

Social Credit: An Impact

Ezra Pound

FOREWORD for THE YEAR 2007 EDITION

In the summer of 2003, I was shifting through dozens of books and a large quantity of information on Ezra Pound (1885-1972). It is clear by now that his mind has left a major mark on the universal human “kulchur” in general. His Cantos, letters, friendships and influence keep resonating in a growing and everlasting manner, slowly shifting into timelessness while the works and names of his endless opponents and tormentors, dissolve and disappear into nothing. On amazon.com, the search for the name Ezra Pound will bring several thousand results and hundreds of different publications, even the little known musical items he has written and videos on him are available. On e-bay on any given day one will find about twenty of his books, publications and photographs offered by sellers. Yearly conferences follow each other from Idaho to Florida and Italy, in June 2007 a conference will take place in Venice, Italy and in June 2008 one is already scheduled in an alpine castle in Merano, Italy.

Pound has been propelled by the sheer force of his intellectual power into the forefront of western culture again, regardless of the constant, incoherent whining of his opponents about “treason” and his supposed mental problems.

Just what is the force that he has applied in his work, what was the guiding principle that kept moving him to the top while millions of others were dissolving into the shadows? At the center of his life and his works is the single poem The Cantos that he began early on in his career and continued working on for the rest of his life. The Cantos (this most difficult reading material) is nothing less or more than an examination, a record of human history and culture in the light of the good and the bad, the heroic and the cowardly, the constructive and the degenerated. The Cantos is the result of a powerful analytical mind, shifting through human history, analyzing the players, the builders and the destroyers of this complex structure that has moved us out of the stone age toward the light that we have been seeking forever - “The Poundian Struggle.”

The Cantos reaches into the very center of human existence and deals with the issues, decade by decade, century by century, player by player in a rather non compromising manner and some of those who have been found too light happened to come to control the entry doors to the mental institutions in the United States of America in the Twentieth Century. “The inmates running the loony-house!” as some might say.

While reading Social Credit, one has to take into consideration the social changes Ezra Pound was observing and had to deal with during his early career. The early twentieth century, when America was still a robust, healthy white Christian nation, when the first signs of decay started to develop. In 1913 very few had understood clearly that the “Federal” Reserve System, the starting manipulations of Wall Street and the forming of the ADL could be the seeds of a destructive

process for America. The analytical genius of Pound was adding up these events decades before the average political mind. He followed the destructive murderous rampage in Russia as the first communist revolution under an overwhelming Jewish supervision that ground down nation after nation, killing tens of millions of White Christians. It was his job, his sacred duty to discover the weaknesses in the Western Societies that had exposed them to future failure. This work left him no space to compromise. He had established early in his career usury as a major problem in our social structures. The “Federal” Reserve system by any means was recognized by him as an institutionalized form of usury, on a scale that has never been seen before. The concept of the system is rather simple and once we understand it, it is rather clear: We have been living together with the largest, most widespread criminal conspiracy since 1913. The roots of this problem went all the way back to Presidents Lincoln and Garfield. Lincoln had issued his Greenback, non-interest-bearing notes and Garfield had taken a hard stand on currency problems just before he was assassinated. Next in line was John F. Kennedy, who had already started the process of issuing money, controlled by congress. It seems that the standard punishment for US Presidents for trying to take control of the monetary system was public execution, with a bullet to the head.

Pound had published “Social Credit: An Impact” in London in 1935 as an alternative to the usury ridden central banking system. The idea of “Social Credit” was originally worked out by a Scottish engineer Major Clifford Hugh Douglas (1879-1952). Douglas had presented his idea to the Canadian government in 1923. Pound became a successful promoter of the idea and dedicated his booklet “To the Green Shirts of England”. Although the concept of social credit has survived in different political movements I was able to locate only a single copy of the booklet in 2003. This one copy of the original 1935 London edition has been sold for close to US\$ 300.00 with shipping fees out of England. It seemed that these harmful ideas had been eradicated from western societies by invisible hands. Finally, in New Zealand I found a photographic copy of a 1951 edition, presented here to the reader. (Renaissance Press Reader’s Club, P.O. Box 1627, Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand, an excellent list of publications)

Although the text of Social Credit was difficult to get the effects it has created have been resonating over many decades. Charles Bernstein (University of Buffalo) might be representing the typical Jewish intellectual opposing Pound in American society on this issue:

“I wrote a follow-up piece to “Pounding Fascism” (which is in A Poetics) called “Pound and the Poetry of Today”[subsequently collected in My Way: Speeches and Poems]. It was published in The Yale Review in 1986 (I don’t have the exact citation handy). The speech was originally presented at the Pound Centennial at Yale: an occasion at which at I was made to feel (and no doubt also made myself feel) very unwelcome. I was just about the youngest person invited to speak, and the only Jewish one; it didn’t seem a coincidence that I was also the only person to raise the question of Pound’s fascism at this occasion. The spirit of the supposedly academic event was set by the Pound’s daughter asking us to observe several minutes of silence in honor of the anniversary of her father’s death, which coincided with the Yale event. In keeping with this reverential spirit, the tone of the event was solemn and studiously respectful. In contrast, my speech would have seemed boisterous and structurally irreverent; though insofar as this was so it was oddly more in the mood of the putative subject. While I was excluded from some of the social occasions set up for the participants (for example the lunch just before my talk), I was invited to a formal dinner at one of those Yale halls filled with dusty oil paintings of important

