# THE

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CONTENTS.					
France's demand for actual evacution—compromise plan of "symbolic evacuation." War and the Church—the Primate and Social Credit—obstacles to his formal blessing ("the Way, the Truth and the Life.")	PAGE 153	OBSERVATIONS OF AN ELECTION AGENT V. By T. H. Nicholls			
and Mr. Pierpont Morgan—is there a "Morgan" version of "Social Credit" being prepared?		SOCIAL CREDIT PRESS	159		
The Dean of Canterbury, T. H. Nicholls.	157	THE FILMS. By David Ockham	160		
ND LORE. By V.I.90  Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (December, 1935). Bread-making and wheat food-values.	157		160		

# NOTES OF THE WEEK.

## The European Tangle.

(MARCH 9-12.)

Hitler's "symbolic occupation" of the demilitarised Rhineland zone took place on March 7. At the moment of Writing (March 12) France is demanding Hitler's symbolic evacuation of that zone, failing which she Wants the League to apply sanctions to Germany in the form of an economic blockade. If not, she may feel compelled to leave the League and rely on her soldiers and diplomats to guarantee her security. In the meantime she has Britain's and Belgium's guarantees to join her her as allies if Germany commits an act of war against

Now it is possible to hold two opposite points of view s to the possible to hold two opposite points of view as to the significance of this quickly-moving spectacle. It may be considered as disclosing a general recognition by start be considered as disclosing a general recognition by statesmen that another great war is inevitable and inniin statesmen that another great war is income.

to print to remark the state of Furone.

Evimislead and muddle the peoples of Europe. Evidence in support of the first view is too plentiful to need citation. citation or discussion. But precisely because it is so plentif, or discussion. But precisely because it is so blentiful, because there is so little attempt on the part of responsible statesmen to conceal from their respective beoples the apparently touch-and-go nature of the situation is the apparently touch-and-go nature of this eviation, it is possible to take the whole body of this evidence at its possible to take the whole body of the public the and ask whether it is being obtruded on the public other reasons than to warn them of, and prepare them for, battle. It is an old tradition that the more grave the lessues were, and the more delicate the diplomatic exanges arising therefrom, the less should be said about them to the people. To advertise a crisis was to accentate it the people. hate it. To-day that view seems to have been reversedadvertise it is to resolve it. The new view, to be credible, must depend on the postulate that the socalled opinion of the public is a dynamic factor in a hidden opinion of the public is a dynamic factor in a viously interpreted opinion of the public is a dynamic lactor. It obviously interpreted may be the viously is not. The voice of the people may be the

voice of God, but the minds of the people, like the mills of God, grind exceedingly slowly. To-day, Governments are less responsive to popular feeling than ever before in history, and by this token they have become less dependent on it. For the same reason this opinion is less helpful to them. You cannot impose on the people, year in and year out, an outlook manufactured by experts, and then expect the masses who take that outlook to be able to help the experts when they are stumped. Hitler is a dangerous man, exclaims Sir Austen Chamberlain in the hearing of the public. Well. let's all hold our hands up and cry "agreed, agreed"; what about it? Nothing but applaud what the experts do about it. We might, of course, go and smash the windows of the German Embassy, thus registering our symbolic preoccupation with Hitler's symbolic occupation-but that wouldn't help our experts; in fact, they would tell us it hindered them.

## (MARCH 13.)

The Locarno-Treaty signatories have unanimously found Germany's symbolic occupation of Rhineland to constitute a violation of that Treaty. This judgment has no significance other than that it shows these signatories to be joint-plaintiffs seeking judgment before the Council of the League of Nations. At the moment the Council have not met. Meanwhile Mr. Eden has invited Hitler to "make a contribution" to the amicable solution of the problem, but Hitler has shown an uncompromising attitude, declaring that German soldiers won't yield what they hold-that they are strong enough to resist invasion-and that if Germany fails to get a just settlement by negotiation she will seek the remedy of "honourable isolation." Certain unofficial wiseacres (or humorists) had suggested that perhaps France would be mollified by a symbolic reduction in the number of German troops in the re-militarised zone (variously estimated as 30,000, 90,000 and a few guesses in between). Let Hitler, they said in effect, march a few thousand men back again, thus implementing the idea of symbolic evacuation, and then perhaps

154

France will overlook the remaining unfavourable balance of symbolism and agree to negotiate. But France is furious, and won't tolerate the presence of a single German soldier on the ground consecrated to peace by the Versailles and Locarno Treaties. She, like Germany, threatens to leave the League if she does not get satisfaction. Hitler's case is that France had already violated the Treaties by forming certain alliances of a military character. So the League Council is faced with the problem of trying a case in which both parties appear as aggressors and victims of aggression at one and the same time if their stories are to be

So much for the situation at this moment. While waiting to record developments in the manoeuvring of official political diplomats let us spare a glance at that of unofficial financial super-diplomats. And a glance will suffice, for there is so little to be seen. However that little makes up in its significance more than what it lacks in size. Just as the announcement of Hitler's coup appeared on the front pages of the Press generally there appeared in one newspaper an inconspicuous paragraph relating that Dr. Schacht, the President of the Reichsbank, had attended a meeting of the Bank for International Settlements, where he met his "colleagues." These would, of course, be the Governors or other representatives of the chief European central banks. What they said was not reported (nor could be) but the writer indulged in the speculation (possibly nspired) that Dr. Schacht was pretty thoroughly exmined by his colleagues as to what was behind Hitler's ontemplated coup (for it must be remembered that this meeting took place before Hitler had committed himself to the official announcement of it).

\* One is left to guess whether the Basle bankers liked it, disliked it, or were neutral to it; also whether they had had short or long notice that it was coming off. The only (but perhaps most relevant) evidence lies in the fact that the reactions in the London Money Market and Stock Market were not of a nature suggestive of nervous intervention by the Bank of England. The financial Press remarked at the time that movements in markings were very slight in relation to the apparent extremity of European tensions. This might be explained on the theory that the Bank of England (and the other central banks) had had long notice of the event and were able to make preparations slowly. If so, these preparations could have taken the form of developing plans calculated to delay the event (maybe to prevent it) and to render it innocuous from their point of view if adopted and announced.

