other ship for ship. (Mr. Shaw in his Peace Conference Hints has already forecast this conflict.) After that everything de-pends upon a very special and deadly poison gas— Gas L. But Sir Bussy and the chief chemist, Camelford, will not supply Lord Paramount with Gas L. They "rat." They do not believe in all this patriotic stuff. They hold up the supplies. Lord Paramount (Parham dreaming about himself) and the chief military man, General Gerson, make a secret raid on the place in Cornwall (at the tail-end of Land's End) where Gas L. is manufactured. They find Sir Bussy and the chemist-bloke clad in the holy white overalls of the sacred scientific worker. General Gerson, whose policy is "shoot em!" shoots the chemist, who falls into the huge retort and so the whole place—and the story—blows to smithereens.

And then Mr. Parham wakes up, and that is the

end of the book.

Mr. Parham is the Mr. Wells who wrote certain parts of God, the Invisible King, and the awful patriotic blood-and-hope slush at the end of Mr.

Britling Sees It Through.
Sir Bussy is the Mr. Wells who wrote Tono Bun-

Lord Paramount (the dreaming self of Mr. Parham) is the Mr. Wells who wrote The Open Conspiracy, The Undying Fire, etc.

This book shows Mr. Wells, J.P., the hopeful patriot; Mr. Wells, B.Sc., the Scientist (with one eye hopefully on the Big Bugs of the Industrial Combines); and Mr. Wells the serious historian, the schoolmaster, author of *The Outline of History*.

I am not concerned with the clever characterisation, nor with the artistic development of the story, nor with the easy flux of vague wordiness that oozes and slides and drifts in the well-known Wellsian idiom. I leave all that to those who feel inclined to approach this book as a piece of "creative art" and—all that sort of thing.

I shall deal only with the social-economic outlook made known in these pages; the general trends and tendencies of a sociological and economic nature that drift about in the story. They are general because

* "The Autocracy of Mr. Parham," by H. G. Wells. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Wells is here, as always, unable to deal with

anything but drifts and phases and so forth.

We know that Mr. Wells knows of the work of Major Douglas—certainly, in a general way, he knows. And, as certainly, he is so deeply submerged in his own Fabianism of Scientific Utopias that he is unable to comprehend anything so definite, so precise, so compact as the famous Price Formula:-

Price total national consumption total national production Cost

Parhams and Paramounts can only accept and

digest pap-foods; predigested foods.

National? National consumption? Oh, horror of horrors !-when it is towards Internationalism, towards the World State, that we drift . . . All these old, worn-out nationalisms, eh? Fancy saying "national consumption" or "national production.

Mr. Parham, Sir Bussy, and the other characters in the story have much to say about the New Ideas that are smashing up all these ramshackle notions of flags and frontiers, states and nations. And, ever and again, in all this talk, Mr. Wells shows us the drift of his own ideas. It is interesting to note that this book has been well received just exactly where we should expect it to be well received. The Times reviewer, for instance, almost hails it with joy. Mr. Wells has pleased those who have to please the Sir Bussys and—the bankers. Good for H. G. W.!

Now listen to a few quotations bearing upon economics and finance.

Camelford, the chemist, says:

"We live in a world of the wildest paradox to-day . . . We grow in patches and all wrong. Certain things become international—cosmopolitan. Banking, for instance—"

A man called Hamp, an American banker, says:

"Banking, Sir, has made immense strides in that direction since the war. I say without exaggeration, immense strides. Yes. We have been learning to work together. As we never thought of doing in pre-war days. But all the same, don't imagine we bankers think we can stop war. We know better than that. Don't expect it of us. Don't put too much on us. We can't fight popular clamour, and we can't fight a mischievous politician who clamour, and we can't fight a mischievous politician who stirs it up. After all, we can't fight the printing press."

[Mr. Wells is not here referring to the printing presses of the Bank of England.] "While these sovereign governments of yours can turn paper into money—" [!!!?—as "Comic Cuts" would exclaim.]—"We can be put out of action with the utmost ease. Don't imagine we are that mysterious, unseen power, the Money Power, your parlour Bolsheviks talk about. We bankers are what conditions have made us, and we are limited by our conditions."

So there you have it. The poor bankers can't fight the printing press. They have done their best to work together—what with getting us back to a Gold Standard and so forth—but while our sovereign Labour (and/or Conservative, Liberal) Government can turn paper into money, the bankers, poor fellows, put out of action with the utmost ease.

But that is Mr. Hamp speaking, one of the Wellsian characters, and not Mr. Wells himself. All we can say (in print) to Mr. Hamp-and, perhaps, to Mr. Wells-is:

" GAW!"

On the next page we find Camelford, the chemist,

at it again:

"... Just like you bankers, we are what circumstances have made us. There's nothing sovereign about us. We aren't governments with the power to declare war or make peace. Such influence as we—." [That is, the chemists and scientists of the world]—" have with governments and war offices is limited and indirect. . . . We sell gas just as other people sell the Army meat or cabbages.

So the banker surely wept on the shoulder of the chemist—brothers in affliction?—

We are but little children weak, Nor born to any high estate-

But now Mr. Parham, the conservative Oxford don, is up in arms:

fine old Tory tantrum. "Would you set up some extra-ordinary super-government, some freemasonry of bankers and scientific men to rule the world by conspiracy?

At which Mr. Hamp, the banker, gets into quite a pet; for listen:

"And scientific men! Bankers and scientific men! Oh, we try to be scientific men in our way.

In reply to Mr. Parham, the chemist says:

"I think I would look for some new way of managing human affairs. I think sooner or later we shall have to try something of the sort. I think science will have to take control."

Mr. Wells is in full sympathy with Camelford, of course. But such talk of science taking control of human affairs "puts the wind up" Mr. Parham. And well it wind to the science such Simple And well it might if all scientists are such Simple Souls as Mr. Completed Souls as Mr. Camelford. I am quite certain that most of them are. Mr. Parham felt that men like Camelford and Sir Bussy (science and big business) "were plotting openly and without any disguise." "were plotting, openly and without any discipline, the subordination of patriotism, loyalty, discipline, and all the laboured and all the laboured achievements of statecraft to some vague international some vague international commonweal, some tastic organisation of tastic organisation of cosmopolitan finance and cosmopolitan industrialian. mopolitan industrialism.'

Shall we, with Sir Bussy, say "Gaw!", again ow we come to Mr. Bussy, say Now we come to Mr. Parham dreaming of himself as Lord Paramount, the Dictator of Britain land's Mussolini. Having closed Parliament he calls a Grand Council a Grand Council.

"The Council included all that was best among life leaders of English life. The mighty barrons of the portion press were there and leaders of English life. The mighty barrons of the portion of the port press were there, and prominently Lord Bothermey, chief military, naval and air experts were intermited represented. Coal and steel magnates were well in the dence, particularly those most closely associated analysis. dence, particularly those most closely associated armament firms and an armament firms and an armament firms and armament firms are also as a second for the control of the con dence, particularly those most closely associated on armament firms, and one or two rather evasive person ties of the Sir Bussy Woodcock type. The Govern of the Bank of England was present ex officio, though Lord Paramount found he smiled far too much and far too little, and there were several leading representations. tives of the Big Five, who also proved to be marked!

h, what is it.