Yale men (fortunately, Susan Howe, who was living in nearby Guilford, came to the dinner with me). This was the sort of occasion where you'd hear people murmuring to one another, "you know, despite it all, maybe Pound was right about social credit" (and maybe some other things too). Creepy. " and "Casillo and Sieburth actually brought me back to reading Pound; that is, reading through the fascism and masculinism brought me from a passive, largely unarticulated, aversion to Pound, to an active, and ongoing, interest in all aspects of his work."

In other words to this very sophisticated Jewish user of the English language "fascism and masculinism" are equal and a most horrifying phenomena and "murmuring.....about social credit" is the ultimate "Creepy" thought crime of the late part of the Twentieth Century. Bernstein and similar "intellectuals" can be titled actual Zionists for viewing Pound through the glasses of their own political inclination while paying no attention to his giant cultural work that intruded into all aspects of Western Culture. Pound actually organized a series of concerts in Italy in the 1930's to bring Vivaldi's music to the attention of the general public and he had countless important cultural contributions in his life – besides his own writings.

However, by the average "American" critic like Brad Darrach of the Time Magazine Pound's work is described as "Poetry and Poison" and the important fact is that Pound called FDR "Franklin Finkelstein Roosevelt" in the 1930's.

As a result of his political activities Pound had been imprisoned and kept in an open cage in 1945. There is no question; the treatment was a calculated effort to mentally and emotionally wear down the sixty year old man before he was to be transported back to the US. Later, in 1946 he was found "insane" and he was institutionalized at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington D.C. where he was kept until 1958 when the charges of treason against him were dropped. When he was asked about his homeland after his release, his famous reply was: "America is a lunatic asylum."

Pound was never tried for treason! The charges were based on his broadcasts of carefully worded political opinions at the Rome Radio in Italy. His speeches were centered around his political opposition of the US entry into the war against Germany and Italy, the US monetary system, based on usury and the ruling class of America at the time. He was very much aware of the line that separates treason from freely expressed political opinion and he never crossed this line in his broadcasts. As Michael C. Piper points it out in his article in TBR (December 2007) the full text of Pound's speeches were not printed in the US all the way until 1978, making it impossible for the citizens of that country to check the orchestrated lies of the hostile establishment.

Throughout his very long literary career he regularly directed, challenged and motivated writers in their work: Four of his protégés have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and Pound actually participated by guiding them and editing their work. (William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway and T.S. Eliot)

As Pound was grinding down the years at St. Elizabeth's he received a large number of visitors on a regular basis. One of them was Eustace Mullins, a twenty-five year old writer who just served over three years during the war in the US Air Force. Pound supplemented Mullins' income by \$10.00/week for a short while in order to start him off on the investigation of the

Federal Reserve. As a result, Mullins had written a book: The Secrets of the Federal Reserve, the best work on the issue that follows the whole system from its conception to realization and beyond. (TBR BOOKS, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003 USA, 1-877-773-9077, <http://www.barnesreview.org/>)

Mullins made a lifelong study of the Federal Reserve and the connected monetary manipulations. His book has been published several times, 10,000 copies of a German edition have been burned by government agents, in Germany in 1955 and their act was upheld in an April 21, 1961 decision by judge Israel Katz of the Bavarian Supreme Court. (The book was published again and circulated in Germany in 1980) Mullins might easily receive - and he well deserves - a Nobel Prize for his work if and when we return to an orderly social structure.

Pound was an exceptional soldier for his cause: He never even considered giving up! But what has happened to the subject of this struggle, the United States of America?

As the mushrooming Masonic Lodges, secret societies, Jewish political organizations and larger and larger number of Jews had infiltrated the country the real power and decision making process was slowly shifted away from public life into the hands of the manipulators who were operating in the background. The foreign hands in control of the monetary system and credit were the inner core that directed the power of creativity and productivity of this land - toward the destruction of this land. In the first decades of the twentieth century the focus was on the economical and later on total cultural and educational subjugation. The American social structure, culture and economy had been literally reshaped to fit the needs of a predatory/parasitical class that has kept growing out of control like cancer in the human body. The soldiers whose pictures we watch almost every day as they raise the flags of victory over Berlin had only a few years to enjoy their victory. A short ten years after the end of the war the creation of the new enemy had been completed and American children were exercising their civic duties by hiding under school tables, preparing for a Russian nuclear strike. Starting with the First World War a sequence of perpetual wars have been created with a single goal in mind: to secure the permanent power of the underground ruling class. The 20th Century had become a century of external conflicts for the US first, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union the next logical enemy - the domestic terrorist had been found and created. It had taken five long decades of continuous labor, untold billions of dollars, millions of misplaced and murdered Muslims to arrive to the desired position: the start of a permanent war with a new enemy. In the last decade we have witnessed an ever escalating level of bloody mass murders on American land: First it was the 1993 explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, as it turned out the explosives were mixed by an FBI informant. Then the mass murder at Waco, Texas, with the direct involvement of the US Military. The Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the Weaver family in Idaho and finally the 9-11 mass murder. At every one of these events the bloody hands of the US Federal Government were either directly involved in the murders at worst, or manipulated the investigation prior, during and after the event to cover for the murderers. In all three cases: in Oklahoma City, Waco and New York the remains of buildings were cleaned up in a manner so examination/reconstruction/verification of the actual events by outside experts had been made impossible.