We submit these governing propositions:

(1) The Basle banks don't want war.

(2) But given that war can be prevented by any acts within their power (and we know that the act of introducing Social Credit is within their power) it suits their game to keep the peoples of Europe in a state of continuous apprehension of immediate war and therefore a deep absorption in international politics, to the exclusion of domestic politics.

Students of Social Credit know that war between nations is an extension of wars within nations. The cause of quarrels at home is the cause of quarrels abroad. That common cause is the Flaw in the Price System. Now, however difficult it may be for people

at home to identify their internal disputes with this cause, it is infinitely more difficult for them to relate their external disputes with it. And if they fear war, they will not even think of looking at home for any cause at all-particularly a mechanical and undramatic factor as is the cost-income disparity. So if the bankers can keep peoples in a perpetual condition of expecting war to-morrow" their secret will be guarded automatically and perpetually.

## War and the Church.

Nor does our prompting them do any good. 1922 the League of National Awakening was formed by Mr. R. L. Pearson for the precise purpose of conducting ing a crusade among the churches (of all denominations) based on the Social-Credit Analysis of the root causes of war. The League's literature was designed to prove the inevitability of another war if the economic system persisted under the governance and principles of orthodox finance. It was well argued and strikingly presented. Mr. Pearson hoped that leaders of the churches would be persuaded to give a lead to Christian people in general to check the characteristic characteristic characteristics. people in general to take up the study of Social Credit.

The result was The result was negative, and the League closed down, leaving him. leaving himself, and friends who assisted him finan-cially, out of real values of the control o cially, out of pocket by something like £400—a serious sacrifice at that and sacrifice at that early stage in the history of the Movement. There is ment. There is no need to discuss at length why the experiment follows: experiment failed; the fact that it did fail is the point that matters have that matters here. Christian leaders and followers were not interests. were not interested in hearing about any causes of war except those of a more described in the leaders and long the leaders are leaders and long the leaders and long the leaders are leaders are leaders and long the leaders are leaders and long the leaders are leaders are leaders and long the leaders are leaders are leaders are leaders are leaders are leaders and long the leaders are l except those of a moral order. Presumably, despite the slump in trade the slump in trade, the prospects of renewed economic rivalry and resultant rivalry and resultant war seemed too remote in time for the ordinary citizen. the ordinary citizen to get busy about averting the catastrophe. Needless to trophe. Needless to say this attitude of feeling suited the interests of the M the interests of the Money Power who desired everyone to believe that the to believe that the way to a prosperous peace was fundamentally a matter of mentally a matter of turning "bad" people into "good" people. This was the prime function of the Church—as Mr. Radding the late Church—as Mr. Baldwin implicitly reminded the late Archbishop of Cantal Archbishop of Canterbury in 1926 when the General ventured to submit ventured to submit a scheme for resolving the General Strike involving what Strike involving what might be called a "symbolic renewal" of the mineral newal " of the miners' wage-subsidy, the withdrawal of which had precipitated the trouble. " Mind your own business" wage-subsidy. which had precipitated the trouble. "Mind your or business" was Baldwin's reply to the official repository of the Christian of the Christian was been and the control of the Christian was been and the control of the Christian was been and the control of the cont of the Christian conscience: "Stick to your job and convert the miners." convert the miners and trade-unionists generally and impatient turbulence. impatient turbulence to peaceful submissiveness.

the Money Power cried: Amen. Not long afterwards,
when the late Amen. when the late Archbishop died, it will be remembered that part of the ritual that part of the ritual of induction cementing the sumption of office by sumption of office by the present Primate was Mr. Pierpont Morgan of the Mediterranean as guest of Mr. Pierpont Morgan on board the "Corsair.

Some years afterwards we learned that the Church a discussion with in a discussion with a delegation of prominent Church men who were symmetric delegation of prominent Credit objection. men who were sympathetic to the Social Credit objective, and were persuadicular to the Social Credit objective, and the Social Credi tive, and were persuading him to give it his blessing (thus carrying on the (thus carrying on the good work that the League of National Awakening had to abandon) he was inclined to agree that this chiral to agree that this chiral to a series to the companies that the chiral to agree that this objective was morally compatible with Christian ideology but had to abandon the ground with Christian ideology, but held back on the ground that he was not convice. that he was not convinced that it could be reached by the technical methods the technical methods embodied in the Social Credit Proposals. "I would also be the social of the so Proposals. "I would gladly bless them if I could be

certain that they would work," was the substance of the impression that his words left on the deputation. We vividly remember the occasion of our learning this, because it was communicated to us by someone associated with the deputation to enforce a reproach against us for having published comments (on some matter or other) calculated to prejudice the Primate against Social Credit and to hamper the work of those who were trying to win him over.

March 19, 1936

## Blinkers on Investigation.

This means of enforcement was not completely convincing to us, because we suspected (as we still do) that persons of high official status—whether in the Church or any other organised hierarchy of influence on the public mind do not trust themselves to an independent examination of the evidence relating to the feasibility of the Social Credit Proposals, and, if they look into the matter at all, seek advice from their opposite numbers in the orthodox financial field of function en how to assess the cogency and relevance of the evidence. Inevitably they bring to the task minds governed by the axiomatic premises on which their advisers tell them the present system is founded and with which any modification in the system should be consistent if the safety of the State is not to be jeopardised. They place themselves in the position of a jury listening to the direction of a judge before retiring to consider their verdict. In the courts of law the function of the judge is to say what evidence is rel is relevant, and the function of the jury to say to what extent the admitted evidence is cogent. But in such a case as an inquiry into a matter of the nature of Social Credit, it is an arguable question whether the above allocation of function would not need to be reversed not to speak of the question whether the "jury' should not assume both. We will not elaborate this now. now: We mention it here to indicate the factors which fetter we mention it here to indicate the factors wrongly fetter the initiative of juries (we do not say wrongly so) in so) in courts of law. Then again, in complicated cases, juries juries are directed to consider, not a general verdict, but a series of answers, "yes" or "no," to a series of specific specific questions. Very often, after doing so, they do not by has know what their general verdict is—which way it has gone until the judge, barristers, and others have discussed "points of law" and elucidated the meaning of the of the yes-no complex of opinions for the purpose of arriving. So now, we arriving at a correct basis of judgment. So now, we hope, we have made clear the subtlety and potency of the disturbing influences which can supervene on any inquiry into the technical feasibility of the Social Credit toposals so long as the inquirers seek initial rulings from orthodox financial authorities as to the general design of the standdesign of the inquiry—in familiar terms, as to the standing orders or frame of reference.

