

# THE NEW AGE

INCORPORATING "CREDIT POWER."

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### The Deflation of Democracy.

We propose to pursue the theme of last week's "Notes" on the text of Mr. Benjamin Anderson's reference to the practice of "passing the buck." We recently came across a newspaper cutting containing the text of Sir Philip Game's correspondence with Mr. Lang just before the latter's Administration was dismissed from office in May last. We reproduce this elsewhere for the information (or to refresh the memories) of students and administrators alike. We also subjoin here a list of "key" events and dates with references (in brackets) to issues of THE NEW AGE in which some of them were discussed.

In April, 1930, the Australian exchange had been hammered by the banking monopoly ("N. A." April 9)—how long previously we have not investigated.

In 1930 Sir Philip Game is appointed Governor of New South Wales.

In July, 1930, Sir Otto Niemeyer lands in Australia on his notorious mission ("N. A.," July 10, 1930).

In 1931 Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs is appointed Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth.

On May 13, 1932, Sir Philip Game dismisses Mr. Lang. (See correspondence printed elsewhere.)

At the end of May, 1932, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council upholds the decision of the High Court in Australia that Lang's measure to abolish the Legislative Council of New South Wales was *ultra vires* ("N. A.," June 9, 1932). In the previous month the *Labour Daily* (N.S.W.) alleged (April 9) that stockbrokers and others foreknew the judgment. ("N. A.," June 23, 1932.)

On May 21 the Australian Press publishes news and text of Mr. Justice Piddington's reasoned letter of resignation in protest against Sir Philip

Game's action. "Everything," he writes to Sir Philip, "I have revered and served in British rule in this State seems to me to be overthrown." ("N. A.," July 21, 1932.)

An inspection of these dates will show that they are consistent with the hypothesis that the events recorded were all parts of a predetermined policy on the part of the international money-trust to rig up a "buck-passing" scheme to block "fiat-money" legislation in the Commonwealth generally, and particularly in New South Wales where the impulse towards it was first manifested. As we reconstruct the story the game from the first was to modify the Commonwealth Constitution in such wise as to render unconstitutional fiat-money legislation by any State. This theory is supported by the fact that the Governor-General selected, Sir Isaac Isaacs, is a constitutional lawyer, and had played a large part in framing the original Constitution of the Commonwealth. There could be no better selection of a person to serve as the Grand Master of the Ancient Order of "Buck-holders." For, in view of his high legal reputation any new legislation at Canberra, however unprecedented, to which he gave assent, would be taken as embodying a clarification of the meaning and scope of the original Constitution, and not as embodying a camouflaged alteration and exploitation of it for anti-public ends. Thus, in due course, the ready and innocent general acceptance of the "Bankers' Contracts Enforcement Act"—a title which describes the true character of the legislation formally designated the Financial Agreements Enforcement Act.

Next as to Sir Philip Game, here was a most appropriate choice of a person to undertake the dual functions of political and military coercion thus rendered colourably constitutional in New South Wales by the "Isaacs" interpretation of the Constitution outside. As mentioned before, Sir Philip Game had been in South Africa when Mr. Montagu Norman was there (both officers fighting in the Boer War) and latterly in India while Lord Reading (another Isaacs, remember) was Viceroy. Of course he may have renewed these contacts since: but excluding that probability it is not difficult to imagine the mentality of a Governor of a State who had

crammed his financial and legal philosophies under the tutelage of these celebrities. He would be certain to fall for the financial ramp of Norman's friend Niemeyer, and for the legislative instrumentation of it carried out by Lord Reading's namesake, Isaac Isaacs. He would be able, with an easy conscience, to veto "unsound legislation" over the heads of the people as Governor of the State, and even to drop bombs on their heads as Vice-Marshal of the Air Force if they proved sufficiently refractory. To use Mr. Benjamin Anderson's phrase, he would, like the U.S. Senate, "rise magnificently to the emergency"—a phrase which in itself artfully obscures the fact that in all these buck-passing ramps the "rising" to the emergency takes place long before the emergency occurs.

The pyramidal structure of the Commonwealth Constitution in terms of its administrative personnel is revealed as follows (and what is revealed is an equally true picture of any other Constitution in the world). At the apex is a person (or group) who may be regarded as Trustee for the World Banking Combine. His identity is of no importance, since, whoever he may be, he imposes on all "below" one and the same code of constitutional law, whose character and consequences have been identified and explained by Major Douglas. In brief, that code confines freedom of political action on all planes within a region bounded by the prerogatives and policy of the money monopoly. Trespassing beyond the boundary at any point is held out to be "opposing the Will of God" or "flouting the laws of Nature" and is thus regarded alike by religious and secular types of mind as something which is either a sin, or, if not, an automatically self-defeating action. Thus, to borrow an analogy from warfare, it is as if an island were blockaded by submerged submarines without the inhabitants being aware of the fact, or even aware of the possibility of such a blockade. In such a case they would find out by experiment that when they sought to send goods out across the sea, or fetch them in across the sea, their ships invariably disappeared. They would necessarily be driven to two alternative hypotheses to account for the phenomenon, the one that overseas voyages were impious and that the loss of the ships was a divine punishment, and the other that it was a natural property of the sea to engulf shipping. Even without prompting they would be obliged, by the limitation of their knowledge, to adopt one or other hypothesis. How much more, then, would they do so if someone on the island whom they were induced to regard as the repository of divine and natural mysteries declared that both hypotheses were right, and publicly warned them that overseas voyages were physically suicidal because they were morally reprehensible.