Oh, what is it worth to the bankers to have and Wells writing of them on one page as the Mecannot "fight popular clamour," who cannot "fight popular clamour," who cannot fight the principle of the sovereign governments to have and the principle of the sovereign governments. presses of the sovereign governments turbases of the sovereign governments writing of them as the Silent Smiling Ones?

And now the Lord Paramount addresses his Grand Council and explains, more or less, what he is to.

"I have begun by sketching the frame of circumstand about our national life," the Lord Paramount result because the small troubles of internal politics. In the place directly we recognise the fact that want "because the small troubles of internal politics we are into place directly we recognise the fact that compine internal people, that our empire is a mighty clearly training for the achievement of our enduring lead Who to this great struggle all our history is a cresced. I you tell me that we have a million unemployed once to think we have that much man power free arises. you tell me that we have a million unemployed to think we have that much man power free rial the great adventure. Before 1914 our industrying had a margin, a necessary margin of unemploying about five or nine per cent. Now that margin has come to eleven or twelve per cent. A large element of the coal-mining industry, which was abnormally in after the war. But our gross production has norther than the sum of the coal-mining industry. after the war. But our gross production has wor ished. Note that! What we are witnessing is a process, in which industry produces as much as process, in which industry produces as much it is fewer hands. Clearly this so-called unemploy cases a release of energy. These spends in many cases. a release of energy. These people, in many cases men, must be taken in hand and trained on the women can go into munitions. If only on

of unemployment, our great Empire needs to take a gallant and aggressive line . . . I am no individualist, I am no Socialist . . . but I say of him who does not work for his country, neither shall he eat in it, and that he who will not work generously must be made to work hard . . ."

Parts of this speech in Mr. Parham's Paramount dream may contain ideas that Mr. Wells himself holds to be sound. Some are ideas that Mr. Wells is always tilting against. It is clear, however, that Mr. Wells knows that under modern conditions (a) efficiency in production creates unemployment, and that (b) diminishing human labour-power in industry need not bring about decreased output of consumable goods and services.

In the story Lord P. welcomes the increase of unemployment as "a release of energy" which can be trained for war service—" cannon fodder."

Mr. Well. Mr. Wells as Camelford-Bussy (Science-Industry) has no solution whatsoever . . . except, of course, the Wider Horizons of a newer, cleaner, and alto-gether better world. Lovely keyhole-peep, but, as

usual no key. Gaw!
In the next Great War, into which Lord P.

"The Canadian Prime Minister sent the Lord Paramount a direct communication to warn him that in no case could Britain count on Canadian participation in a war with the United States."

Had Mr. Hamp, the U.S. banker and his ilk, nothing to d. Hamp, the U.S. banker and his ilk, nothing to d. ing to do with such a situation? If so, it is not mentioned with such a situation? mentioned by Mr. Wells. Dollar-diplomacy operating from Man W. Wells. Dollar-diplomacy instead ing from New York is not even hinted at. Instead

as the masses at home toward a dishonourable pacificism." The power is with the masses in this question of to war, or not to war?" And why? Because, on us. Don't expect it of us. We can't fight it's just the same when this Popular Clamour is disposed in the popular Clamour is disposed in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the masses in this question of the power is with the p posed toward when this Popular Clamour is disbankers can't stop Peace! Just as in war-time, as a Jix or an A mischievous politician "—(such as a Jix or an Amery or a Churchill)—so in the H. G. Wellsian we can't fight the mischievous simply won't allow G. Wellsian scientist who simply won't allow gone to head scientist who simply won't deadly gas. anyone to use the latest and the most deadly gas.

Out Canada that we bankers have got your preciWe are up against a popular Canadian clamour. What can we poor bankers do? We can't make a war. We know that that that Don't arrect it of us. We are hetter dankers do? We can't make a war. We are limited by that. Don't expect it of us. We are the poison-gas limited by our conditions. If the poison-gas chemists choose to hold up war supplies we can be aside aside aside.

set aside as easy as winking. It appears that: The issue whether the soldier or the man of science here is no world had come to actual warfare."

there is no question at all about us poor, struggling we haven't hade Inmense Strides in the direction of becoming made 18. Mind you, I'm not saying international strides in the direction of becoming it comes to War (or Peace) we, somehow, just work together, and so, in the next Great War—and the or anything) it's best to leave the Soldier them, tween them. It is for one or the other and between them. It is for one or the other of nciers just stand and inciers just stand and in hanciers just stand aside—limited, as we are, by

Pronditions.

Leave that is not the way it runs in the story, so the story when Lord P. and his fierce General Gereral in the matter of supplies of Gas L., the Genous ageneral outburst against the Open dreams of onspiracy which has brought their dreams of

world conquest and dominion to the edge of utter

"Years ago we ought to have forbidden scientific study or scientific knowledge except to men under military discipline, and we ought to have put our scientific discoverers under the Official Secrets Act . . And if we'd been more nippy about the traders and the money-lenders we could have kept them trading respectfully, as they used to do. But we let scientific men and the industrialists and the bankers all run about and get notions just as they pleased, and here they are, out of control, a gang of cosmopolitan conspirators with the mask off, actually intercepting munitions that are vital to the Empire and treating for peace with the enemy countries on their own account.

There has been a revolt on the part of Science, Industry, and Banking against Imperialism. wonder the Governor of the Bank of England and the heads of the Big Five "smiled far too much and said far too little." It's enough to make a cat laugh, and a vanishing Cheshire cat may smile at God the Invisible King.

The "gang of cosmopolitan conspirators" has Mr. Wells's blessing. Perhaps Mr. Wells, all unknowingly, has earned and been accorded a silent and smiling benediction from the Cosmopolitan Con-

spirators (Banking Section of)?

At the end Sir Bussy said "Gaw," and turned

away towards Berkeley Square.
"Never before had Mr. Parham heard a 'Gaw' so fraught with derision and dismissal. It was an entirely unanswerable 'Gaw.' It was abandonment."

Having followed the general drift of Mr. Wells's sociological, philosophical, and economic trends of thought—having caught the fluid, dreamlike quality of his mental texture repeating the same thickly liquid patterns as in all his books, from Little Wars to The Autocracy of Mr. Parham, we join Sir Bussy in that final unanswerable grunt of dismissal.

" Gaw!"

S. R.

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Ostend has become so prosperous since the armistice that the official pawnshop has been abolished there by special decree, the reason given being the scarcity of clients.—Daily Express, July 14.

" A French police court laid down the principle yesterday that persons who counterfeited Bank of England notes could not be prosecuted for counterfeiting in France, for the reason that they are not British Government notes, but simply sight notes of a commercial company. Me. Moro-Giafferi, the great French criminal lawyer, put forward this argument in defending three Russians named Cohen, Brower, and Statingrow, who were arrested a few months ago while trying to sell counterfeit. Fro. and Stop Bank of England notes to to sell counterfeit £50 and £100 Bank of England notes to tourists on the boulevards for half their face value. The police court finally admitted that the defendants could not be presented either face to distributing counterface. be prosecuted either for counterfeiting or distributing counterfeit English notes, but decided to send the three men before the assizes on the broad charge of circulating forged commercial paper."—Daily Express, July 31.