Our brand New World Order is backing itself into a corner where the only option for securing

her domestic position and fight off the growing tide of revolt inside the gates will be by maneuvering the general population into a frame of mind where people will throw themselves into the arms of the government for protection against increasing “terrorist acts”. It is very possible that we will witness unspeakable and untraceable terrorist acts around us and the majority of our compatriots will be mentally and emotionally properly prepared to jump to the false conclusion that they have been targeted by an outside group.

We have already arrived at a condition where there is clearly a lack of rational thinking noticeable in both the public and the leadership in America. (Most Americans secretly subscribe to the unspoken assumption that the Bush administration started the war on Iraq in order to secure inexpensive long term oil supplies, while the reality is that this very supply has been excluded from the international market by US force, for well over a decade now. At the same time there are no concentrated programs of any type to switch the US at least partially to alternative energy sources while the second generation of oil barons is running the White House...)

The gap between the US and Europe has dramatically widened with the Iraq War. Already, starting in the 1980's a united front of nationalist leaders stepped forward and slowly secured five to thirty percent of the votes in different European countries. The main issues were immigration, national and financial independence. Jews were generally excluded from the new right of Europe, not like in the US where the so called neo- conservative movement was an exclusive country club for Jews and Israel firsters.

In Russia and her satellite states as a result of their murderous rampage during the communist era, Jews have been excluded from the upper levels of political power and generally were encouraged to leave these countries. By the year 2003 about 60% of the European population see the State of Israel as the biggest threat to world peace while the US has continuously kept pumping money, nuclear arms and all sorts of military hardware into the “Counterfeit State of Israel” (Here again, we are witnessing an irrational behavior, this time on the part of the US religious, “Christian Fundamentalist” community: The present Jewish population of Israel and of the US is accepted by them as the true genetic and cultural descendents of the biblical Israel, in reality they are dealing with a predominantly Asiatic group that has revolted, conspired on a socio-economical, racial platform against the interests of America and her white population. It is also true that the leaders of the religious, economical and political organizations in the US do not really have the luxury for even the slightest dissent: The punishment for political incorrectness is severe and instantaneous. They better keep a constant eye over their shoulder, a single incorrect statement will bring the IRS, the FBI, the ADL and other members of the alphabet soup group to their doors and these people do not always knock before they enter...)

The general public in the US is so ill informed that several decades after the Israeli attack against the US Liberty less than one percent of the American public knows about the true nature of that event. The media is so heavily saturated by Jews and their agents and court historians that no historical perspective can form in American society on the reality of events.

On balance the New World Order is dead! Even the fractured, compartmentalized opposition of China, Russia, Japan, the Muslim States and the New European Right is more than enough to

keep it from any form of true global domination, financial or military.

The real question of the decade is: What will happen to the white population of the North American continent? They have been led to the gates of hell by the millions of Jews whom they had originally saved from the very same institution - hell itself. For almost a century now they kept sending their children to far away places to die for - to serve the Jews and now the war is coming to their own cities, a war that has never been their own and where it does not matter if they win or loose, in the end they can be only losers as long as they give up their self-determination. (As the old European saying goes: "When you mix with the swill the pigs will eat you!")

Some of the friends of those hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have thrown away their lives to involve themselves in the European conflict are still driving around in America, and when they are coming home from Mexico they are shaken down for their personal medications at the border by the very same border guards who were unwilling to stop the tide of millions of colored immigrants to their land. When they make it home after passing through the massive third world population groups of South California and the regular yearly summer festivities of hundreds of thousands of perverts of all sorts they arrive to a home that may or may not be theirs for as long as over 1,000,000 attorneys in the USA, (over 200,000 only in the Sate of California) are looking for a golden opportunity to create a reason to share in the fruits of their labor. They can not buy health insurance anymore.

The population of the US was slightly over 90% white when they returned to celebrate their victory, the government says that it is around 70% white today and we all know that this 70% includes a lot of things that we have no desire to associate with and then there are the ten to fifteen million illegals, mostly colored in the country and when we add this all up it amounts to about 60% white population plus the real wages adjusted for inflation cut into less than half all over the country in twenty years, and their children and their grandchildren are bussed off to the holohoax centers by compulsive Jews who are known to steal the money that has been appropriated to them by their servants in government offices.