It is impossible to resist the conclusion, in the case of the Archbishop of Canterbury, that a good deal of his hesitance. hesitancy arose from the "guidance" thrust upon him by Mr. D. by Mr. Pierpont Morgan during that celebrated voyage. fact the very words he used in replying to the debutation might well have been Mr. Morgan's words to him we might well have been Mr. Morgan's follows:

We may imagine them to have been as follows: Wy dear friend, I, as a banker, am anxious to bless the Social friend, I, as a banker, am anxious to bless the Social Credit objective as you must be as a Churchman Social Credit objective as you must be as a characteristic but I cannot, no I cannot, see how it can be attained by ined by such a thing as mechanical adjustments in the edit such a thing as mechanical adjustment in the credit system, let alone the unprecedented nature of the

particular adjustments provided in the Social Credit Proposals."

### The Primate's Dilemma.

Note particularly that no disrespect is implied in this diagnosis. The Archbishop of Canterbury would have been obliged to think very carefully in any case about the implications and consequences of his publicly blessing the Social Credit technique along with the objective. For to the extent that his gesture were noted and reflected upon, to that extent would it seem to lead to the practical conclusion that the essential function of the Church could be suspended-that the Christian ideal of peace on earth and good will among men could be more reasonably hoped for, and more quickly realised through secular education and activity than through spiritual teaching and edification. In that event there could be a part of the Church's traditional function which could coincide with and potentise the drive for emancipation along the secular path; but it would impose on the Church the duty of prophesying against the powerful human agencies who are working (and confessedly so at this moment) to bar the entry of the people into the Promised Land. The Church could not declare of Social Credit: "This is the Way, the Truth and the Life," without pronouncing these three inseparable aspects of Social Credit science and philosophy to be coequal Persons in a Holy Trinity symbolising the process, purpose and promise of the world's attainment to happiness, peace and righteousness.

# The Way, the Truth and the Life.

Such is the logical dilemma which would present itself. The "Truth" might be safely proclaimed in relation to the "Life," but to proclaim the "Way"-? ("Ah, if only I could be convinced that this was the key which would turn the lock of the Door.") That is the obstacle. The bankers stand like dark angels with flaming torches at the entrance, forbidding the return of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve into that Paradise which, but for those guards, would be so easily regained.

To re-state the argument in colloquial terms, it is impossible to say that Social Credit is the way without saying that the bankers stand in the way. Conversely there would be no point in the Church's prophesying against the bankers except on the ground that the way they were prohibiting was a way through as well as a right of way. So the final conclusion of what we have been saying is that unless the Church gives her blessing completely and unreservedly to Social Credit in all its three aspects, she is not blessing it at all; she is merely blessing the unfulfilled aspirations of people after things without saying whether they are attainable.

## Ecclesiastical Strategy.

It will be important to keep this in mind, because now that the stone neglected of the Church builders in 1922 is beginning to be recognised in 1936 as destined to be the head of the corner, we may expect all the churches to recognise this, yet without directly acknowledging it. The leaders of Christendom, who have for these years been watching from the back of the footwalk, and between the heads of jeering sightseers, the forming of the Social Credit procession, are now hearing the jeers die down and cheers spring up, and find more space to peep through because numbers of sightseers are joining the procession and providing the spectacle instead of watching it. In course of time, when the swirl of the procession washes more sightseers off the edge of the kerbstone, these leaders will be able to move through the sparse crowd along the back of the sidewalk until they get level with the head of the procession. Then there will come a day when banners will fly; and these leaders will say, each to the others: " Brethren, I feel a call from God to lead this procession. We will lead it for Truth and Life-but another way." Whether they succeed in doing so will depend upon who is heading the procession before they emerge from the footwalk. If these are people who know where they want to go and the best way to get there, they will tell the late arrivals to fall in at the rear. But if by long-distance visionaries they will welcome the new leaders; and then the processionists will suddenly find themselves jammed up a side-street so tightly that no-one can fall out to see what is happening in front. If, however, one of them happened to stick up a portable periscope he would see that the new leaders had come up to some newer leaders still-probably a detachment belonging to the "Pied Pipers" of Hambro Brothers or of some other cosmopolitan financial institution. But, since periscopes are not available in this special sense, nobody would know of the change.

Churchmen and Dividends. It is the best wisdom to expect no effective assistance from large organised institutions, whether religious or secular, until their assistance is superfluous. We have no objection to their benevolent neutrality, which is the most they lend, because since they get more good from their distant association with the Movement than the Movement gets from them, we don't have to enter into any obligations to them. This leads to consideration of the Dean of Canterbury's association with the Movement. He is officially connected with the Church of England on the one hand, and also officially connected with the Social Credit Secretariat on the other. He is a director in both, in the sense that he is invested with directive authority in both. It may be taken for granted that this dual rôle has the concurrence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Now we understand (we think we read it in the organ of the Secretariat) that the Primate has subscribed to the doctrine that the business of the electorate is to demand results. He may have gone further, and approved the demand for Dividends—perhaps with the added proviso "without taxation." We do not know. At any rate, he must be considered as being content that the Dean is identifying himself with the full doctrine. Now the proviso against taxation, though it does not describe a method of accounting the issued Dividend indicates that some ways are barred. An optimistic inference from this is that the Archbishop has progressed in his study of the technique of Social Credit since he confessed his uncertainty to the deputation we have spoken of. In fact, for all one can know, he may have become convinced of the soundness of the full authentic Social Credit proposals. Anyhow, what appears to be a reliable theory is that he has sufficient confidence to grant the Dean a dispensation, so to speak, to combine his duty to the Church with his duty to the Secretariat. Further, he allowed him leave of absence to undertake his tour in the United States and Canada, thus advertising the fact of his activities in the world's Press.