Well; in the case of the Australian Commonwealth such a person is represented in the figure of Sir Otto Niemeyer. He emerges from the clouds which encompass the summit of the mountain, like Moses on Mount Sinai, and exhibits a tablet of stone on which are engraved the mysteries of what is divine or profane, wise or unwise, possible or impossible, mysteries which he allows it to be believed are to be clearly discerned on the invisible summit to which he, by the grace of God and Circumstance, is allowed the awesome privilege of access.

This analogy needs amplification in the following respect, namely that the structure of the governmental system is not accurately represented by the picture of a single mountain sticking up out of a surrounding plain. It is better pictured as a range or group of mountains in which the highest is surrounded by others in a succession outwards of concentric rings of progressively lower altitudes until the final gentle slopes down into the plain. The reason is because in the case of such a formation the outermost ring of peaks masks all the interior higher

peaks from the sight of the dwellers in the plains round the foot of the range. It is only those who scale one of the outer peaks who become aware of the existence of the peaks next higher—and even then, they see only *those* peaks, not others behind them. To see more they have to climb higher. Thus, to illustrate, some little Henry Dubb with Parliamentary ambitions manages to climb the first low eminence of local political leadership. Arrived there he discovers that he has to make another ascent—the hill of the Party Caucus. That done, he faces the mountain of the General Election. It is a bit stiff; so he is provided with "caucus" guides and ropes. He struggles up, and attains to the peak of Parliamentary membership. "Now I've arrived" thinks he. But when he takes in the scene he finds a craggy climb in front of him called Parliamentary Procedure. It is precipitous and slippery; so he considers the advisability of lightening his impedimenta. But this is a bit awkward, for the impedimenta consist of bundles of election-promises which he had agreed to carry up to the top on condition of being fitted out for the ascent by his admirers. However, he is saved the embarrassment of choosing, for he finds himself among experienced guides belonging to the Order of Parliamentary Officialdom who are permanently stationed at that point to advise and assist political climbers; and they assure him that they cannot possibly get him further up unless he leaves behind at least one or two of those encumbering bundles. He consults other climbers, all of whom are similarly placed, and finds to his relief that they are quite ready to drop bundles if he will. They are the more easily able to do so because they discover that between the lot of them they have brought along a quantity of mutually contradictory mandates. So they deposit these in the guides' hostel—the guides assuring them that after all the bundles can be brought up afterwards by professional mountaineers when called for. Well, after many adventures, our friend Dubb scales the peak of Office, and is invested with the honour of a Departmental Secretaryship. Now, at last the ascent is finished, thinks he. But, bless his heart, it has just begun. He is at the foot of the mountain of Permanent Departmental Officialdom. As before, a new group of guides surround and advise him—and other few bundles of promises are left to be called for—and so he proceeds on the next stage towards his objective. But only to face higher guides; and in succession, he has to obey the Civil Service guides; and then the Treasury guides; and then—for now he has got as far up as a mortal politician can without means of artificial respiration—the Central-Bank guides, with whom he leaves his last remaining packet of promises in exchange for a whiff of oxygen to carry him up over the edge of the highest mountain. He is now on a high spur of the highest mountain—and that is as far as he may get. Above him is the cloud-encompassed pinnacle where dwell the super-human stewards of wisdom and omnipotent arbiters of good and evil.

And, as with the political, so with the legal, religious or journalistic Pilgrim's Progress. Each according to his ambition, energy and unscrupulousness attains his respective altitude, ruling all below him and being ruled by all above him. From the sight of the plain-dwellers of New South Wales, so to picture the public in that State, Mount Lang masked the existence of Mount Game, Mount Game the existence of Mount Isaacs, Mount Isaacs the existence of Mount Niemeyer, and Mount Niemeyer the sky-piercing peak of International Finance. Their nearness to the range blinded them to its form. But the Social-Credit message has, so to speak, moved the people to scatter out into the plain where they can now discern peaks of power which were formerly invisible to them. They are being disenchanted by the *distance* of Douglas. And though

they cannot see all, they can conclude from what they do see that there is more yet to see; and can deduce from the visible the pattern of the invisible. They can see the peak of the Isaacs Governor-Generalship overtopping the peaks of the State-Governorships, and these peaks overtopping that of the Commonwealth Government, which in turn overtops those of the State Governments. Later, and by extension, they will see the British Monarchy as a peak of Governor-Generalship of the Empire commanded by a higher peak of British Central-Bank finance, which in turn is commanded by the peak of International Finance. And then they will realise the truth that the franchise system of fitting out political climbers to get them what they want is a played-out game.