If our soldier has managed to keep enough money to have children and grandchildren while negotiating through the maze of over 10,000 pages of IRS regulations while listening to incoherent answers to his questions in strange dialects when he was calling for clarifications, and those kids happen to organize a European Student Club in a sea of colored activity they will be beaten into submission and labeled extremists today - and most likely domestic terrorists tomorrow... His children will not learn about their true identities and history and when a 9,500 year old complete skeleton is fished out of the Columbia River that does not fit the idiotic theory that absolutely anything and anybody who was able to crawl, swim, fly or float on this planet made it to America - except the white man - then the order will be issued directly from the White House to cover this rare and most valuable anthropological site with loads of rocks, just to make sure that no additional items will be found and a group of degenerated clowns - called lawyers and judges - will produce a ten plus years, never ending "legal battle" over a issue that can be sorted out in five minutes by a high-school kid.

In case our soldier has enough gas in his car (60 to 70% of the price of gasoline is tax) and

makes it back to his minority infested neighborhood he can not really assure his relatives of a bright future: The largest industries are the drug, prison and government industries, “employing” over half the total work force of the country. While the EU countries were smart enough to keep and protect their basic industries in the US it could be a major challenge to locate a single individual who can manufacture a pair of shoes. Our soldier will have these inexpensive necessities as long as the population of China is willing to work for less than a dollar an hour - for about ten more years at the most. In his own town he rightfully feels safe for several more years, until the minority population reaches the 60 or 70% level, after that point with a single major labor strike the Mexican population can and will take political control of the Southwestern United States, the dissolution of the white population will rapidly increase and we will see if there are enough Jew newspaper columnists, superior court judges, FBI agents and police officers to drive every single truck to deliver food and basic supplies to the larger cities of the area while keeping a prison population locked up that is approaching the three million mark. The undisputed leader of the black population, The Honorable Louis Farrakhan is openly following a separatist agenda, waiting for the first sign of weakness from the US Federal Government.

As our imaginary soldier settles down in his well financed home, thinking about what the future holds for his family, the sudden realization comes crashing down on him like a rubber truncheon from the clear blue sky: “I could have been a lot better off if we had lost that stupid war!” Sorry Joe, that is life in the zoo, sometimes you win and sometimes you loose - and sometimes you loose when you win.

Social Credit – as Pound properly recognized it at an early stage – is the proper medicine. The international populist movement can greatly benefit by focusing on the fact that the right to create money and credit were high jacked in a wide spread criminal conspiracy.

And in the meantime Rapallo, changed into something that is the exact opposite of what Ezra Pound struggled for. The sleepy little Mediterranean resort town of the 1920’s with a population of 5000, grew tenfold to its original size.

Today it is the playground for real estate manipulators, who sell and buy handkerchief size condominiums in the 3 to 500.000 dollar price range.

On every block of this town there is a real estate office and a bank and not a single sign in the whole city of any productive activity.

No wonder that the locals want to manage Ezra Pound’s 30 years of residence in their city into oblivion. The undisputed local expert on Ezra Pound is Seignior Massimo Bacigalupo., a professor of English Literature at the Genova University.

And when the possibility of setting up a full time exhibition on Ezra Pound is mentioned to him, his reaction is instant and to the point: “It would have to go through me!”. The locals have a lot to lose since their sole income is coming from tourism and real estate manipulations. By the time I made it to the city library, set in a beautiful Mediterranean garden landscape, the librarian is reluctant to show me the collection of old issues of ‘Il Mare’, the city’s weekly newspaper of the

1930's. Pound often wrote in the paper.

The memory of Ezra Pound must be cultivated into a politically correct version to fit the taste and needs of this 21st century Rapallo.

HONEST MONEY

VALID money issued against goods by a private industrial company. This money functioned. It was never repudiated. The text reads: "Will pay to bearer on demand. Fifty Cents IN MERCHANDISE OR LUMBER."

This money fulfils the primitive condition of honest money: the man who issued the money HAD the goods. My grandfather maintained the value of his money by himself watching the gang-saws, the planks of the Chippewa Company were an inch and a quarter thick before planing, a foot of lumber after planing was one foot square and an inch thick, no scamped planks were delivered.

The public paid NO USURY for the use of this purchasing power. Nevertheless an adequate issue of money is more important than an exactitude in its value per unit (see Orage's postscript, p. 15). The function of money or of a currency and credit system is to get the goods TO the consumer, that is to the whole people.

SOCIAL CREDIT:
AN IMPACT
(1935)

By

EZRA POUND

2ND EDITION

PETER RUSSELL

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1925 A Draft of XVI Cantos 1950 Patria Mia
1926 Personae, Collected Poems of Ezra .
Pound For a list of Ezra Pound's most important
1927 The Exile (Periodical edited by Ezra pamphlets see the book cover of this
Pound) pamphlet.