Now, when the Dean was there we have it on the testimony of a Mr. Dunningham, who accompanied him

as private secretary, that his addresses were received with enthusiasm by the most responsible and highlyplaced people—senators, congressmen, bankers, statesmen, press-magnates, and so on. (This was in an address to the London Social Credit Club a month of two ago.) This is not surprising to those of us who have heard him speak. And it is less surprising still when we add the account by Mr. Campbell, of Alberta, that the Dean spoke acceptably, but was considered too elementary. This must mean that his remarks were confined to those aspects of Social Credit which appealed to the conscience and stirred the emotions, but did not satisfy the intellectual curiosity to hear how it was to be done. The "truth" and the "life" were in his speeches, but not the "way."

This was correct strategy from the point of view of Major Douglas, the Secretariat, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and, last but not least, Mr. Pierpont Morgan. We have shown reasons why the last-named gentleman would doubtless approve and even encourage the expounding of Social Credit as far as the Dean took it. In fact many of our readers who heard Mr. Dunningham's enthusiastic description of the Dean's progress from triumph to triumph even among "millionaires" may constant aires " may concede the possibility that they were there because Mr. Morrow because Mr. Morgan persuaded them to go. Anyhow, it is a touch a contain it is a tenable hypothesis, and one which, for certain reasons we can be alleged reasons, we are entertaining. Being ourselves alleged agents of the "Trial

agents of the "Hidden Hand" we may be suffering from delusions. from delusions, so readers must be left to form their own judgments. own judgments. Note that it is not an acceptable hypothesis to use for the thesis to us, for if sustained it would weaken the optimism which it optimism which inspires our hope in the early achievement of the Social C. ment of the Social Credit objective, a hope derived from the calculation and the calculation of the social Credit objective, a hope derived derived derived the calculation of the calcu from the calculation that there is as much uncertainty and division of and division of counsels among the High Financiers on how to hold the on how to hold their position as there is on our side on how to take it. how to take it. We would prefer to believe that the Dean's successes were Dean's successes were won in the teeth of Mr. Morgan's disapproval: for the disapproval; for the proof of the real success of any line of Social Credit line of Social Credit action would be the inability of hostile bankers to interest to inte hostile bankers to interfere with it. We have frequently said that because the said that because there is an inherent flaw in the bankers technique which is technique which is geared up to their policy of action, it serves the true of action to their policy of action, well to it serves the true Social Credit purpose equally well to push behind it or ship of the purpose equally well is

push behind it or obstruct it. The same observation is true the other way.

true the other way round, namely, that if we permit a flaw in our policy of

flaw in our policy of action it would suit the bankers as well to bush behind the bankers.

as well to push behind it as to attack it—perhaps better, since they are bearer since they are becoming suspected as spoilers. This consideration lends point to our attitude tionist policy which actionist policy, which is that in no circumstances should the technical principles. the technical principles which we all agree are essential to a sound Dividend to a sound Dividend system be left out of sight by advocates of the Dividend system be left out of sight by advocates of the Dividend. If not always explained they should be recited passed to the process of the Dividend. should be recited, named, or alluded to in every speech and pamphlet on any the should be recited. and pamphlet on any theme for any audience.

years ago we suggested. years ago we suggested a cryptogram: "I M.E. 295 as registering the cryptogram: "Like existence as registering the cryptogram: "The existence as registering the cryptogram is the cryptogram in the cryptogram is the cryptogram in the cryptogram is the cryptogram is the cryptogram in the cryptogram is the cryptogram in the cryptogram is as registering the user's knowledge of the existence of Major Douglas's root of Major Douglas's restatement and elucidation the those principles on page 295 of the first volume As ob Macmillan Evidence. jectors urge, this may entangle us in unprofitable to nical arguments at time. nical arguments at times, but we would prefer that being obliged to press. being obliged to puzzle out what influential allies pushing behind the Movement ing behind the Movement were doing it for.

Alternative

systems to Major Douglas's are conceivable; but we don't know what they are. What we do know is that the system we have studied and taught is adequate to the purpose. Any person claiming to belong to any organisation inside the Social Credit Movement should be required to affirm, or should be clearly committed to the affirmation, of his belief in that truth. Others who cannot should be enrolled in organisations which are unconnected with Major Douglas's name and do not claim to be "Social Credit" organisations.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## " RABELAIS."

Dear Sir,—I am a regular reader of The New Age, and have always valued it. I confess, however, that I was shocked at the opening paragraph on Page 151 of the current issue which, in an "Impression" of the Central Hall meeting, attributes to me words I never uttered, and imputes to the a loke which had I made it would have been in abominable to the words attributes to me words attributes attribut taste. Let me say emphatically that the words attributed to me were never uttered by me, and the meaning nputed never for a moment intended.

Reference is made to "Razzle." I do not know what, or who, is "Razzle,"—I have never heard of the person, book, or this. thing and, as for any Rabelaisian meaning in my referhoe to the Sir Oswald Mosley story, nothing could have been further from my mind, and I deeply regret that anyone fould have read a nasty meaning into my words. I never Sir Oswald, you may leave the room." I said, "Sir Oswald, you may leave the room. I saw, year, year, you may go," as when I say to a child at my table, yes, you may go," as when I say to a boy who Yes, you may go," as when I say to a child ac so, you may get down"; or when I say to a boy who as sinished his recitation and done his work, "Yes, you may go to a secondent read some be Bo now." I gather that your correspondent read some meaning into the words, which would, I suggest, only to a rather dirty little schoolboy mind. I assumed, and believe believe rightly, that I was talking to a decent audience.

Yours truly,

HEWLETT JOHNSON.

The Deanery, Canterbury. March 12, 1936.

We deeply regret that our correspondent's comment caused offence to the Dean of Canterbury, and gladly give Publicity to his disclaimer of having had any notion that the the construction referred to could be placed on his reharks. Nevertheless, he will, on inquiry and reflection, see Nevertheless, he will, on inquiry and react on the allusion other possible construction could be placed on the precisely allusion by the audience. The original joke, precisely because it was vulgar, was approved and disseminated as telling jibe at the Fascist salute, and it indicated the desire to ridicule them.—ED.] antipathy in this country to despotic policies, and

bear Sir,—I am as highly amused by my promotion to the bort of vendor of political parties, as stated in your of the control o Port of vendor of political parties, as stated in osen parts of the Central Hall meeting, as the members of the party will be!