"Charles Chaplin, who is coming to London in the autumn, is said to be so anxious to avoid recognition that he is 'seriously considering the advisability of growing a long beard.' He is coming here immedately after the presentation in New York of his new film, 'City Lights,' which is expected to be early in September. During his visit, according to an American correspondent, he will meet Mr. Bering to an American correspondent, he will meet Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Thomas Burke, and Sir Philip Sassoon."—The Film Critic of the Evening Standard, Apparet 1. August 1.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Economic Advisory Council was held A meeting of the Economic Advisory Council was held yesterday at 10, Downing-street. There were present:—Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Graham, Dr. Addison, Miss M. Bondfield, Sir Arthur Balfour, Mr. W. R. Blair, Sir John Cadman, Mr. G. D. H. Cole, Mr. E. Debenham, Sir Andrew Duncan, Sir Daniel Hall, Sir William Hardy, Mr. J. M. Keynes, Sir William McLintock, Sir Josiah Stamp, and Mr. R. H. Tawney.—The Times, July 25.

Drama.

Prunella: Everyman.

For the present revival of "Prunella" the authors, Mr. H. Granville Barker and Mr. Laurence Housman, have added another act, which some of those with memories long enough to recall the original production consider superfluous. For me the present production is the first, and my recollection of reading the play is already dull, except that I remember it as very, very light and much more a masque than a play. In this production the piece did not seem nearly so light, partly because the stage was not big enough to allow the necessary flowing, dancing movement, partly because some of the actors did not achieve lightness within to compensate for the constriction without, and partly, I suppose, because masque produced never was or will be so unworldly as masque imagined. To read a masque is to etherealise it beyond the reach of

flesh and costume. The new act is inserted after Prunella, caught by the glamour of the freedom of the strolling players, has run away from her aunts, Prim, Prude, and Privacy, and left behind all the trimness and primness of their strictly ordered household. The wanderers are crossing a heath, but the new queen of • the Bohemians, instead of rejoicing in her escape from the restraints of mundane civilisation, is already pining for a permanent address, with a bath-room, mirrors, mats, knick-knacks, and all the other despised, familiar symbols of a home. At once Pierrot, Scaramel, and the players provide what she sighs for—in the form of a play. The scene is put up, and the company, acting the parts of Prunella's aunts, the maid, the gardeners, and the scarecrow, cruelly burlesque her dream of home. Ashamed and angered by their mockery, she lets them proceed on their journey without her. The new act is well worth its place, but its insertion ought to have been accompanied by a thorough editing of the rest of the play to cut away all that twenty-six years of life and experience rendered no longer necessary, which the extra length would easily permit, and of which there is considerable.

Perhaps the most serious criticism of this very light philosophical verse-masque is the reason why it cannot be called a harlequinade, that is, that there is no Harlequin. There is no place for a Harlequin in the scheme, yet no Pierrot and Pierrette problem was ever soluble without one. The world in which Prunella had been brought up differed from that of the wandering players more than earth from moon. But the presence of a Harlequin might have made either world at least habitable. As it is, poor Prunella is an outcast from both worlds, since Philistines, although they may envy Bohemians in their dreams, may not mix with them, while Bohemians may not even envy the comfort of Philistia. But Love does not sleep nearly so much where there is a Harlequin

as well as a Pierrot.

In this production the appearances of the players en masse were ragged, too much like crowd scenes, and too little like the gay moon-people on holiday.
The three aunts and the maid were excellent. But
the gardeners gave a sensation of heaviness. Miss Joan Harben's Prunella was lightly and beautifully performed. She alone seemed able to furnish the catalyst in the presence of which all could become light, and the subtlest flavours of the verse, music, and plot be thoroughly mingled and enjoyed. Mr Ernest Milton's Pierrot had some of the qualities required. It certainly belonged to an entirely different world from that of Prunella's aunts. It also convinced one that the effect Mr. Milton was producing was precisely what he intended to produce. But his Pierrot did not belong to the world of Granville-Barker's and Laurence Housman's vagabond-players. The world to which Mr. Milton's Pierrot

belonged was not created until after the war, and it compares with the pre-war world as half a dozen balls of string tangled compare with as many balls of string. All modern complexity is in each of Mr. Milton's sentences. His languorous, detached-from life. Pierrot may be an all life. life Pierrot may have come from the moon, but if it has, there must have been a moon-war too. There will not be a Pierrot for Mr. Milton to perform unless Mr. Aldous Huxley does with the harlequinade what he has done with the novel. When he does, I should like to see Mr. Ald. PAUL BANKS. like to see Mr. Milton in it.

Oil.

By Arthur Brenton.

SCENE I.

On the virgin oilfield.

Student.—And what are you good people doing? People.—We are sinking an oil-well.

S.—What for?

S.—How long will you take to sink the well?

P.—Oh, we shall live on the oil and sink another well.

S.—How do you share the oil?

P.—Oh, we get permits from the manager. S.—What do the permits do?

P.—Every permit entitles the holder to one portion of oil.
S.—How much is a portion?
P.—That's not fixed; it depends on how much oil there to be shared every week.
Suppose these wars too gallons. is to be shared every week. Suppose there were 100 gallons, and the permits amount to 100 portions, then each portion would be one gallon

S.—I see; so when you get two wells sunk, your portions ll be twice as much? would be one gallon.

P.—Yes. That is why we go on sinking wells. will be twice as much? S.—That is why we go on sinking wells.

P.—Yes.—We thick it:

P.-Yes. We think it is.

.—Oh, you are a new lot of people; you were not work when this well was being and Ten weeks later, at the site of the first well.

ing here when this well was being sunk. P.-No. That is not our job.

S.—Then what are you doing?
P.—We are capping this well.
S.—Capping it? What does that mean? P.—Putting a cap on, to keep the oil from coming out.

S.—And for doing that you get permits to take oil homes suppose?

I suppose? P.—Yes.

P.—Yes.
S.—Do you get enough?
P.—Well, we could do with some more, but we Sed grumble, because we are in a Trade Union, and our tary has got us a basic wage of three portions a which is more than the well-borers get.
S.—How much is a portion at present?

S.—How much is a portion at present?
P.—Oh, just about half a gallon.
S.—That seems small. When I was here last they come me something about one gallon as a start, and more to every ten weeks

every ten weeks.

P.—Yes, we have heard something about it.
But we weeks.

S.—We have have only just come on the job.
S.—We hope so; and the manager says he believes
S.—How long does it take to cap a well?

P.—A week.
S.—I see. But than P.—A week.

S.—I see. But there must be ten times as in regular work at that rate.

work at that rate.

P.—No, there are not so many.

S.—Well, but how—?

P.—There's a well-boring machine they're using which hores one in a well-with fewer hands.

bores one in a week with fewer hands.

S.—Where are the hands who have left work?

P.—Oh, they were lucky enough to get jobs in the machine factory.

S.—Well, thanks. I think I'll go and have a look at it

machine factory.

SCENE III.

S.—I am told you people can not beging muchine that the sine minutes later. S.—I am told you people can make a boring machine will sink a well in a week. will sink a well in a week.

P.—Quite right. But you are a bit late hearing it. We are now making machines that will do it in a day.

S .- As quickly as that? And how long does it take you to make the machine?

P.-A week.

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S.—And how many wells will it sink before it wears out? P.—Fourteen. It will last a fortnight.

S.—But then you must be out of work every other week if you get one made in a week.

P. So we have been. But the boss has taken on making caps for the wells, so we have begun to put in some time at that job. It will speed up the capping of the wells.