What is Money For? Was first published in 1939

Introductory Text Book was first published in 1938

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The object of this series of reprinted pamphlets is to present to the public at a reasonable price the evidence in the much discussed case of Ezra Pound. This material has never been readily accessible to the English reader, and without it no possible opinion about Pound can be valid. Not only does the series serve as an indispensable introduction to the economic and political thought of Ezra Pound, it is an essential to the full understanding of his major poetical work, The Cantos.

While the publication of the series has no political object in view, I must point out that the attitude expressed in its pages, whatever other defects it may have, one of a healthy reaction alike to the vicious plutocracy and the destructive bureaucracy which seem today to be the twin tyrants of our uneasy world. Unlike the vast majority of our contemporaries, Ezra Pound has never compromised with the forces he considers evil. He has lived a life of frugal simplicity and hard work – phenomenal energy, one might add, preserving his independence over a period of forty-five years. His work is a lasting testimony to the personal integrity of one of the most single-minded geniuses of our time. His nearly completed poem The Cantos is as far as I am aware the only very long poem of any significance composed in the English language during this century. *

If these pamphlets contribute towards a just evaluation of Ezra Pound's life and work, their reprinting at this difficult juncture will have been not merely worthwhile, but a privilege.

PETER RUSSELL
Queens Gate,
January 1950

*I have derived great pleasure from Robert Bridge's The Testament of Beauty but cannot see that it has any "significance" in the sense of poetry which "quickens" man's reactions to his environment, as does Mr. Pound's poetry. – P.R.

MOTTO

“The earth belongs to the living.”
- Thomas Jefferson

DEFINITIONS

Increment of association: Advantage men get from working together instead of each on his own, e.g., crew that can work a ship whereas the men separately couldn't sail ships each on his own.

Cultural heritage : Increment of association with all past inventiveness, e.g., thus, crops from improved seed; American wheat after Carleton's researches; a few men hoisting a locomotive with machinery.

I

AN epic is a poem including history.

No one can understand history without understanding economics. Gibbon's History of Rome is a meaningless jumble till a man has read Douglas.

My generation (that born in the 1880's) was dragged up in black ignorance of economics, an ignorance in part the product of malice, in part sheer sloth and incompetence.

To say that "every man in high office in England is a thieves' accomplice, and that they are mostly too ignorant to understand what I mean by this term," would lay me open to the charges of intemperate language. Yet how many men knowing really, the facts, can draw gentler conclusion?

II

In our time, everything we eat, use or wear, has become cheap, cheap with an unspeakable cheapness if its cost be measured by the physical effort needed to produce it, or the material difficulty in procuring it, as compared with such difficulties in earlier epochs.

Douglas' "just price" is a recognition of this material cheapness. The parts of his system, all those details which deal with price adjustment are, fundamentally, a recognition and registration of realities, of the real cost (in effort) of forks, spoons, automobiles, grain fit to eat, eggs promptly delivered, and not carried liquid from China.

III

A thousand volumes a year ooze from dead minds all rendered dull, tangled, useless by the failure to make a few rudimentary dissociations, to distinguish, that is, between capital and property, between gold as deposit, and gold as measure, between demand meaning wish for, and demand meaning power to get it.

Property is not capital. The increment of association is not usury.

Historians have been too lazy to seek the facts, and too bull-witted to understand them.

The state has credit. Distribution is effected by little pieces of paper. The best facts of history are not in the school books. The job of this generation is to teach growing children; to make it impossible for any child to arrive at the threshold of manhood, ignorant as my generation arrived there.

The state has credit.

Distribution is effected by little pieces of paper.

If you don't WATCH these, you will be slaves. If you don't know how they are made, who makes them, who controls them, you will be diddled out of your livings, as millions of dead men have been diddled, and as millions of live ones are being. The sword can "protect the furrow".....etc..... against foreign invasion, but not against the usurer's cunning. Against usury it has availed never at all.

Usury and sodomy, the Church condemned as a pair, to one hell, the same for one reason, namely that they are both against natural increase.

Dante knew this and said it. It is registered in the Merchant of Venice, where Shylock wants no more shinbone or elbow, but wants to end Antonio's natural increase. You can find it in Lombard Chronicles, the laws against making eunuchs.

Van Burren's memoirs, the records of the American bank war, the death struggle between the bank and the people, were written in 1861, and never got printed till 1920.

The knowledge of true coining, the principles of honest issue of money have been known, over and over again, and forgotten. It is our generation's job so to hammer a few simple truths into the human consciousness that no Meyer Anselm can efface them.

Certain facts must stand in the common tongue. These root facts must go to the POEOPLE, they must go into the one everlasting repository, the MIND of the people. They must go into the folklore, into men's proverbs.