Since Party will be!

Major Douglas is so very anxious to keep his profrom the criticism of the platform, but wishes to use hachinery of any of the traditional parties, the suggesof making a contribution to their funds will not seem sonable to reasonable people.

construe such a suggestion into an offer of barter, bears Runker hunt "bears to the economic life of this country. relationship to the facts of the interview as his

York Road, Erdington, Birmingham. T. H. NICHOLLS.

Communications requiring the Editor's attention should he. Arthur Brenton, 20, Rectory Road, Barnes, S.W.13.

## Land Lore.

In the December number of the Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (6d. through any bookseller) there appeared a description of the activities of the various Marketing Boards of recent history. In addition there are two pages of photographs of loaves produced in the bread-making contests under the auspices of the National Bakery School from English (Yeoman) Straights milled from the 1935 crop. It may be remembered we spoke at length some time ago about the necessity that if we are to have a virile population it must be fed on our native food, particularly starting with the wheaten loaf. The white flour milled from overseas wheat is not a food at all, wheat grown in short, hot, dry summers on an iodine-free soil has no food value compared to our wheat slowly matured from plants that have well tillered and "laid their ears down." We also remarked that the idiotic legislation fining bakers for not putting enough water in their bread forced them, against their own better sense, into using overseas flour that soaked up water galore while the English article refused, except to a limited extent. Even in the Journal it is reported that the 1935 crop did not "possess the same ability to carry the water absorption of the past years." Quite so, but a practical farmer will tell you that denotes a higher food value. Again "there was a tendency to run after moulding." Of course that, along with the water shortage, showed a better content of gluten.

It is not only in those particulars that we find ourselves in divergence with some of the writers in the Journal. All the various bodies at present interfering with our farming economics have good points intermingled with their bad ones, and in this connection the Wheat Commission stands out as one that really strives its very utmost to do good, but fails to score a bull. We must remember that the farms of England have gradually been going derelict, thus losing millions of tons of soil, and to genuinely farm land wheat makes in most cases an all important crop. It is always bad policy to buy on a farm or sell off a farm such an asset as wheat straw which is valueless to sell, but costs carting to buy. As our Journal remarks, the cattle rush to the freshly threshed wheat straw, but refuse all stale stuff-one of the thousands of facts science will never explain, and what good will it be if it did? The farm hand knows and that is enough. The Wheat Commission gives a bounty on wheat of " millable quality." All the farmer has to do then is to sell his wheat to the corn merchant and provided it is a level sample, nice and clean, that certificate is duly issued. But mark this, the system applies to the soft, white wheat as well as to the hard wheat, and the millers hate the white wheat, they will not pay the price, for one thing it gives a miserable bran almost unsaleable at 30s. a ton against £6 9s. per ton for the bran of hard wheat. This white wheat will produce two quarters more per acre than its superior brother, the hard wheat, and both attract the bounty to make up the price to the 45s. per quarter. The farmers are now being forced, against their better judgment too, in producing a totally inferior article. Now we are back to where we started, the bread-making contest was carried through on hard wheat, no one in their right senses could possibly have suggested a white wheat for a bread contest. The unpleasant fact remains, the Wheat Commission have not yet attracted the man of knowledge, it is just possible

MARCH 19, 1936

it may consist of farmers (unpractical) who employ bailiffs (practical). The farmer is born, not made, and from a farmer's family of a round dozen there may be one boy of sound soil and stock sense, turn him loose on a farm for a year or two, then a spell at an Agricultural College, you have the complete farmer who would certainly not tolerate the white wheat nonsense for an

The London County Council has gone one better than the Wheat Commission, the Council has ordered that all their bread making must be done with 25 per cent. all British Yeoman Straights, and 75 per cent. Empire wheat, and the flour for kitchen use must be 100 per cent. all British Yeoman Straights. Many months ago our statements raised a controversy in The New Age over the price of wheat. Our prophecy has come exactly true, the farmers at last harvest reaped 8,000,000 quarters, and consequently will only receive bounty sufficient to raise the return to 34s. a quarter against the promised 45s.

After all, the journal has a fine spirit of camaraderie, many articles have distinct literary merit and the scientists who write enjoy turning the joke against themselves when theory fails and knowledge steps in. There is a good crop of book reviews, one on Agrarianism, a moderately priced volume that suggests itself as a worthy addition to the Social Credit bookshelf.

V.I.90.

## Observations of an Election Agent. By T. H. Nicholls.

Democratic government is often slightingly referred to as an atrocity even in influential quarters. The idea seems to spring from the fact that any noticeable form of control is irksome to a people who prefer to live their own lives in their own way. The one undeniable claim in favour of it, is that every other form of government is a thousand times

Its delays, which irritate the autocratic type of individual, are among the most valuable of its principles, since, in these delays, its proposal is winnowed of its dross (if any), and the early period of waiting permits greater and more lasting progress when that end is achieved. The most recent example of this value was demonstrated in connection with the Hoare-Laval proposals, which, whatever their merits, were certainly contrary to the "will of the people."

But in recent years it has become fashionable to be "superior" to politics. Non-sectarian and non-political seem, in some quarters, to be regarded as the hall mark of refinement. If bankers, or any other group, wished to dominate a democratic people, they could choose no better way than by inculcating such a fall-range "superiority."

way than by inculcating such a fallacious "superiority."
When the weapon of the soldier becomes "untouchable," the soldier, in his self-disarmament, destroys his value as a fighting unit. If he thinks the weapon unclean, it is this job to clean it, for if he refuses this elementary duty it is a thousand to one that it will fall into other hands less scrupulous. In the vernecular of Position of Unider demo-In the vernacular of Parliament, "Under democratic government, it is the fate of intellectual people who refuse to play their part, to be governed by others of in-

Another elementary principle, which seems to have been lost to the sight of some writers in these pages, is that under this form of government, orders are issued from the bottom and not from the top. To bring pressure to bear on a member by the "will" or order of massed electors is good democratic principle, which would probably land e originators into a political prison under a dictatorship. But if the electors must wait for the command of one or more people before putting their "will," which is in reality the command of another, into operation, the democratic principle is merely invoked for an autocratic purpose. Needless to say, there are only certain elements of the electorate who are prepared to delegate their authority in this way, and that field is far too small to hope to carry any vital measure or pressure upon Parliament.