This Parable of Progress is true of Britain and particularly applicable to the rise of the Labour Party to office after the war. When the climbing candidates had scaled the first hill of Parliamentary Membership they were met at the top by a band of Astorian Society Guides and taken into the Banqueting Hostel to eat, drink, and be sorry for the burdens of the "pore" who, out of their poverty, had supplied them with equipment for their adventure. Fair ladies and fine gentlemen are all ears to hear of the woes of the "pooah" from the leaders of the "pore"—would the guests kindly spill the story of what the "pooah" suffered, and how they themselves aspired to remove the sufferings of the "pooah." Would the Labour Members talk? Good Lord, would they not! "The moving Members talked, and having talked, talked on. And, as the evening passes, the fair ladies and fine gentlemen, having exhausted their stock of perfunctory expressions of understanding and sympathy, tactfully lead their guests to talk of themselves. Would they tell of their own humble origins and early struggles? Would they . . . ? Oh, Boy!—would they not! The Labour Brigade charge their glasses and spur the steeds of their eloquence. "My! Ain't that fine," exclaim the gentlemen. "That these are some boys," declare the gentlemen.

"And you say that your wife helped you?" whispers a grand lady to one of the Climbers, "and you owe her a debt of gratitude? I should like to reply your wife." "She would be most honoured," replies the Climber. "Say, cut that out," says her ladyship, "I was not born great, I achieved it, as your Shakespeare says; and so can she." Elsewhere another Climber is describing his "umble origin, and the ladies almost guiltily suck their asparagus as he tells how he and his family often had to sustain themselves for a day on a twopenny packet of crisps. Thus on to the port and liqueurs, when the discussion naturally turns on the practical question of how the noble hosts could best help their proletarian guests up the new ascent the next morning. "I think you, Mr. Snodgrass, will be able to tackle the Dominions Peak." "You think so?" asks the gratified Snodgrass. "I sure do, boy," he is reassured. "And you, sir, seem cut out to scale the Exchequer Peak," says another to Mr. Winkle and so on until time to retire.

And then comes morning when the Climbers and their Guides commence the new day's labours. The latter look less bulky about their persons in spite of the overnight feast. The reason is to be seen in the cloak-room, where are to be observed sundry parcels of election promises which are left to be forwarded up by funicular railway—when there is one!

Later on they arrive at a higher base-camp, where the Guides of Society hand them into the charge of the Guides of Finance. Here a further slimming of parcels takes place. There is a dinner in the Mansion-house Hostel during which Mr. Winkle, on behalf of self and friends, declaims the impressive lines:

Lead, kindly Guides, up through that pass so sinister,

Lead Ye me on;  
My feet may slip, so let me be your Minister;  
Lead Ye me on.

This respectful gesture of abnegation so moves the Guides that they murmur reverent responses in all tongues, English, hyphenated-English, broken-English, and non-English. Yes: anything the gentlemen want they can have—Sterling snow-spectacles, Dollar ice-axes, *Mark* medical stores, and what not.

And so the Democratic Pilgrims, shriven of the sin of trafficking with the sordid spirit of the plains, and their ignoble sympathy for the sufferings of the "pore" transmuted into noble admiration for the heroism of the "pooah," proceed on the stepping-stones of their dead selves to better things.

We can now ring the curtain down on the parable. But, as an epilogue in front of the curtain before the band plays the international anthem, we may invite the audience to consider that whereas Dollar Society helped the Labour Party into power, Dollar Finance struck them down in the end; also that while they were in office they presided over the most barefaced, reactionary legislation that has ever stained the annals of British Parliamentary achievement.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse, say the judges; although it may justly be pleaded sometimes for mitigation of penalties. But even this plea is least open to the Labour Party of all the parties; for they held themselves out to be Doctors and Defiers of the Laws and Technique of Reaction. This was their special branch of research; and it was upon this that they based the rationale of their Parliamentary aspirations. If they had come into power immediately the War was over they might have pleaded the preoccupations of Office as an excuse for overlooking the new discovery in their own field of research which became known in 1919. But when Major Douglas's *Economic Democracy* was published, five years were still to elapse before Mr. Ramsay MacDonald formed his first Administration; three years were to elapse after the Labour Party set up its Committee to investigate the Douglas Analysis; nearly two years after Major Douglas's correspondence with Mr. Lloyd George on the American Debt; and nine months after Major Douglas's evidence and examination before the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce of the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa. It may be useful to point out, by the way, that the invitation to Major Douglas to attend at Ottawa was extended some considerable time after the Labour Party's Committee had published its Report condemning his theories as unsound. During those five years while Labour had leisure to learn its job there was a steady increase in the number and variety of books and pamphlets published by Major Douglas and his followers, accompanied by other signs of the existence and extent of his following. In spite of all, Labour ignored or rejected this guidance, and the result was that when Labour took office it did so—on the kindest interpretation—with a blind spot.

This was doubly unfortunate. For there are two aspects of Major Douglas's discovery: the one (which has received the most emphasis) posing the technical flaw in the economic system, and the other posing the political snags in the lines of the first, ing it. The second is between the lines of the first, but is no less clear for that. It is a warning that knowledge of what should be done must be accompanied by a realisation of the methods by which the doing of it can be blocked or side-tracked. We are strongly inclined to the view that the time has come to place chief emphasis on this latter consideration. In any case, its importance in the mind of Major Douglas is sufficiently proved by the fact that it was one of the chief reasons for his declining to appear before the Committee set up by the Labour Party in 1921. He challenged the composition of that Committee, drawing the retort from Mr. Arthur Hender-