S.—I see. Then the faster they sink wells the more employment for the well-cappers and you fellows. Very inter-

P. Yes; it's all right at present. But we hear the boss is going to bring in a machine to make well-caps; and then some of us won't be wanted.

S.—Ah, yes. But now I see how to overcome that. Those of you who are turned off will be able to go and help make the machines which make well-caps, won't you?

P.—You may be right; but somehow employment all around, as you might say, don't smell so lively as it might do. S.—Ah, well, I'll go and inquire.

SCENE IV.

At the site of the Oil Pool. Three minutes later.

S. What are you chaps doing? P. We're sinking an Oil Pool.

S.—But icn't that what you want to do?

S.—But icn't that what you want to do?

S.—But isn't that what you want to do?
P.—Oh no: this pool is to catch oil that's been struck already. The oil's running to waste from the last few wells.
S.—What has caused that?
L.—It's this latest prachine for horing wells. It's been p—It's this latest machine for boring wells. It's been boring them faster than they can cap them.

Can't they slacken off the boring a bit? That's what they're doing for the moment, but they stop for lar they're doing for the moment, but they

can't stop for long, because the borres are going short of made every week, and that work's got to go on, or else the permits.

S.—How do you suppose the difficulty will be overcome? introduced: it is a machine for capping wells. They say it S.—wells twice as fact as they can be bored.

cap wells twice as fast as they can be bored.

Ah, that is a most satisfactory margin of safety.

They want any more oil pools, and you'll lose your jobs.

They want any more oil pools, and you'll lose your jobs.

They want any more oil pools, and you'll lose your jobs.

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They want any more oil pools, and you'll lose your jobs. machine that will bore wells faster than the new machine that will bore wells faster than the begin to use will cap that will bore wells faster than the new machine the cap them. He's only waiting till they begin to use machines are going to adopt his invention. They've prosition.

pools: Splendid. And you will go ahead with your oil

Dools? Plendid. And you will go aheau

S. Good. And, of course, when the pools are full you'll be able to take home a lot more oil with your permits.

Oh, no! That oil is not to take home. Where it direct from the sense in making an oil pool if you could and them the overflow at the wells, and not have a pool saved.

Saved. Where would our jobs be? No; the oil's got to be the saved.

Saved. Where would our jobs be? No; the oil's got to be the course out the re's it didn't quite see it that way, and I'm not sure the course of the course out it faster and faster; and, seeing that we all live on oil, setting to be safer and safer. That's the real subject see that

I see that you are given to serious reflection on this

has been told us by gentlemen who know all about it surprise ell, I aby gentlemen who know all about it.

Surprise ell, I aby gentlemen who know all about it.

Surprise ell, I aby gentlemen who know all about it.

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SCENE V.

On the Oil Field. Three months later. The oil-queue.

S .- Hullo! What is this? - a bank holiday?

Queue of workless borers, cappers, pool-sinkers, machine-makers, etc.—No, sir, it is not a holiday at all, sir, and they're working overtime at the bank.

S .- So you have a bank, then?

Q .- Oh yes, we've always had that. You have to have a bank to mind the oil-permits.

S .- Oh; I didn't know that when I was here last. But tell me, what's going on?

Q .- We're waiting to draw our oil-dole.

S.-What is an oil-dole?

Q .- Oh, that is what we call a permit for oil that they

give you when you haven't worked for it.

S.—But do you mean to say that all you people are out

of work?

O.—Yes, sir, and there's lots more coming out every day.

S.—Well, I did wonder last time how some of you would keep in your jobs, but I never imagined there would be a crowd like this. Has anything new happened?

O.—Yes, sir, what's put the lid on it, as the saying goes, is the latest invention, sir, which is a machine that will bore a well and can't in one (a).

a well and cap it in one go.

a went and cap it in one go.

S.—That's ingenious.

Q.—Yes, sir. It's made so that as soon as it has bored down two feet the cap is fitted; and if the capping isn't absolutely tight the boring automatically stops. S.—Marvellous. And who invented it?

Q.—We don't know his name, but it is called the

Rationalising Machine.

O.—They say it's because it stops waste.

S.-Oh yes, of course.

Q.—It's been working so fast that they've got a job now o find places where to sink new wells. (Here, you boys, make way for the gentleman.)

S.-Why, dear me, the whole field looks like one sheet of iron. You must be living above an ocean of oil. It beats me how there can be any job for anybody now.

Q.—Well, sir, of course there's a few jobs, such as making the machines and repairing damage and stopping leaks

and there's a new job at present erecting electrified barbedwire entanglements to protect the wells.

S.—Ah, "Safety First," as some of you pointed out to me last time. I see. And now tell me, how much oil do you get as your dole?

O.—A quart for an adult, sir, and a pint for each child.

S.—But surely that doesn't keep you?

Q.—No, sir, but it's all that those who are in jobs can flord account the product of the p

afford, seeing they've got to keep themselves as well as us.

S.—What would they be getting now, speaking generally?

Q.—Well, sir, it might come to half a gallon.

S.—Dear me, who the chartly about half what they got

O.—Well, sir, it might come to half a gallon.

S.—Dear me, why that's only about half what they got before any machines came along.

O.—Ah yes, sir; but there was too much extravagance then, and that is partly why we are out of work now.

S.—Indeed! I suppose that those gentlemen you told me of before have told you stic?

of before have told you this?

Q.—Yes, sir. They are very learned gentlemen and don't do anything else but think out these things.

S.—Do they draw the dole?

Q.—What, sir?! Oh no, sir: theirs is a paid job. Without them it wouldn't be known what ought to be the amount of the dale.

S.—Ah, they draw the dole-scale instead. But that isn't of the dole.

Q.—Oh yes; it's got to be fixed on what everybody else is getting; and they've got to fix that first, or else we might draw more oil than people who worked for it. Then they would leave work, and everybody would be on the dole—and who would pay for it then?

S.—Well, I must say that this seems a bit of a tangle. The who would pay for it then? arrangement here is like that new machine: it makes you

work and stops you working in one go as you might say.

Q.—No, you're wrong, sir. We are not allowed to draw the dole unless we prove we have looked for work; and how could that rule be reached they wanted up to the could that rule be reached they wanted up to the could that rule be reached to the wanted up to the could that rule be reached to the wanted up to the could that rule be reached to the wanted up to the could that rule be reached to the wanted up to the could be reached to the could be reached

could that rule be made unless they wanted us to work?

S.—Yes, but if, as you can see for yourselves, there's no work to be found, they must know it; and if so, what's their

Q .- Oh sir, you mustn't say things like that. They're dangerous; they undermine discipline and engender unrest.

S .- Ah! Those eloquent gentlemen of yours again. I must get an interview with them . . . Well, now, there goes the syren or something—I suppose that's to announce the distribution of the dole—a dolorous noise it makes—it sounds like Nature groaning. Well; good luck. See that you get your full quarts; and if you take my advice you'll drink them at the counter in case some new invention overtakes you on the way home and caps all your cans—for I'll swear this field is bewitched.

SCENE VI.

At the same spot. A few minutes later. Enter gentleman. Student.—Good morning, sir. A sad sight, these men on

Gentleman.-Yes, indeed. But there are also sad things

out of sight.

S.—In what sense do you mean that, Sir? G.—I mean that to-day I have lost my business. I am, or was, a well-owner.