# Keynes's Latest Message.

His brother economists will hardly welcome this latest book\* of Professor Keynes, and yet it is doubtful whether any other book of recent years will do so much to restore the waning prestige of the professional economist. For the first time for perhaps a century an academic economist has produced a theory which bears some relation to the actual world in which we live. Students of Social Credit will not feel any shoel of any shock of surprised enlightenment at the message which Professor Keynes has to bring. On the contrary, like other hereign of such as the such as heretics of orthodox economics, they will for the most part only received only receive confirmation of what they already know. Nevertheless, the production of this work is a notable achievement, and it is ment, and it has meant an intellectual integrity on the part of Professor Keynes to which tribute should be paid.

Professor Keynes to which tribute should be paid with thorough groundings. a thorough grounding in the classical theory of economics and it has taken in the classical theory of economics. The and it has taken him a life time to shake off its effects. The classical theory deal classical theory deals well enough with the analysis of the factors of production factors of production and how the value of the final product will be divided will be divided, assuming the volume of output is given.
But what it does not have But what it does not do is to make proper allowance for the variation in total cuttons. variation in total output which will result from changes in the various factors. in the various factors. Professor Keynes questions the axion of the classical there. of the classical theory, which may be stated that "supply creates its own down creates its own demand in the sense that the aggregate demand price is countries to the contribution of the sense that the aggregate demand price is countries to the contribution of the demand price is equal to the aggregate supply price for all levels of output and levels of output and employment," or that "the costs of output are always countries of the costs of output are always countries. output are always covered in the aggregate by the sale proceeds resulting from decrease in the aggregate by the sale proceeds resulting from decreases. ceeds resulting from demand " (Professor Keynes's italics).

The similarity between the same Professor Reynes's italics). The similarity between Professor Keynes's attack on the classical theory and the classical theory and the main tenet of Social Credit, namely, that under present that under present conditions purchasing power distributed by industry is never as 200 by industry is never sufficient to buy the full products of industry, is apparent

The postulate that aggregate demand may be less than osts leads to the coardinate demand may be less than ost leads to the coardinate of t costs leads to the possibility of there being a state of voluntary "unequal" voluntary "unemployment, which, under the classical theory, could not occur. Insula could not occur. Involuntary employment exists when there are men willing to wellare men willing to work at less than the existing real was and yet who cannot class than the existing real was and yet who cannot class than the existing real was and yet who cannot class than the existing real was a superior of the super and yet who cannot obtain employment. Professor Keynes theme is the elucided. theme is the elucidation of the conditions that will lead to "full" employment. The absence of "full" employment ("full" employment ("full") emplo "full" employment. From will lead "full" employment the absence of "involuntary" employment) He finds that "to justify any gives any given amount of employment there must be an amount of current investment of current investment sufficient to absorb the excess of total output over what the of current investment sufficient to absorb the excess of total output over what the community chooses to consume there employment is at the given level. . . . It follows, fore, that given . . . the communities' propensity consume, the equilibrium level of unemployment will depend on the amount of current investment. also, though from a rather different point of view, is familiated to students of Social Credit Action difference between disconnections of the students of the students of Social Credit Action difference between disconnections of the students of the stude to students of Social Credit. As the difference between disprices of consumable prices of consumable goods and the purchasing it is made good, when production good, by the purchasing the production is made good, when production goods are the production is made good, when production goods are the production in the production goods. good, by the purchasing power distributed in the production of capital goods, clearly total good, by the purchasing power distributed in the productive of capital goods, clearly total purchasing power, and goods employment, is dependent on the amount of capital produced, i.e., on new investment.) In order to produce the produced in the produced "full" employment, therefore, current investment in ji

The weakest part of Professor Keynes's exposition his concluding remarks and the state of the st in his concluding remarks where he indicates, though mistly how this could be brought to the property of income. how this could be brought about. Apparently inequal out by age taxation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be smoothed by Governmental action. by Governmental action in order to stimulate that it be investing the Elsewhere, however Professional States that it is the investing the investing the investing the investing the investing the investing the investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich, and the rate of interest is to be investigation of the rich i Elsewhere, however, Professor Keynes indicates that it be impossible to lower the control of the be impossible to lower the rate of interest sufficiently to out the necessary investment which would lead to employment. One wonders why Professor Keynes could not be necessary investment which would lead to employment. One wonders why Professor Keynes could not not be not sufficiently analysis to its legislate analysis. push his analysis to its logical conclusion. conform to a low rate of late of conform to a low rate of interest than the issue by the Government of the General The General The General The General The General The Government of the Gove \* The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money John Maynard Keynes. Macmillan. 5s.

ernment of irredeemable certificates bearing a zero rate of interest? What could better stimulate entrepreneurs to invest than an increase of present consumption resulting from giving these certificates to consumers, and what could more equitably level out the proportionate discrepancles of income between rich and poor than by giving these consumer certificates equally to every person in the country? But this proposal is no other than the National Dividend.

It is probable that Professor Keynes's objection to consumer credits lies in his realisation that there is still much social work of a capital nature to be done. But here one feels that the moralist is ousting the scientific investigator. The position should not be, "You shall not consume unless Jou set your hand to work of a beneficial nature to the tommunity." The community should be in a position to out its full resources, and then have the choice whether to allow the individual to satisfy his personal wants or to divert some of its resources to initiating work of a social hature. Thus it might be advisable to keep back some of the funds in the National Credit office, which would otherwise be available for a National Dividend in order to use them for improving roads or creating a national water grid Whatever scheme the community agreed was desirable. whatever scheme the community agreed was the this possibility were borne in mind it is likely that Prolessor Reynes would come in more whole-heartedly on the side of active reformers of the money system.