son that "the Executive Committee of the Labour Party claims the right to carry on its work in its own way." (Letter, June 3, 1921.) An illustration of what "its own way" meant was afterwards afforded in the first paragraph of the Report, where the statement appeared: "The Committee also had the advantage of the active co-operation of an experienced bank official." Major Douglas had objected that most of the proposed members had no experience "either of the concrete problems of business management or of the operations of practical finance." Now it must be remembered that, by the very fact that he was contemplating giving evidence in any circumstances at all, he was allowing for the possibility that the Labour Party might accomplish something along Social Credit lines through Parliamentary action, or at least coincidentally with their campaigning for, and perhaps achieving, a Parliamentary majority. To borrow from our parable, it is as if he said to himself: "It is possible that these fellows, despite the look of them, may have the spirit and craft of mountaineering bred in their bones; and it might be that the instinct for adventure and achievement will steel them against the temptation to accept the advice and help of false guides during their ascent." Well, if he thought so he thought wrong. This precious body of theoretical mountaineers did not even wait until the guides intercepted them at their first base-camp: they became thick as thieves with them down on the plain before commencing the ascent. They had the "advantage of the active co-operation of an experienced" mountain official. "What?" says he: "scale the peak of Mount Kamet whence the holy waters of the Ganges spring? I fear nothing good can come of it, but in any case you'll have to travel light. You cannot carry the petitions of all the plain-dwellers; but only of some. You cannot burden yourselves with promises to the serfs and to their masters: they cannot both be fulfilled; and if they could what would become of the virtue of sacrifice on which the civilisation of the plain depends?"

Accordingly, in the Labour Party's Report, Major Douglas's "scheme" is reprobated on the ground that it does not expropriate the private capitalist, and that it allows a master to dismiss men when he can't make a profit. And that was the beginning of their rise to office and the cause of their fall from it. They came; they saw; they faltered—and the bankers did the conquering. Listen to this legend in the light of the conditions of to-day:

"Nor does the scheme provide for any participation, by the workers engaged in each establishment, in the management or direction of its enterprise or working."  
Come on, you workers! Which enterprise will you take? The railways?—coal mines?—cotton mills? The capitalist has gone, and you can jump in and run any service you like—including the debt-service on its overdrafts. Just speak to the experienced bank official in charge. He's no snob. You needn't be ashamed of your clothes or your manners. He's only too pleased to do business with anybody who can earn him some interest. Never were there such bargains to be picked up, and never such opportunities for enterprise. Three million potential whole-time directors are available for the management—

And everything the banker leaves  
Becomes these new directors' fees.  
It is true that divisible surpluses are not what one would expect of an industrial system which had shifted three million wage-drawers off its pay-roll; but always remember, you workers, that money "fructifies," and trust in the alchemy of collectivism to produce the fruit. Come on, then! Poor Mary sits weeping. Why? Because you won't stand up and choose your lover. Here's the Great Western Railway waiting to be kissed and cuddled.

Kiss it once; kiss it twice—and raise its revenue three times over. Of course, you have to marry it, for there'll be first a girl and then a boy—but no doubt the United Dominions Trust would help you to buy the licence on instalment terms.

That's enough about the Labour Party. Like the other two parties, it has served the bankers' turn and is now dead. They first enfranchised merchants in the name of Liberalism to get rid of landlords, then the trade-unionists in the name of Socialism to get rid of capitalists, and lastly everybody indiscriminately in the name of Non-Party Nationalism to get rid of trade unions. There is nothing left for these parties, as separate parties, to do for their respective constituents. None can win anything from the other—for all possible tangible fruits of victory are in the custody of the Money Monopoly. Nor can these parties, as parties, even in combination, do anything against the Money Monopoly so long as they retain the design of their organisational structure and the character of their methods. And, under similar conditions, neither can other institutions whether representative of the Press, the Law, the Church, the Arts or Sciences. The only effective force must be a political aristocracy composed of those rare types which are greater than the institutions with which they have previously been identified—men and women who realise that the institution persists, and not be changed while the institution persists, and that even supposing it could be changed it could not communicate its energy through the existing institutional mechanism. This is even true of the rest are Monarchical institution, of which the rest are satellites. All, without exception, are wired to the voltage of bankers' precepts and practices.

Here are two companion passages, both institutional pronouncements, one from the Monarchy and the other from the Church. The first is from the King's New-Year message to the City of London (*The Times*, January 2). The second is from a report of the Bishop of Ely's address to a congregation of City magnates in St. Michael's, Cornhill, on January 19 (*Daily Express*, January 20).

"I know that the City of London will, as ever, stand four-square to all the buffeting that the winds of circumstances may bring, and therefore I hope fully send my greetings to her citizens, praying that under divine providence the coming year may lighten our task."

"The bishop added that at such a time of serious anxiety as the present he had every faith in the indomitable spirit of the City of London. There would be no surrender and no failure on the part of the City."

What a King "knows" a loyal Bishop must necessarily have "every faith" in. It is an institutional convention that the Church should re-echo the sentiments of the Monarchy. It would be a breach of the convention for the Bishop to inquire into the sources of the King's knowledge, for the institution requires him to assume the office of defender of the Faith so defended might be that of the bankers in the Divine approval of their power-lust. Likewise with every dignitary of every institution. The more eminent his position the more rigidly circumscribed his personal initiative and discretion as to action and speech.