S .- Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. Did your well give out suddenly?

G .- Not at all. But the white tickets did.

S.-White tickets-?

G .- Yes; they are the oil-permits, as the men call them.

S.—But seeing that you live on oil and were the owner of an oil-well, I don't see how the tickets come into the matter so far as you are concerned.

G .- Ah, but they do. You must know that they are limited in number, and there is great competition to borrow them. S .- But that does not explain-

G .- Not yet. But they have to be borrowed from the bank and paid back within a fairly short time. And you have to borrow them to run your business.

S.-I don't quite understand. But tell me what you did. G.—It was this way. My well was sunk by hand; it was one of the earliest on the field. The bank lent me 1,000 tickets on condition that I would return them as soon as oil was struck.

S.-Yes.

G.—Well, it's like this. I paid the tickets to the men, and as soon as they struck oil I had to pay back the 1,000 tickets to the bank.

S.—But you could get the tickets by selling oil?
G.—Yes, but it would take a long time, and the bank was demanding its tickets back at once.

S .- What did you do?

G .- I had to float a company.

G.-I'll tell you. The well was worth 1,000 white tickets. So I printed 1,000 red tickets and exchanged them for 1,000 white tickets with my friends and neighbours.

S.-What were the red tickets for? G.-Oh, a red ticket gives the holder a share in the

ownership of a well. S.—I see. So really you were selling the well. Did you

G.-Yes, I got rid of 900 of my tickets to my friends, who G.—Yes, I got rid of 900 of my tickets to my triends, who gave me 900 white ones for them. The bank kindly took another 50 of my tickets as its investment. And as I had previously had 50 white tickets of my own, I was able to clear my debt to the bank. I handed in 950 white tickets, and it let me off the other 50, taking 50 red tickets instead, which was its way of investing.

S.—So at that moment you had 50 red tickets, your neighbours 900, and the bank 50; and the well belonged to all three of you in those proportions.

three of you in those proportions.

S.—But wasn't that giving yourself a lot of unnecessary trouble. Why didn't you print 1,000 white tickets and pay

the bank with those? G.—Bless your heart, sir, that would be an appalling crime. Nobody but a banker may print white tickets.

S.—Oh. Then you are not allowed to print white, but you are allowed to print red.

S.—Well, that's something. After all, what's there in a mere colour? If you must have white tickets, and have got red ones, then you can go to the bank and exchange them,

G.—Not at all. The bank won't do such a thing. That would be investing in red tickets; and the bank wants to have as few red tickets as possible: it would best like to have posses of all have none at all.

S.-Well, at any rate, a red ticket is really an oil-permit, isn't it. So why bother?

G.-No. It is a permit to own an oil-well -S .- But not to take oil out of the well, eh?

S.—But how on earth do you get at your own oil? G.—Oh, I must tell you that the banker will lend some white tickets for a limited time if you place red tickets in his charge, but a limited time if you place red tickets in his charge: but not ticket for ticket, or anything like it. I had to borrow some. My workmen had to have white tickets or act of the ticket of the tickets or act of white tickets so as to get oil with them, else they wouldn't work at my well.

S.—How did you get white tickets for yourself?

G.—Well you have to be quick. You lay out the berrowed tickets and you sell oil for as many more tickets as you can get. The transfer of the t you can get. That is what is called making a profit. If there is a profit you can get oil for yourself. If not, and at all costs were get oil for yourself. And at all costs you must not collect fewer tickets than you borrow because the board to the fewer tickets. you borrow, because the banker would sell your red tickets to pay himself back

S.—But at any rate he would only have turned the red tickets back into white ones, and would let you have the balance.

G.—No, you misunderstand. He sells in a hurry; for he appear well cannot wait. He sells the red tickets at any rate that will enable him to get rid of them. He might let two or three red ones go in exchange for red ones go in exchange for one white one!

G.—Might! He has. And that's partly how I am no longer a well-owner.

G.—What started it was the new invention for boring yells. Whereas my well be the new invention for boring the started it was the new invention for boring the started in t wells. Whereas my well had cost 1,000 white tickets, machine-hored wells accepted to the machine-hored wells. machine-bored wells cost only 200 each—100 for the machine and only another 100 for the and only another 100 for the men, for the work was done in one-tenth the time S.—Ah, I heard about that machine. But there are later nes now, I've heard

G.—Yes; but the first one is enough for my explanation a next to no time there were the cook yielding. In next to no time there were ten new wells, each yielding as much oil a day as mine could. So the owner could deliver ten times as much oil as I could every day works having printed more than I cooled tickets. The confidence of quence was that he could give more oil than I could for white ticket.

wnite ticket.

S.—I see; so your men began to spend the white tickets you paid them on the other fellow's oil.

G.—Not only that, but I myself, and my friends who owned this well, began to do so too. It's a little humorous when you look. this well, began to do so too. It's a little humorous who you look at it, isn't it?

you look at it, isn't it?

S.—In a way. But at least you got a little more oil by doing it; and could hold on to your own well.

G.—Yes, but another thing happened. Before the ought fellow started, my banker sold the red tickets he had bought from me. fellow started, my banker sold the red tickets he had bought

S.—Well, what had that got to do with you?

G.—This. As soon as it was noticed that the new welf were getting more customers, the people who had been my red tickets from the bank wanted to exchange them yellow white tickets so as to be able to buy the other fellow. from me. I only found this out lately.

S.—Well, what had that got to do with you?

C. This white tickets from the bank wanted to exchange the tickets. They found difficulty, because everybody who white tickets to spare also wanted to exchange them but white tickets to spare also wanted to exchange them to the fellow's red ones. So those people had to tempt by offering two of my red tickets for one white one.

S.—Well, that was their look-out, not yours.

G.—Oh, wasn't it mine? My own holding of fifty and tickets who wasn't it mine?

G.—Well, that was their look-out, not yours.

Cheekers was now only worth twenty five white ones. tickets was now only worth twenty-five white ones. at the same with the goo red tickets held by my friends an eighbours.

neighbours.

S.—That was a big loss.
G.—But not all the story. I told you for business borrowing white tickets from the bank for only new expenses. Well, the bank now told me it could borrow me borrow half the number I had usually pay them fewer so I had to get rid of some of my men or pay them tickets. As a matter of fact I did a bit of both.

S.—That must have made you unpopular. faces of the S.—That must have made you unpopular.
G.—Yes. They called me a grinder of the faces of the poor, and things like that.
S.—But you lived it down. Down to doubt.

S.—But you lived it down, I've no doubt.
G.—I had to. But I feel it has rather lived me down.
S.—Well. What happened after that?
G.—I called a meeting to reconstruct our company.

S.—Well. What happened after that?

G.—I called a meeting to reconstruct our mean?

S.—What does reconstructing a company of red
G.—It means tearing up a certain number of restruction.

S.—That sounds more like destruction than construction.

S.—That sounds more like destruction than cur.

What did you do it for?

G.—It was because, by that time, our red to give a slumped in value; so much so that holders had to five of them to get one white one. So we agreed to up 800 tickets, which left us with 200.

S.-What difference did that make?

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G.-Well, it raised the value of the remaining tickets, so that each of them would again exchange for a white ticket. For you see that on the total profit the company earned in the future the share for each red ticket would be five times as much as when there were 1,000 red tickets. These shares we call "dividends." Now, the effect of our doing this was to raise our rate of dividend up to the same level as the other fellow was able to pay.