The work under review contains many shrewd hits at the followers of the classical theory, who, with perfect logic, but standard to recommend but starting from wrong premises, are able to recommend temedies for our present ills such as an all-round reduction of warsa. The professor Keynes's of wages. The following is an example of Professor Keynes's

The classical theorists resemble Euclidean geometers in a the classical theorists resemble Euclidean geometric Euclidean world who, discovering that in experience traight lines apparently parallel often meet, rebuke the lines not keeping straight—as the only remedy for the and keeping straight—as the only infortunate collisions which are occurring."

professor Keynes is rightly sceptical of the value of much mathematical " economics of recent years. The mathethe culty occurs in ensuring that the simple rules that the ecs of such works is usually simple enough, but the hathematical symbols follow really conform with the actual their greatest di

Teachers of economics find their greatest difficulty in fining of defining clearly the terms they employ and in holding constently to the same meaning of these terms thereafter. brofly to the same meaning of these terms uncome, toflessor Keynes is not altogether free of ambiguity in his finition. Actions. Thus in chapters 6 and 7 he defines income, hsumption, saving and investment in such a way that hing is not saving and investment in such a way that winning is automatically equal to investment. But here investmust be taken in a very wide sense and includes fixed pital, Working capital and liquid capital, and in particular goods. But elsewhere, for example in the quotations earlier when he refers to the bearing of investment to level of employment, he clearly does not intend to be unsold goods as investment, and in these contexts probable. probably means entrepreneurs' expectation of what stment will be.

chapter entitled "Long-Term Expectations," in amongst other things Professor Keynes likens proonal investment to a beauty competition "in which the letitors to a beauty competition and faces from a hpetitors have to pick out the six prettiest faces from a direct photostate of the comdred photographs, the prize being awarded to the comtherences of the competitors as a whole, so that each whose choice most nearly corresponds to the average hetitor has to pick, not those faces which he himself finds prettiest, but those which he thinks likeliest to catch the of the of the other competitors, all of whom are looking at problem from the same point of view," is probably the in the book. The Financial Times has already felt belled to controvert this chapter alone in a second review. odoxy the eynes is more just to other heretics of odoxy than to Major Douglas. He says indeed of Gesell like other academic economists I treated his prooriginal strivings as being no better than those of a Of Major Douglas he says that "the strength of

Major Douglas's advocacy has, of course, largely depended on orthodoxy having no valid reply to much of his destructive criticism," and "Major Douglas is entitled to claim, as against some of his orthodox adversaries, that he at least has not been wholly oblivious of the outstanding problem of our economic system "; but he adds, " on the other hand, the detail of his diagnosis, in particular the so-called A plus B theorem, includes much mere mystification "; and finally, "Yet he has scarcely established an equal claim to ranka private, perhaps, but not a major in the brave army of heretics-with Mandeville, Malthus, Gesell and Hobson, who, following their intuitions, have preferred to see the truth obscurely and imperfectly rather than to maintain error, reached indeed with clearness and consistency and by easy logic, but on hypotheses inappropriate to the facts."

It is a pity that the professional's contempt of the amateur should still prevent the Professor from appreciating the important work that Major Douglas has done. Perhaps there is also a little envy that Major Douglas has reached the promised land without having wandered in the wilderness for many years. However, if this work of Professor Keynes obtains quickly the appreciation that it will in all certainty eventually receive, it will be due as much as anything to the leavening of the public mind effected by the teachings of Major Douglas. Let us hope that a new school of Cambridge economics will be started by this book which will atone for some of the iniquities of the past.

The book has an excellent Index, and Professor Keynes is to be thanked for the moderate price at which it is issued.

## Alberta Notes.

"BOUNDEN DUTY" OF MAJOR DOUGLAS.

Within the next couple of days the Alberta (Social Credit) Government will take "some kind of action" to settle its protracted cable discussions with Major Douglas, according to a statement by Mr. Aberhart, the Premier, to-day.

The leaders of the Social Credit Party held a five hours' meeting last night, and Mr. Aberhart stated to-day that they were unanimously of the opinion that it was Major Douglas's bounden duty to implement the principles he has

As regards the recent suggestion made by Major Douglas proposed." that Mr. Aberhart should withdraw his Budget and new taxation and substitute an interim Budget, as was done last year, Mr. Aberhart said: "We simply can't do it. It is the only kind of Budget which we could have presented this year in order to prepare the foundation for a Social Credit Budget next year—or as soon as possible."—Reuter—per Financial News, March 12.

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW ON MR. ABERHART.

Sir Montague Barlow, whose views on finance are orthodox, recently praised Mr. Aberhart for following Mr. Magor's dox, recently praised Mr. Aberhart for following Mr. Magor's advice. This is adduced in *Social Credit* as proving that the bankers are pleased with Mr. Aberhart's action, and the deduction is insinuated that Mr. Aberhart's good faith, or his competence, is at fault. Such a deduction is not legiti-mate until it can be shown that he had the power to reject Mr. Magor's advice, and accepted it when he had the power to choose an alternative. For all evidence to the contrary, Mr. Aberhart might reply that there was no feasible alternative for him to choose at the time when he was obliged to make his decision. And, indeed, he and his ministers might put their reply into the famous reproach: "We fought at Arras, and you were not there.

# THE SOCIAL CREDIT PRESS.

The Social Credit Party of Scotland are publishing a monthly official organ, "Revolt," price one penny. Direct annual subscription, one shilling and sixpence. c./o. Alba Nuadh, 90, Wellington Lane, Glasgow.

# SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Social Credit Party of Great Britain (The Green Shirts), Fulham Section. Mass Meeting, at Fulham Town Shirts), Fullian Section. Mass Meeting, at Fullian Town Hall (large hall), Friday, April 3, 1936, at 8 p.m. Principal speakers: John Hargrave (the National Leader), Roy Hawthorn (District Leader). Admission free. Reserved tickets, 1s.

## The Films.

"Crime et Châtiment." Directed by Pierre Chenal. Academy.

This is at least the third screen adaptation of Dostoevsky's masterpiece. Robert Wiene, who made the classic "Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," was responsible about ten years ago for a silent version under the name of "Raskolnikov," and Edward Arnold has lately appeared in an American rendering. Insofar as it is possible to bring to the cinema the atmosphere of the original, and to compress an immense canvas within ninety minutes of celluloid, Pierre Chenal has done it admirably and convincingly. His success is largely due to the fact that he has kept to the essentials of the story, and has concentrated on the murder of Alena and her sister and the subsequent duel between Raskolnikov and Porphyrius, instead of diffusing so much interest over the Marmeladovs, Sonia, Looshin, and other characters, as is the case in Gaston Baty's excellent stage production. Pierre Blanchar's Raskolnikov is masterly, but Harry Bau's impersonation of the examining magistrate suffers somewhat to my mind through his not looking the part.