The necessities of mankind are now cheap. Effort can be unbounded only in dimension of quality. In that road there is room enough for all discipline. No man has outdistanced Homer. But for everything that is not great art, participant in that form of undyingness, for all that is used and used up, all that is worn, worn out, dwelt in, we must know the new cheapness, we must now that its cost in effort, in toil, in sweat, in difficulty, has dwindled, and dwindles.

We must let no man cozen us out of this knowledge.

"And all this costs the Khan nothing," said Marco Polo of Kublai Khan's stamped paper money. Peter Simple prints touching poems about the poor old soldier, neglected, dank, cold in the gutter..... for want (Peter doesn't quite say), of a few pieces of PAPER.

The English are degrading their empire, murdering their home population for the sake of a fixed idea as to the nature of money.

The American New Deal to date (December 1934- January 1935) has shown no comprehension

of fundamentals, no perception of the basic relations of currency system, money system, credit system to the need and purchasing power of the whole people.

Coffee in France, gone to hell; coffee offered free by Brazil – too expensive for the poor in Vienna. Wallace ploughing grain under; Perkins too bull-witted to know that work is not a commodity.

Work is not a commodity.

Money is not a commodity.

The people of two populous countries tolerate rulers too whey-headed to understand or say this.

IV

Amoral technocrats have gathered the statistics of production. Gesell observed that Marx found no fault with money; “nothing to criticize in money”; just took it for granted.

Fascism has saved Italy, and saving Italy bids fair to save part of Europe, but outside Italy no one has seen any fascism, only the parodies and gross counterfeits. Douglas for seventeen years has been working to build a new England and to enlighten England’s ex- and still annexed colonies. The corporate state has invented a representative body that should function in the age of correlated machinery better than the old representation of agricultural districts.

No man without knowing his printing date can set down the number of social creditors, Gesellites, believers in the corporate state, rebels against a dead and decaying order, insisting on a new Occident.

The opposition is daily more cowardly, their evasions more trivial. There are between honest economists, sincere differences of opinion as to policy, but against the underlying fact there is no intellectual answer. You cannot borrow yourself out of debt.

The increment of association exists. It is affirmed in every fascio clamped onto a public building; in every bundle of rods set up as a symbol.

The cultural heritage, in Douglas’ sense of the term, is an extension of the increment of association; a hook-up with the accumulation of all past inventiveness.

The earth belongs to the living. Chattel slavery has gone. Slavery to a printed fetish, to stamped paper and embossed discs of metal must follow it. There is an increment of statal well-being over and above the well-being of the individual. “Over and above” does not mean “counter to” or “against”.

Money is a form of agreement ; it implies an agreed order. It implies an honesty and an ability. “Fiat money” is a poor term, it is camouflage made of half Latin. The old Este mandates were valid. “Give to” or “I promise” or “we promise to give to” is the correct reading of the

inscription, whether spelled out or implied.

“Fiat” is bad only if it means “let there be grain, or wood, where grain is not, or where there is nothing.”

Intended in that sense, fiat money would be an evil. Like every other economic term it has been used as a scarecrow, and used with two or more meanings.

You can issue valid money against any commodity (or against services) up to the amount people WANT. The commodity must be THERE; services must be available.

You should not confuse a bill with a mortgage. You cannot soundly monetize land, but only its produce.

Two kinds of banks have existed” The MONTE DEI PASCHI and the devils.

Brother Warburg says I have a grouch against bankers when I suggest they should all learn their own history, and purge their minds of black ignorance.

If the bankers have obscured their own history, they deserve the present world contempt for their status. God or no God, soul or no soul, no man can hide for ever or for all time avoid the decision between the good and the evil.

Banks differ in their INTENTION. Two kinds of bank stand in history: Banks built for beneficence, for reconstruction; and banks created to prey on the people.

Three centuries of Medici wisdom went into the Monte dei Paschi, the only bank that has stood from 1600 to our time.*

Siena was flat on her back, without money after the Florentine conquest.

Cosimo, first duke of Tuscany, had all the Medici banking experience behind him. He guaranteed the capital of the Monte, taking as security the one living property of Siena, and a certain amount of somewhat unhandy collateral.

That is to say, Siena had grazing lands, down toward Grosseto, and the grazing rights worth 10,000 ducats a year. On the basis of taking it for his main security, Cosimo underwrote a capital of 200,000 ducats, to pay 5 per cent to the shareholders, and to be lent at 5 ½ per cent; overhead kept down to a minimum, salaries at a minimum and all excess of profit over that to go to hospitals and works for the benefit of the people of Siena. That was in the first years of the 17th century, and that bank is open today. It outlasted Napoleon. You can open an account there tomorrow.

And the lesson is the very basis of solid banking. The CREDIT rests in ultimate on the ABUNDANCE OF NATURE, on the growing grass that can nourish the living sheep. And the moral is in the INTENTION. It was not for the conqueror’s immediate short-sighted

profit, but to restart life and productivity of Siena, that this bank was contrived.