This ought constantly to be borne in mind by advocates of the Douglas Proposals when they are challenged to cite the names of eminent authorities who have expressed approval of them. Their very eminence invalidates their testimony, whether positive or negative, vocal or tacit. Their judgments must be shaped conformably with the policy of the institution to which they belong, and therefore their attitude reflects the opinion of those in control of that institution. The ultimate control of all British institutions lies in Threadneedle Street; and

for an enquirer to ask if any institutional authorities approve of the Douglas Proposals is virtually to ask if Mr. Montagu Norman approves. And here again, if there appeared to be evidence of his attitude, it would be worthless. He is an institutional functionary; and he cannot, as a private individual, endorse as technically sound any means of reaching an objective which the institution requires him to combat as morally reprehensible. Not only has he to guard his own tongue, but to keep every other traditionally authoritative tongue subject to the same rule of reticence. The delicacy of his job is manifest in the fact that he has been obliged to grant dispensations to Bishops to commit breaches in that tradition of aloofness from politics which has so conspicuously animated the Church in the past. The most flagrant example was that of the Archbishop of Melbourne, who ignored the ethical question of the social import of the attainment of the Social Credit objective—one which properly came within his province—and spent himself in a violent denunciation couched in terms of financial jargonese against a technical experiment which, sound or not, was not subject to standards of moral judgment. It will be remembered that when the late Archbishop of Canterbury made ever so tentative a suggestion to the Government affecting financial policy he was rudely told to mind his own business. That meant that so long as he was an institutional authority he had no right to express his personal convictions on financial matters. To play his part as a British citizen he would have had to resign his position. For all we know he might have done so had he lived, and might have been the prophet of the new political aristocracy to which we have made conceptual allusion.

The moral of our survey throughout the foregoing Notes is that for Social Credit propagandists it is not enough to disprove the axioms of the financial system, much less to keep on talking about the anomalies and hardships proceeding from it. What is needed in addition is to fix personal responsibility on the human institutional agents who function as transmitters of false financial doctrines and administrators of the repressive policy based on them. Discredit an "ism" as much as you like; but to destroy it you must also denounce an "ist." Particularly is this necessary if you are undertaking public propaganda of a popular character. The tone and intensity of the denunciation are matters affecting the propagandist's temperament and discretion considered in relation to the character of the audience; but the element of denunciation should be present; and if the human object of the denunciation lives or works in the same locality as the audience, so much the better. The personal integrity of such a man is irrelevant—or, if relevant, is so in the sense that the nobler his brow the more deadly the effect of his official blessing and approval of damned errors. The juridical principle that the corollary that when he breaks the law he does so consciously. And so the juridical principle of Social-Credit law involves the *presumption of conscious complicity* against every institutional agent who furthers the policy of the Money Monopoly. Innocence is no excuse. In fact, from a practical point of view, it would, in some ways, be better if all institutional authorities were criminals, for that at least would leave open the possibility of their double-crossing their masters.

Lord Hewart did good work when he discredited the "New Despotism"; but he would have done better work if he had named a "New Despot." We did our best to repair the omission.

Perhaps the clearest analogy to what we mean is to be derived from the Anglo-Australian controversy on bowling methods. Institutional authorities are so many batsmen sent in to keep up the wicket of

the Credit Monopoly against the attack of the Social Credit bowlers. They do so by masking the wicket with their bodies instead of protecting it with their bats, whenever a polite and conventional ball looks dangerous. That is to say they do not meet the reasoning of the bowling with the counter-reasoning of the bat, but with the non-reasoning weight of Authority. Very well; then they can't complain if the bowlers aim deliveries at their bodies to pierce their unconstitutional defence.

## The Green Shirts.

The Green Shirts pursued their policy of backing mass demonstrations by joining in the main march of the workers and unemployed to Hyde Park on Sunday, February 5. It was, of course, recognised beforehand that this particular demonstration did not originate in a true desire of the people to demonstrate against economic oppression, but in an inspired conception of getting together and passing resolutions condemning the attitude of those at present holding the Governmental offices, so recently vacated by the leaders and speakers present.

The detachment marched from Headquarters to the Embankment where the officer in charge explained to the Inspector of Police that the Green Shirts proposed to join in the demonstration. It was indicated that they should follow the South London contingent then approaching from Blackfriars Bridge. This was done, and it was assumed that the whole of the East London contingent would follow. As the latter proceeded along the riverside, the Green Shirts were the very last group in the demonstration. They marched, headed by drummers, and in addition to the flag carried the banner used on all such occasions. This reads, in bold white letters on a green background:

THE GREEN SHIRT MOVEMENT.  
ABOLISH THE MEANS TEST AND ISSUE THE  
NATIONAL DIVIDEND TO ALL.

And on the reverse, under the same heading,  
NOT LESS FOR SOME BUT MORE FOR ALL.

At the Park, a half-hour meeting was held, two speakers addressing the crowd from the portable rostrum and answering questions.

Leaving the Park at 6 p.m. the Green Shirts marched back to Headquarters and on dismissal re-assembled "off parade" for tea and glee.