S.—Oh. So, as I see it, your reconstruction meant that you pretended that your well had originally cost you only 200 white tickets.

G.-Yes, it can be put that way.

S.—But whatever you pretended, the real fact is that you, your friends, and the banker, between you, paid out 1,000 white tickets at first, and now have 200 red tickets worth 200 white ones. So you three parties had lost 800 white

G.—Yes, but the banker didn't lose any. He sold his red tickets while they were still worth a white ticket each. I told you that he sold before the other fellow started; which was before our red tickets began to slump.

S.—I suppose the banker lent the other fellow white tickets to start his wells?

G.—Oh, of course.

S.—And I suppose the banker knew what was going to be done with them.

G.—That's certain. He would not have lent him any without.

S.—So he foresaw that your red tickets were going to slump later on.

G.—Well, perhaps if he ——. Yes, of course, he must have.

S.—Very good. From what I can see, the banker never

G. Oh no. And it wouldn't do for him to. The stability and prosperity of the whole oil-field depend upon his not taking his not taking any risks.

S.—Ah, those men I spoke to told me something like that.

G.—Well, after that we went on for a little while, but things got worse. less oil was sold. So something had to be done. The banker advised us to form a combine with the other fellow. We did. The banker then lent our combine some white tickets to part the banker than the banker then lent our combine some white the banker than the tickets to pay for having some of our wells capped. advised us that this would allow us to get rid of a lot of to pay him back, and that the way why he was willing to take the risk. back; and that was why he was willing to take

S.—Did the other fellow buy your red tickets for white

G. Oh no. We exchanged our 200 red tickets for fifty of the combine's red tickets. S.—That was another 150 tickets torn up.

G. That was another 150 tickets torn up. Would Yes, but we expected at that time that the dividends than the 150 much that the fifty would be worth more S.—And it didn't come off?

G. Alas, no. A second invention came along, and a the result was companies were formed to work them, and the result was companies were formed to our the result was that everything that had happened to our first company happened to our combine. It tore up red combine reconstruction, and then was merged into another then fifteen, and then ten

And how did it finish?

G. And how did it finish?

It finished in the Law Court yesterday. The combine was unable to pay a loan from the banker, and he got Trder for winding it up.

What does that mean?

Selling the property for what it will fetch.

Just about enough to return the banker his white

But why the banker. Can't you share in? No, he comes in front of us, because when we last he made us in front of us, because when we last he made us is a called a Debenture. It

No, he comes in front of us, because when we last lowed he made us sign a paper called a Debenture. It him the right to sell the property and take what was blim before any of us could get anything.

That is the position, sir.

Teally extremely sorry for you. What will you do?

Thank you for your sympathy. I am on my way a friend of mine who has a little influence. He is

hoping to get me a post as book-keeper in a very flourishing concern that's lately started. The banker is strongly behind

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S.—Oh, I'm glad. It is something to hear that anything is flourishing now. What is this new concern?

G.—Its name is the Electrified Barbed-Wire Entangle-

ment Corporation, Limited.

(To be continued.)

The Economic Outlook of South Africa.

[A speech by Mr. H. S. Lyons, the retiring chairman of the Transvaal Landowners' Association, at the annual meeting of the Association on June 13, 1930, in Johannesberg. It appeared in the "Johannesburg Star" of July 14.]

II.

General Hertzog's Advice.

Shortly before Christmas, we all recall, the Prime Minister gave a warning which he explained later in Johannesburg was meant for farmers, but could be taken to heart by the whole country. He warned farmers against taking up more land at prices which seemed to be ruling higher, and generally counselled people to go slow, to reduce their expenditure and scale of enterprise. I do not doubt that General Hertzog spoke on the advice of people to whom the Government looks for advice on finance, and with the best finite time. of intentions. The result seems to prove that he was right. Possibly his prophecy helped to the fulfilment, at any rate retrenchment was begun in some quarters in Johannesburg, trade dropped and credits were drawn in where possible. In the same spirit the Minister of Finance reproached the country with overtrading and it seems to be thought, in official circles, that South African farmers should not have motor cars. Indeed, following up the cue (as though it had anything to do with the real crux, which is marketing or exchange) farmers are threatened in other ways, for instance, in respect of transportation. Thus, if a farmer, after consultation with his neighbours, decides to buy a motor lorry on the understanding that he will use it not only to move his own things to and from the railway station, but will also do the same service for his neighbours at a fair charge which will justify his outlay, he is to be treated as a public carrier and an enemy of the railway—possibly to be subjected to boycott. Now, it does not require much thought to decide that it is not always a paying proposition to send a wagon and span of oxen to bring small burdens to send a wagon and span of oxen to bring small burdens to and from the railway station, and it is less profitable to send the wagon and animals and driver to fetch goods advised but which are found, not infrequently, to be delayed on rail. There is no reason why our farmers should go slower than English or American farmers and a good deal of reason why they should go faster than oxen at times. I of reason why they should go faster than oxen at times. I will, however, leave this point, and return to the authority imposed on our commercial banks.

Reserve Bank's Policy.

It will have been noticed, and felt where the fact has not been noticed, that the Reserve Bank has been sending much of our money abroad, where, the Governor has told us, he gets a better return. I may be wrong, but I cannot help thinking that this about the country of the thinking that this depletes the country of its natural pur-chasing power. It is an interference from above with trade chasing power. It is an interference from above with trade which requires absolute justification to the public. Similarly when the Prime Minister warned us against borrowing, or buying on credit, he did not prohibit Mr. Havenga from raising a loan abroad. Such loans must be repaid by taxation, which again depletes our purchasing power and must be justified fully in this respect, because it hits us on our weakest spot. And, while I am at it, I may remind you that Parliament proposes to invest large sums on certain irrigation schemes, though the proposers as well as the critics declare that they have the gravest doubts as to the possibility of economic returns. Without a word of criticism on the merits of an irrigation policy in itself, I think that on the merits of an irrigation policy in itself, I think that I am justified in calling attention to the possibility that the Government's ideas involve the locking up of money in capital schemes about which even the proposers are not

sanguine, again to the injury of our purchasing power.

Now, the Governor of the Reserve Bank interprets the privilege and function of the bank as the function of conprivilege and tanction of controlling credit. And as we see both by his bank rate and his export of gold, he has exercised that function by rehis export of gold, he has asked and obtained greater power for trading here, and I am not going to ask whether he should have got it. What I should like to know-what we should all like to know-is: Does he propose with these new powers to increase credit—and thus increase purchasing power in this country? We want to know what principle will decide these credits. Hitherto he has restricted credit and he has been supported by emotional orators, who tell us there is too much credit in this country. You will, I am sure, bear with me if I assert that such statements should not be made unless and until a strict investigation has been made upon the bearing of credit upon purchasing power and of purchasing power upon production and trade.

World Run on Credit,

It will be seen therefore that the world is necessarily run on credit. I will not justify this by pointing to the enormous and continually growing aggregation of national, municipal and capital liabilities which threaten to exceed the current valuation of the round world itself. I will suggest, however, that the greater the natural resources of a country are, and the more industrious its population, the greater is its need of credit and the greater should be its credit.