"Ah! Wilderness." Directed by Clarence Brown. "The Last of the Pagans." Produced by Philip Goldstone.

The first of these pictures is one of the most completely satisfying and thoroughly charming films I have seen for many months. Strung on the framework of the slightest of stories are humour, pathos, and humanity, reinforced by wholly admirable acting, dialogue, direction, and editing. Only Hollywood can make this type of picture; it does not do so very often, but they are all the more welcome when they do arrive. Incidentally, "Ah! Wilderness" gives Lionel Barrymore his most convincing role since "A Free Soul," and its success in recapturing the small town atmosphere of a generation ago lends it definite value as a contribution to Americana. "The Last of the Pagans" derives synthetically from both "Mala the Magnificent" and "White Shadows in the South Seas." As melodrama it is good, and in essence it is frankly and cynically dishonest. We are given something of a glimpse of the brutal and shameless exploitation of primitive peoples, and of the extent to which they are forced into slavery under the legalised pretence of a system of indentured labour, and then the problem is shirked through the medium of a conventional happy ending in a fashion reminiscent of "Oil for the Lamps of China" and "Black Fury." It is such films as these that are responsible for so much of the contention that the commercial cinema is being used for purposes of anti-social pro-

"Strike Me Pink." Directed by Norman Taurog. Pavilion.

Eddie Cantor began by being a comedian, then became a national institution, and is now an American industry as mechanised as the mass production of Ford cars. He makes one picture a year, and his latest is so far from living up to its claim of being "the greatest comedy of this or any other year." that it is amusing only in spots, and singularly unfunny for much of its length. "Strike Me Pink" is, in fact, one of those characteristically synthetic productions built up with so much care as to lack all trace of spontaneity; one can hear the gag-men thinking out lines and situations that they fondly hope will arouse loud laughter. Cantor himself is not a screen comedian as are Chaplin, Laurel, and Hardy; his methods are essentially those of the variety theatre, and events happen round him instead of his controlling them. That is not the stuff of comedy, although it may be of knockabout farce, and this picture resolves itself into an imitation of Harold Lloyd relying on out-of-date effects. date effects. I am told that it cost £300,000 to make; which throws a vivid light on the fantastic economics of the

Owing to my illegible handwriting. I was made to refer last week in reviewing "Plan for Cinema" to persons who "send out the most virulent propaganda" in films made solely to entertain. What I actually wrote was "scent out."

DAVID OCKHAM.

## The Theatre.

Ibsen Season. Criterion.

Miss Jean Forbes-Robertson is even more impressive than I expected in "Rosmersholm" and "Hedda Gabbler. The noble reserve of her Rebecca West, and the flourish with which, as Hedda, she flings all her cards on the table, are admirably contrasted. Both the plays are ably produced by Miss Irane III. by Miss Irene Hentschel and, though Mr. John Laurie is not quite up to standard as Rosmer and Lovbord, the Company as a set of the co pany as a whole could hardly be bettered. It is some time since I have enjoyed two such satisfying evenings in the theatre. Mr. D. and two such satisfying evenings in multitheatre. Mr. D. A. Clarke-Smith makes the Master Builder surprise of der surprisingly attractive and humorous, without losing sight of the underlying brutality and madness of the man who can never forget the menace of the rising generation. Madame Lopokova's Hilda Wangel is a little better than her Nova Lot her Nora led one to expect. Her English is as distressing as ever, and she at the as ever, and she still pokes her head forward in a way that reminds one of rel reminds one of a hen rather than the bird of prey she compares hersalf to a little pares hersalf to a little pare hersalf pares herself to: but the crude intensity of her methods is not so damaging to not so damaging to this play as it was to "The excel-House." There is one grave fault on an otherwise excel-lent production. lent production: Hilda's final scene is played on a verandah, and when she start is and when she stands on a chair and cheers the Master the Builder she is so many the stands of the st Builder she is so masked by the roof that her dramatic gesture goes for activities. gesture goes for nothing.

# Forthcoming Meetings.

The following public meetings will be held at the Blewcoat com, Caxton-street S.W.

Room, Caxton-street, S.W.1:—

March 20, 7.45 p.m.—" Foreign Trade Under This Age
Credit," by Mr. Marshall Hattersley, author of "This Age
of Plenty." March 27, 7.45 p.m.—" The Immediate Future, as I See It—with a Spot of History," by Mr. Edgar J. Saxon.

The Social Creater The Immediate Future, as I See It—with a Spot of History, The Immediate Future, as I See It—with Immediate Future, I See It—with Immediate Future, I See It—with Immediate Future, I S

The Social Credit Party of Great Britain. National Headquarters: 44, Little Britain, E.C.1. Wall Saturday, March 21., 3.30 p.m. "Wanglings Annesley". Street." A Unique Bazaar. Opener: Lady Clare Annesley.

Wanglings in Wall Street.

Wanglings in Wall Street.

The Social Credit Party of Great Britain (The Green Shirts) are holding a Bazaar at their National Headquart 144, Little Britain, London, E.C.1, on Saturday, March photosis of the Will be opened by Lady Clare Annesley, at 3,30 sling which will be opened by Lady Clare Annesley, at 3,30 sling which will be opened by Lady Clare Annesley, at 3,30 sling which will be reasonable prices of the usual practice of only prices, and determined the side shows, competitions, and perform wang there will be side shows, competitions, and perform wang the Green Shirt Players. A unique feature will be the after lings in Wall Street." At stated periods during fluctual the noon and evening prices of goods on sale will beyond the regulation being prices of goods on sale will beyond the sale will be the sal noon and evening prices of goods on sale will flucture regulation being based upon facts which it is power of any officials to control. Not only will therefore, of picking up bargains, but a prize will be awarded to the first two persons with first two persons with the first two persons wit prize will be awarded to the first two persons who the basis of fluctuation. Come, and bring your Try your hand at market rigging!

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