The following is an extract from Monday's *Daily Telegraph*:—

"ENTER THE GREEN SHIRTS.  
"A new uniform and a new party made its first appearance in the procession—the Green Shirts—a company of young men looking very smart and moving with military precision. They explained their presence as representing the 'Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit,' whatever that may mean, and their purpose to work by unarmed military technique and peaceful mass demonstration for their goal, whatever that may be. This surprise feature was certainly the smartest in the big parade."  
It is only necessary to add that a letter was sent to the Editor on Monday night explaining both the movement and the goal.  
I. A. R.

## "FRONT LINE."

Readers of the *NEW AGE* are hereby notified that sets Nos. 2-8 of the Journal, *Front Line*, are obtainable from The Publishers, *Front Line*, Kibbo Kift, 35, Old Jewry, E.C.2, at 1s. 3d. the set.

## Notice.

All communications requiring the Editor's attention should be addressed directly to him as follows:

Mr. Arthur Brenton,  
20, Rectory Road,  
Barnes, S.W.13.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Blakey Moor. At the Technical College, Thursday, February 16, at 7.30 p.m., lecture on "Real Wealth and Financial Poverty," by Mr. Reginald Kenney.

At the Village Hall, Fernhurst, Haslemere, "The Great Slump." An illustrated public lecture, Thursday, February 23, 7.30 p.m. At the Court Room, Godalming, Friday, February 24, 7.30 p.m. (for Godalming Co-operative Educational Department). Lecturer, Philip T. Kenway—a "Green Shirt."





artists must gain experience. Admitted. Young artists—yes. But in not one case out of a hundred is that word remotely justified. What we hear are neither artists actual nor potential, but merely average raw students, the place for whom is students' concerts at which none but friends and relations are present, and to which none but friends and relations would go, and which none but friends and relations would or could pretend to enjoy. The pernicious and unfortunate conventions of 'polite' criticism prevalent in England prevent these people from ever hearing the truth about themselves—'good manners' being in this strange land considered of more importance than the well-being of music, a state of affairs which brings it about that we are deluged with nonentities whose impudence is equalled only by their incompetence."

Closely connected with the question of professional criticism is the position of the public concert and its palpable decline in popularity.

Sorabji suggests, and as a constant concert-goer I entirely agree with him, that the only way in which to entice the ever-increasingly reluctant public to enter our dreary concert halls is to cut down the number of concerts by at least seventy-five per cent. and enormously improve what are left, both in interest of works and quality of performance.

He also draws attention to the fact that the enthusiastic concert-goer is generally of restricted means, and that to expect him to pay to hear anything but the first-rate (of which there are but one or two concerts per week) is unreasonable; hence the absurdity of railing against the dead-head who is merely providing an audience that the recitalist cannot obtain by any other means short of bribery.

"The only thing to take exception to in these cases is the way in which the papering is so often done. No observant and seasoned concert-goer needs to have his attention directed to the extraordinary people who can be seen stealing with an air of slinking self-consciousness to seats for which they obviously have not paid, and would not if they could—possibly quite wisely—people who under ordinary circumstances never go inside a concert hall, are totally unfamiliar with their surroundings, and have an air of wonder and dread (with which one sympathises) as to what is going to happen to them next. But when musicians and writers of standing on musical matters ask for the recognised professional privilege of Press tickets for concerts, which everyone knows cannot possibly attract a paying audience, and receive, as has happened to the present writer, an absurd printed slip informing them that 'owing to the great demand for tickets we much regret being unable to accede to your request,' and when, doubting the silly subterfuge, they have had the curiosity to buy a ticket and see for themselves a half-empty hall with an audience mostly consisting of what may be called the dummy dead-head type, one cannot but marvel as to what processes take place in the inner reaches of the brains of both concert agents and concert-givers."

Sorabji's strictures on women instrumentalists are, on the whole, amply justified.

It is perfectly true that the majority of female performers are vastly inferior to men, and it is nonsense for their protagonists to claim (in the case of orchestral instrumentalists) lack of rehearsal as an excuse, for this equally affects all orchestras, and, as Sorabji observes, "... it is notorious that the worst orchestra to be heard to-day is one composed exclusively of women." He stresses the important fact that playing an instrument is, to a large extent, dependent upon physical stamina, "... and without a bodily development of considerable strength and vigorous powers of endurance it is not possible to become a first-class player." "Most of our women players have physiques that can only be described as miserable—narrow-chested, shallow bodies, bad carriage, emaciated arms, undeveloped muscles, feeble tissues; they look like the poor, mean, thin, pinched anaemic sounds they produce from their instruments—pale, wan changelings of tone."

Also of great importance is Sorabji's devastating exposure of practices that are all too common on the concert platform.

"To hear Bach, for instance, with 'feminine charm' smeared all over him by some of our young lady pianists is an indescribably nauseating experience. Moreover, women performers are quite shameless and unscrupulous in the way in which they so constantly trail the sexual herring across the path of the public's better judgment. The smirks, the mops, the mows, the frank appeal to the basely sentimental side of the public's nature, which can never resist the 'charming girl' business, are simply so many devices to distract attention from musical shortcomings. The one or two really great women instrumentalists naturally have no need nor use for contemptible tricks of this kind—women like Suggia or Kwast-Hodapp

... (to which Sorabji might well have added Myra Hess). "Female practitioners of the baser sort in music" are also dealt knock-out blows in a super-Lawrencian dissertation on "Music and Sex," wherein he explains that "Those corybantic, maenadic, terpsichorean, Bacchic, acrobatic sinuosities of certain young ladies at the piano—the carefully practised girlish timidities that greet some shapeless piece of jelly that it is an abuse of language to call a composition have one object in view—an appeal to what politeness call the hearts of the audience, and truth something considerably less delicate."