The hell banks have, from as far as the record takes us, started as gangs of creditors, associated to strangle the last ounce of profit out of their debtors. This they have done with splendour, boasts and parade. They have stood for exactitude in accounting. Once the dice

*Banca di Napoli was reorganized

have been loaded, they have counted up every point, every decimal. Chief and most glorified was the Banca S. Giorgio, the pitiless company of Genoese creditors, the model bank among bankers, against which I am, for all I know, the first to utter detraction.

“About the year 1200 there existed in Genoa, diverse societies....

“In 1252 the united....

“In 1451, 9th April. The commune of Genoe vested in perpetuity its dogana (That is the collection of all import tax), in the Banca S. Giorgio.” That means that the bank got all the proceeds.

“1539. The Doge, governors and procurators confirmed and anew conceded and assigned to the protectors of S. Giorgio all the proceeds of the salt tax... approving the addition of the taxes on oil and grain, meat, wine, etc... with the right to slel the same if they chose.

“1749 the bank got the right to tax church property also, but at a fourth less than the secular.

“The revolution of 1797 disorganized its collection of taxes, the provisional government leaving the bank (of S. Giorgio) provisionally its internal administration and the collection of customs, took from its directors their absolute civil and criminal jurisdiction as incompatible with unity of the republic, and the sovereignty of the people.” – Memorie sulla banca S. Giorgio, Genoa, 1832. Compiled by their keeper of archives, Antonio Lobero.

Lobero seems rather indignant at this infringement of bankers' omnipotence, his spirit appears reincarnate in our day of Paul Einzig.

This shows what bankers will placidly do if you let 'em. The great company of St. George could be both plaintiff and judge in a civil or criminal suit against its interests.

The arts did not flourish in Genoa, she took almost no part in the intellectual activity of the renaissance. Cities a tenth her size have left more durable treasure.

II

You can issue sound money to express the will of the people, which amounts to saying you can issue it against services wanted. You cannot issue sound money against land, or against anything undeliverable. You cannot issue sound money save against something wanted.

The soundness of money is not limited to being state money. Countless examples of valid private and valid local money exist: Scovil metal dollar, 1842; Lockport Mills*, 1851; my grandfather's money against 'lumber or merchandise'; Larkin & Co. "merchandise bonds" issued before the recent American bank holiday. States fail or fall into hands of ignorant men or of scoundrels. The banks have tried to throttle communities over which they have bloody and armed power of militia or police armed with machine guns, fore-hoses and gas-bombs; sane men and free merchants have issued their own paper or metal implements of exchange and accountancy, and will do so wherever the light of reason penetrates or the spirit of manhood co-exists with a minimum of necessary knowledge.

"Peace on his lying lips, and on his hands Blood."

"They make a wilderness and call it peace."

"Avenge, O Lord."

No rhetoric and no denunciatory poem launched against a military tyrant is too strong for the devils of finance, in whose hands lie the tyrants and for whose fist military prowess is merely a knuckleduster.

They make a desert. The American Secretary of Agriculture sits cowering before his own miserable ego. "Free coffee too dear for Vienna"; Austrian Charity League asks for Brazilian surplus, but finds it will cost three shillings and ninepence a pound even if Brazil GIVES 'em the coffee instead of destroying it. This situation is the glory and boast of Messrs. Norman and Rothschild. It is the certificate of efficiency. Deterding, Herbert Lawrence, Duff Cooper,

*NOTE- I am not advocating a "return" to private money in place of Government money. There are indubitable advantages in having a uniform money for the whole nation, backed by the whole nation. But the nation should learn from the history of the private monetary issues. Neither banks nor governments are a necessary preliminary to the existence of money. Banks have not produced a uniform or stable currency. In fact they have done their utmost to destroy such uniformity and stability for the sake of their own paunches and moved by intemperate greed, gross ignorance and an inhuman callousness to every human need, to every form of human misery and in contempt for every amenity, for every art and for every science.

The last half of the nineteenth century in America saw the gross mug of the profit-seeker predominate. Papers with vast circulations defiled literature and cried down every human motive save avarice, every human ability save that of absorption.

Sarvazy, Sieff, De Wendel, Robert Protot, the brothers Schneider of Creusot, and ten thousand

fatted bankers proclaim the virtues of “orthodox” economics, assisted by 500 curs, and titled straw men, waiting for something to break.

There will be no red revolution in England. Englishmen will go on patiently dying, they will go on as they have gone on for 200 years on progressively pejorated diet. France is losing its bread and wine, its coffee went to hell after the war. The Germans have been fed on Ersatz, having been broken to it during the war, and are thankful for an occasional let up.

Schacht, the prize tailor’s dummy, has gone out with a begging box, to stimulate Xmas spirit. The dregs of German farce comedy can attain no deeper bathos.

Well-meaning Englishmen assure me that they personally “cannot attack the banks.” Douglas for seventeen years has been showing them how not to annihilate banks. Freedom has been used to camouflage almost every known form of folly and infamy. The local cry for freedom (Rapallo), is specifically for the right to tubercules free in the milk. By God, they just won’t keep any cows, if they can’t have the ancient right of poisoning the consumers of cow-juice, which is a mild and intelligent desire if compared with the acts of contemporary commerce in its assault on English and American provender. With millions spent on medical research, we find that the biologists in the fight against pellagra, searched for years for a “medicine cheaper than food.”