In agriculture, at any rate, the land is debtor to the farmer and it appears so in his ledger. He ploughs, sows, fertilises and cares for it. He is a lender to the land in the interest, it is believed, of the community of which he is a member. When the harvests are reaped the lender is again called in. Every month of the year, in some part of the world, a wheat harvest is reaped and the transportation and marketing of it are financed on a scale involving millions of pounds. So the food supply of the world is supplied on credit. That credit is begun against goods hoped for but not yet in existence. On what then is that credit based? The answer is that it is based on the great probability justified by long experience, it would seem, that in spite of a drought here or a pest there, the world's harvest will yield an average perhaps improving-return on the labour and credit spent on it. Are all those credits to be withdrawn or reduced in face of a growing population? It is unthinkable; it would be the end of the world. But without going so far as that, whenever credit is denied-whether to the farmer or to the consumers—a grave shock is felt. Every creditor of the harvest—and we have seen it is all strictly credit from seed to transportation and consumer-every creditor of the harvest is thrown at a disadvantage. And the burden is thrown backwards until it falls, if not all, at least most heavily, on the farmer who cast his substance and his credit upon the land, upon the faith that it would be returned to him and that his produce would be enjoyed by his people.

This somewhat unusual incursion, so far as we as an association are concerned, into the sphere of economics would be presumptuous in me if it had no bearing, if it had not a very great bearing, on the question we are immediately concerned with—namely, land value, and the methods of agriculture and finance which affect land values. So far as the evil, lack of purchasing power or credit, is world wide, the contribution of South Africa to its solution must be small. But if we begin by cultivating our own garden we, at least, will be better off.

Primary Industries.

Where South Africa is fortunate is that it is yet chiefly a land of primary producers or basic industry. Now primary industries more nearly create purchasing power than secondary industries using partially manufactured products as their raw material and large machine capital for production. Primary industries are engaged in gathering for the benefit of mankind what used to be called, and rightly called, the on the surface, or the earth-born ores beneath, and the more or less intensive supply of solar energy for the growth and ripening of crops, for the transportation and preparation of desirable goods by means of coal, electricity, wind or water power—all of which are supplied practically gratis by sun and earth.

The importance of this point is that none of these, natural light, heat and sun-power generally, must necessarily appear in costs, as the cost of a machine must necessarily appear in the price of a manufactured product. A farmer, for instance, has not to pay his banker for "facilities" in respect of sunlight and heat and rain. Coal, as supplied from South African mines, is sold at a cost which hardly includes a value for the mineral itself, the price being made up of charges for labour and services chiefly. So, too, gold is on the whole a gift of nature to South Africa. It is true that in the farmer's produce, in the collieries, and the gold mines' output, a charge must necessarily be added to prices to cover purchase price of land and of capital plant. these charges are extraordinarily small in proportion to the importance of the goods delivered. The farm delivers the very conditions of life itself, the coal enables immense pro-

ductive work to be achieved and life is made bearable by light and warmth. These real values are out of all proportion greater than the cost of land and of the labour spent upon them. Farmers and mines deliver an "unearned increment." They deliver the things of far more value than their cost or price represent. And unlike the capital plant, none of which is delivered to the buyer of its product, the farmer delivers in his foodstuffs themselves the natural energy units which brought about their growth. This is an important point that seems largely to have escaped the notice of modern critics. Similarly to have delivers notice of modern critics. Similarly, the coal miner delivers to the community a product loaded with creative energy immensely more valuable than the energy of money spent

Thus, the problem of purchasing power is made easier for South Africa because its great industries are really creative of purchasing power if of purchasing-power if taken in connection with such a system of cradity and the system of cradi system of credits as has existed for centuries.

Again, although one would not say the same of gold as of coal, foodstuffs and animal products, yet the whole world has set such an extraordinary value upon gold, as the basis of currency and international exchange, that it is the only product in the world to-day of which there is no production." Whether this should be so is besides the point production." Whether this should be so is besides the point now. The most careble this now. The most capable thinkers are agreed that it is scientifically unsound that the business of the world should be based upon a relation to the world should be based upon a relation to the world should be based upon a relation to the world should be based upon a relation to the world should be based upon a relation to the world should be so is bestues that it is agreed that it is agree be based upon a material which has no intelligible relation to it. But the nations are not to be based upon a material which has no intelligible relation. to it. But the nations are also agreed that they dare not trust the politicians with a managed currency. producers are not maintaining selling staffs to persuade people to buy gold: on the contrart, averyone is rushing to people to buy gold; on the contrary, everyone is rushing to buy the gold with goods.

Now could it have been thought credible that the Government of a country where Now could it have been thought credible that the Government of a country whose second great primary industry has at hand hundreds of millions of pounds, worth of this would be so neglectful of the material interest as in have encourage its harvesting? Worse than that, would it have been believed that any national government would not only hinder the harvesting of this world-desired gold, but would take steps that it should be lost for ever?

take steps that it should be lost for ever?

Everyone knows that what is called the low-grade or on the Rand can be mined profitably only if it is mined in conjunction with richer ore that bears the overhead of the roll of To-day the mines are equipped with plant, shafts and development. In a few equipped with plant, shafts are velopment. In a few years, nay daily, the enormous out land is being forced by Government ineptitude, indifference and neglect to be lost for ever, as the gold in the Banties Mine is lost.

See how this gold, to be had by a mere adjustment of exation, a mere book existing a mere book of the second problems of taxation, a mere book entry, would solve our problems of marketing our goods! It provides the very substance which the currency, world currency is made. And the needs mining of it brings the markets to this country. In no ambassadors abroad and costly maintained diplomary. The men to be paid for any costly maintained of our own. no ambassadors abroad and costly maintained diplomatish.

The men to be paid for producing it are the men of country. It is as surely a material industry as a griculture. It answers to the slogan "South Africa First", as no year industry does. Yet this great industry in a very few death will be lying, if it is not lying now, in the shadow of the through national neglect and stupidity. Do you ever, possible through at the will be lying, if it is not lying now, in the shadow of act it through national neglect and stupidity. Do you ever boot the platteland insist that its member shall leave every that aside until he has forced the Covernment to open up the gold. the platteland insist that its member shall leave everythe aside until he has forced the Government to open be followed blameworthy than ours? We share its blame; we are citizen electors. citizen electors.

And, as providence has showered gifts upon us, awful retribut

And, as providence has showered gifts upon us, in tain that their neglect will bring an awful retribution go us. Already, as Sir Ernest Oppenheimer stated at of meeting of scientific men the other day, the shadow of end of the mines has crept upon us. end of the mines has crept upon us. Every day that in a deepens. Before the mines are quite worked out drop years now—the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large and the grade of one available will have at large years now—the grade of ore available will have pay Then, if it is to be mined at all it will have set, and make set, and the set of the pay wages and salaries. The mines have set, and the set of the pay set of the payer set. wages and salaries. The mines have set, and have high the standard of living in our land. If they fail are bound to fail under national neglect to maintain are bound to fail under national neglect to maintain standard, this country will fall back into the starveling are bound to fail under national neglect to maintain standard, this country will fall back into the starveling not a coin in ditions of the 'eighties when there was not aper out of the museum now—was not worth printing. And it will have deserved its fate. They will share it. Our their from that fate. They will share it. Ministers of State, our £700-a-year legislators,

beck imitators in the Provincial Councils, General Kemp's 1,700 odd-job henchmen—no doubt he will have brought their number up to the round 2,000 long before that date and the whole army of pals and time-servers and placeseekers will survive only to repine at the abrupt termination of those good old days which only their own shortsightedness and crass stupidity will have prevented the extension of indefinitely. The high-grade tariffs which enable the railways to carry farm produce to oversea markets will have disappeared, and the maize and farm products of inland growers will not be able to maintain the railways. They, and every other sign and symbol of South African prosperity, will have disappeared with the mines that made them.