But it may be urged of Sorabji, as it is of Shaw, all this is merely destructive criticism.

Precisely. It is; but before one can construct it is necessary to demolish the rotten, moth-eaten, existing structure, and I have quoted the above examples of Sorabji's disapprobation in order to show that there is, at any rate, one musician and critic in England who is entirely free from superstitions, false sentiment, and current cant, and who, moreover, is completely dissociated from the cliques, Press gangs, official societies, and other interested institutions whose business it is to bolster up bad cases or to preserve the status quo.

On the so-called constructive side, Sorabji displays far more discerning enthusiasm than any other musical critic, with the honourable exception of Ernest Newman.

His benediction is not easily won, but when it is there could be no more able or powerful advocate, as can readily be seen from his fiery championship of Alkan (Morhange), Busoni, Mahler, Medtner, and Reger.

The chapters on these composers are amongst the most readable in the book, and from Sorabji's absorbing account Charles Henri Victor Morhange, who wrote under the pseudonym of Alkan, appears as a most fascinating figure, a superb keyboard writer who, "... a contemporary of List, who greatly admired him, his pianistic technique and keyboard style developed completely independently of that master, and in its own very original and peculiar way reached equally great heights."

This is enough to whet the appetite, but when we are told that he has spiritually a great deal in common with Berlioz—"There is the same volcanic force, the same untastic, towering and macabre imagination, the same conventional and prodigious daring of method, the same complete disregard for what we may call the conversational amiabilities of music..." anticipation runs riot, and one can only fervently hope that some enterprising recitalist (if this is not a contradiction in terms) will give us an Alkan recital as soon as possible.

Like tends to attract like on all planes, and it is clear that Sorabji is drawn towards those composers who, like himself, work on a large canvas, and make extremely heavy musical and technical demands.

Busoni, Mahler, Medtner, and Reger, whom he exalts, are typical examples, and although their outlooks are utterly dissimilar, their one obvious point of contact is their capacity for elaboration, fondness of notes, and moto perpetuo. To this extent, therefore, Sorabji's estimate may perhaps be discounted on an objective basis, but when a writer of his triple authority (Sorabji is also a first-class pianist) states that these men are masters of the first order, it may be taken for granted that this is not mere rhetoric, and that it behoves all thinking musicians to make a serious study of them.

Busoni, as might be expected, is accorded very extended treatment, both as composer, executant, and litterateur.

As a pianist, Busoni was, of course, a giant amongst giants, and as a transcriber he was ideal, his magnificent Bach adaptations and editions being now almost classic. But as a composer very little is known of him in England. His opera, "Doktor Faust," is a masterpiece, if we are to believe Sorabji, and he has also written a number of important orchestral works, while of his piano compositions one feels that the only authoritative exponent must be Egon Petri, Busoni's great pupil, to whom we should be greatly indebted if he were to give us some of the smaller pieces besides the monumental "Fantasia Contrappuntistica."

In the case of Mahler there has been a mild boom during the past few years, when we have been given sporadic performances of a few symphonies and of "Das Lied von der Erde," but they have been "either wholly or in part, so indifferent or positively bad as to amount to a mere caricature, and they have done probably a great deal more harm than good to the cause of Mahler's music in England. It is doubtful, however, even on the strength of what one has heard, whether Mahler will ever become popular and racial barriers that prevent the appreciation of Elgar and Debussy in Paris.

He is beyond question recognised as a composer of the front rank in Germany, Austria, and Holland, and it is a

thousand pities that the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra do not give us some of his symphonies instead of the eternal Beethoven-Brahms re-shuffle that is becoming so tedious to some of us, for it is certain that Mahler will make no headway until he is presented to us by someone thoroughly attuned to his unique personality.

This chapter, incidentally, is probably the best sustained piece of writing in the whole book.

Reger is in a somewhat similar position, but to a microscopic minority he is recognised here as a master, at any rate for the organ, and thanks to the admirable broadcasting and other work of Mr. C. H. Trevor and a few others, he is steadily gaining ground. Medtner differs in that he has given recitals in London to crowded audiences, so that he can hardly be described as unknown, but it is nevertheless true to say that he should be far better known than he is, as his piano works and songs palpably prove that his is a musicianship of the first order, combining an individuality that is at once strikingly original and unforced, and displaying an insight into and appreciation of the higher potentialities of the piano to which Rachmaninoff himself has publicly testified. Other instructive chapters include essays on the modern piano concerto and sonata—in which the Busoni and Reger concertos are naturally selected for special mention—"Towards a new keyboard instrument," describing in detail the Janko keyboard which, it is claimed, enormously facilitates the acquirement of technique; on neglected composers, an ideal opera house, the operatic situation, and some particularly pungent pronouncements on the singing and playing of Bach.

The general literary style of the book will offend some as it will delight others: Sorabji's method of adjectival crescendo is certainly not everyone's fare, and to some degree his meaning is obscured by excessively protracted parentheses, but I, for one, find his vitality, outspokenness, and absolute surety of aim immensely stimulating and satisfying, and I unreservedly commend the work both to musician and layman as a revelation of one of the most interesting minds of our time.