August 14, 1930

I now beg to move the adoption of the executive committee's report and accounts for the year ended February 28 last, and in doing so it gives me great pleasure to place on record the committee's appreciation of the efficient services rendered by Mr. A. D. Parsons, the secretary, and his staff during the year and the admirable relations which continue to subside the secretary and the secretary. to subsist between your executive and their agents and officials in the subsist between your executive and their agents and officials in the subside s officials in the districts. At the same time I should mention with reasons to the districts. with regret the impending retirement of Mr. J. H. Walker, who will in December next reliquish the agency of the Lydenburg and North Middelburg district, after 25½ years' continued. continuous service as the association's representative in those district. districts. I am sure you will wish me to express our association? ciation's grateful recognition of Mr. Walker's long and loyal savices and our best wishes for his success and happiness in the future.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Llewellyn Andersson seconded the motion for the adoption of the reports and accounts, which were unanimously adopted.

Those present were: Llewellyn Andersson, Messrs. J. Davidson, J. T. Goldsbury, B. Moses, A. G. Owen, Geo. Parkes, J. H. Rainier, H. J. The following executive committee was elected for the Llewelly year:—Mr. Percy Greathead, president; Sir Llewell. ensuing year:—Mr. Percy Greathead, president; Sir president; Messro, vice-president; Mr. H. Hedding, vice-president; Mr. H. Hedding, vice-president; Mr. H. Hedding, vice-president; Messro, D. Doridson, J. T. Goldspresident; Messrs. R. des Clayes, J. Davidson, J. T. Goldsbury, E. M. Hind, H. S. Lyons, B. Moses, Geo. McBean, Townsend.

(CONCLUSION.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. CONGRUITY, NOT IDENTITY.

Surely "Old and Crusted," with whose general standpoint in his criticism of the Bishop of London's book and wholly in agreement, must be invited to revise his credit; are intended to that the 'Catholic Faith' and 'Social less' are intended to the Bishop of London's pool. are interchangeable terms." This is the sort of reckstatement that alienates the intelligent Catholic, justly apprehensive of what appears to be an attempt to secularise spiritual truth and is appears to be any more welcome to piritual truth, and is not likely to be an attempt to securate such secularist and is not likely to be any more welcome to Cook secularist and is not likely to be any more welcome to Such Secularist supporters of Social Credit as Mr. Chapman

Roman) who that what Catholics (whether "Anglo" Roman to me that what Catholics (whether Angle Douglas who are persuaded of the scientific validity of the have been than have got to do is to expound—as some than the identity, ve been striving to do for ten years—not the identity, essential essential congruity of Catholicism and Social Credit. We have got to do it without giving the (doubtless false) sationatically follow upon the multiplication of material thin. A man'r its gs, "atcally follow upon the multiplication of material things that he possesseth," and the gospels give no sly choose the conviction that the opulent will spontanticles, so the highest interests the way that leads to the highest interests Ciety and of themselves. We cannot fairly interpret Linds warnings to the rich as solely rebukes addressed by Who are without true discrimination in an age of who are without true discrimination in an age of

the hideous and essentially unreal destitution of the y is a lie upon a gigantic scale, and until the apple system much fall the condemnation of the system much fall the condemnation of system must fall under the condemnation of God's love for His creation. As Fr. Demant's lock in your Lambert While rticle in your Lambeth Number declared, "While ving of such a contradiction between industry and theory is a technical and not a moral task, its an ethical and social issue of the first magnitheological truth and economic theory can never

be "interchangeable"; from the standpoint of religion no social policy can be more than contingent. But if Social Credit is the precondition of truth in social relations in this age, we can justly claim that "the spirit which shall lead us into all truth" will be our Ally when we are striving for its realisation.

MAURICE B. RECKITT.

SPANISH MERCURY.

Sir,—Allow me to inform you with regard to a letter, published over the name H. J. D. Thompson, in your issue of July 31 last, that the mercury mines of Spain are administered directly by the State and are not farmed out to any firm whatever.

The Spanish Constitution of 1876 has not been modified. I am afraid that your contributor is wading in the memories of what is now ancient history long anterior to the reign of Spain's present Sovereign.—Believe me, Yours faithfully,
MERRY DEL VAL.

Spanish Ambassador.

Embajada de España, 24, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. August 5, 1930.

MONKEN HADLEY CHURCH.

Sir,-Your courtesy in sending me a copy of your issue of 31st ult. is much appreciated, and I thank you for the sympathy expressed in it. I deeply regret that my effort to save this beautiful and unique old church from being modernised and robbed of its quiet restful character has failed.

I am afraid I can do no more. For years I have fought this battle, both in and out of office as church warden, but it seems hopeless now, so blind are people to beauty in any

J. PERCY CALLARD.

The Priory, Monken Hadley, Barnet.

THE NEW P.O. MONEY BOX.

Sir -The article in The New Age of 31st inst. on the H.V.P. Service in the Post Office serves to remind me of another little innovation in that department which is comparatively unimportant, but extraordinarily symbolic. Home safes have recently been issued in the form of artistically coloured steel pocket books with gilt edges. The mouth of each box is fitted with brass saw-like teeth set in a spring. If a coin is but partly inserted into the mouth the teeth fasten upon it and it cannot be withdrawn without materially injuring the box. Once the coin is finally put into the box only a sledge-hammer would get it out. Is not this picturesquely symbolic of the relationship between finance and the consumer?

I purpose buying one-but for demonstration purposes

[Perhaps the instrument bites the coin to see if it is a good one. Try it with a counterfeit.—ED.]

THE BANKERS' PROTECTION MANIFESTO.

Sir,—I note your statement in July 10, New Age, page 129, "Bankers and Protection," that the later Bankers' Manifesto does not bear signatures.

Our weekly news magazine, Time, of July 14, however, seems to have secured these names:

Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, director Bank of England, Walter Kennedy Whigham, director Bank of England. Rt. Hon. Reginald M'Kenna, chairman Midland Bank,

Lord Ashfield, director Midland Bank, Ltd. Sir Harry Goschen, chairman National Provincial and Union Bank of England.

Robert Hugh Tennant, chairman Westminster Bank,

Sir Harold Edward Snagge, director Barclays Bank, .

John William Beaumont Pease, board chairman Lloyds

Bank, Ltd.
Sir Eric Hambro of C. J. Hambro and Son.
General Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, a managing partner Glyn, Mills and Co.

Edward Robert Peacock, director Baring Brothers and

Vivian Hugh Smith, partner Morgan, Grenfell and Co. Viscount Bearsted of Samuel and Co., and chairman of the Shell (oil) Transport and Trading Co.

Sir George Ernest May, secretary Prudential Assur-

Funny that an American weekly should get these names and London newspapers not carry them.

A. H. S.

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The Social Credit Movement.

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

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

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