It should be added that the value of the book is increased by a sympathetic and penetrating preface by Mr. A. R. Orage, whose association therewith is a guarantee, at all events to New AGE readers, of its general excellence.

CLINTON GRAY-FISK.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### THE NATIONAL CREDIT ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir,—We have received a copy of the Second Annual Report (February, 1933) of the National Credit Association of Great Britain, in which the following sentence appears:—

"We may say that we have now succeeded in gathering practically the whole of the Social Credit Movement in these islands under our wing; our only failures being with the introverted type of person to whom the New Economics are merely a sort of intellectual game, divorced from practical life, and with certain organisations, such as the Kibbo Kift, who feel that their method is more likely than our own to be successful, but whose friendship and respect, and indeed assistance, we retain." One cannot help wondering how the National Credit Association retains that which it never had.

In order that the position of the Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit (Kibbo Kift) in relation to the National Credit Association shall be quite clear, we would point out that:—

1. As regards "friendship" we say nothing, since we have not, at any time, shown ourselves to be either friendly or unfriendly.

2. Much as we might prefer to keep silence, we are now compelled to state that the National Credit Association has never been able to command our respect in the past, and is not able to do so at the present time.

3. We have never given any sort of assistance to the National Credit Association, and have very good reasons for not doing so.

It is not that we "feel" our method "is more likely" to be successful. We know that our method conforms to the canon of effective organisation and that the method of the National Credit Association, so far from being "successful," is bound to confuse the issue and does in fact do so.

This confusion is now worse confounded by a wholly irresponsible attitude towards the problem facing the Social Credit movement; an attitude that reveals a political tight-mindedness condemned by us as dangerous to our cause.

It is only necessary to quote the following statements from the Report to show that this is no exaggeration.

In it we read that an article by Professor Soddy appeared in the Daily Mail (January 7, 1933), in which he mentioned

"the Social Credit movement initiated by Major Douglas." The National Credit Association has "no hesitation in regarding the appearance of this article as an epoch-making event." Professor Soddy, who does not agree with the Douglas Analysis or Proposals, writes an article in which Douglas Social Credit is mentioned by-the-way, and this is hailed as "an epoch-making event"!

The National Credit Association feels "that all that is necessary now is for the supporters of the movement all to work hard and stick loyally together, for the Proposals to find their way to the Statute Book within a short time."

Next we are told that "the most hopeful news of all reaches us from New Zealand," where the leader of sixteen out of eighty members of the New Zealand House of Representatives who have been converted to Douglas Social Credit, "has high hopes of being able to win the next General Election. It follows, therefore, that as soon as this shall have happened, our task is virtually at an end, and 'all is over bar the shouting.'"

In explanation of this astonishing, and indeed ludicrous, pronouncement—"It is important to bear in mind that as soon as one community shall have adopted Social Credit, then the whole world must follow suit almost at once."

"Epoch-making event"—"within a short time"—"all is over bar the shouting"—"almost at once"—these are phrases that can only remind us of Kipling's *Bandar-Log*:—

"Dreaming of deeds that we mean to do,  
All complete in a minute or two . . ."  
—and in other circumstances they might very well be ignored  
JOHN HARGRAVE,  
National Headquarters, the Green Shirt Movement,  
35, Old Jewry, London, E.C.2.

## PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Sir,—In paragraph 3, column 1, page 173, of THE NEW AGE last week there is a slight inaccuracy. Your remarks imply that Northern Ireland had not tried Proportional Representation. The system, however, was in force there in 1919, and I believe was introduced by the abortive Home Rule Act. In any case, Ulster quickly changed to the English system, the reason being, I suggest, that Proportional Representation resulted in the election of an inconveniently large number of Nationalists and Sinn Feiners.  
M. W.

[We were relying upon "A. A. B.'s" article in the 'Evening Standard,' which, on this matter, was a trifle ambiguous. It stated that Ulster had "rejected" Proportional Representation, a statement which could be considered as meaning that Ulster had rejected proposals to adopt it. However, the moral of our comments is not impaired by the misunderstanding.—Ed.]

## GLASGOW DOUGLAS CREDIT ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of this association the following public lecture will be held in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, each meeting commencing at 8 p.m. All interested invited. Questions welcomed.  
Tuesday, February 21.—Subject: "The Next Great War and the Utter Futility of League Action to Avert It."  
Speaker: Wm. Finlay.

## "THE NEW AGE" DINNER.

The next Dinner has been arranged to take place at Frascati's Restaurant on Saturday, March 18, at 6.30 for 7.0 p.m.

This Dinner will antedate by only three months the completion of the tenth year of the present editorship of "The New Age," and will mark the fourteenth year of the identification of this paper's policy with the Proposals of Major Douglas.

Major Douglas will be present as the guest of the evening, and it is hoped that on this occasion everyone who can do so will make a point of attending.

Further arrangements will be announced in due course. In the meantime seats may be reserved (price 10s. 6d.) by application to "The New Age," 70, High Holborn, London, W.C.1 (Telephone: Chancery 8470)

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Comprising:—

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Post free, 1s. the set.

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W.C.1.

## 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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