Work is not a commodity.

Money is not a commodity.

The state HAS credit. “Just as I have credit at the Albergo Rapallo. I could eat there for three months without the proprietors presenting a bill or feeling any uneasiness. I do not have to go to the Bank of Chiavari and borrow money and pay the bank usury on that money, in order to lunch and dine.”

For a hundred years states have done little with their credit save sabotage it, save its use for less than its value, save pay private companies tribute. A government of hypnotized rabbits could not behave with greater imbecility, and there can, in the long run, be no greater treason to the people. All this is known, all this has been known ten times over. It was known to Jackson and Van Buren. The American Civil War shelved the knowledge. Not only did the Americans pay with their blood (a million dead), for Negro freedom, but they paid with the death of knowledge. America paid by her loss of memory, she came out of her Civil War with unspeakable shell-shock, and a dead loss of cultural heritage of which she was utterly and unspeakably unconscious. The war of the 1830’s is not to be found in the school books. Jackson is regarded as a tobacco-chewing half-wit, or a tuppenny militarist, the murderer of a few Indians, and the victor of New Orleans; Van Buren either vilified or forgotten. Only abnormal Englishmen have even heard of such presidents.

No system of inter communication exists. Lights, as they are considered, of the American intellectual world, pass their days shut in a village, and get their news fifteen years late, faded and colourless.

The intelligentsia, or a part of it, delayed in Marxian, tries to start a “union,” on the supposition that writing is a commodity, and not a system of communication; failing to recognize that the value of a printed page depends not on the amount of its verbiage, but on its efficiency as communication. Both speed and clarity count; both reliability and exactness.

III

We need in economics:

1. Simplification of terminology;
2. Articulation of terminology (“distinguish the root from the branch”)

We need:

3. Less intolerance towards converging movements;
4. To hammer on root ideas;
5. Speakers and writers should bear in mind the black ignorance of the public and tell each separate audience that:

1. Money is not a commodity;
2. Work is not a commodity;
3. The state has credit;
4. The increment of association exists;
5. Cultural heritage is the increment of association with all past inventiveness, the FOUNT from which all state dividends are payable.

Prosperity comes of exchange; a high standard of living comes of exchange of goods; a monetary system, a banking system which also sabotages exchange, and impedes it, is evil. Its sustainers are enemies of the people.

No day passes without my coming on pages that are foolish lack of simple disassociations, already cleared in my ABC.*

Four things are necessary in any modern or civilized economic system:

- 1., the labour, 2., the product, 3., the means of transport and 4., the monetary carrier.
- Inadequate monetization has made inaccessible islands” of fields lying adjacent one with the

other; it has erected barriers between garden and factory.

Two men have ended the Marxist era. Douglas in conceiving the cultural heritage as the great chief fountain of value. Gessell in seeing that “Marx never questioned money. He just took it for granted.”

Property has never done any harm, it is the devil capital, sheltering himself behind property, the lien on other men’s services, that has played hell with the world.

To reward another man for NEEDED help, we must give him something more useful than a noose around his neck.

*”ABC of Economics,” by E.P. (Faber and Faber)

And when we give help to our neighbour we must show more intelligence than to stick our own head through a halter.

You cannot monetize land, but only its deliverable products. All the errors regarding land have parallels in industry. Many men have been land poor; they can now be factory poor, “plant poor.”

The nature of property is radically (at the root, in the root), different from the nature of capital. The inherited terminology of false economics has served both fools and devils. All such phrases as “capital in the form of” are misleading.

Properly understood capital is liquid. The great division is between whatever is a LIEN on the other man’s services, and what is either completely neutral or passive, or constitutes a potential responsibility, whereof the weight leans on the owner.

Land can lie fallow, houses decay at various speeds, industrial plants depreciate both from decay and from standing still while invention goes past them.

The increment of association is not usury. To see clearly, one must divide CAPITAL from everything that is not capital.

The moment money is spent, whatever thing is purchased is no longer capital, it is property; it has but three possibilities: You may keep it, use it, or lose it.

The problem that faces us (as Douglasites), is no longer that of understanding either the problem or its solution, it is a problem of education the public. In that campaign Gesell seems to me boundlessly useful especially where one meets superstitious Marxists and of single-taxers. Gesell progressed from whatever had been thought in these groups. He did not, however, provide, as Douglas does provide, and uniquely, a means of getting the purchasing power into the places where it is MOST needed.

Gesellism is feasible in the form he left it, as an expedient, it becomes a part of serious thought and idealism for the year 1935; that is to say, susceptible to constructive thinking and planning of CONSUMPTION, when one begins to think of the possibilities inherent in calculating a relation between fixed and labile money, from which calculation it seems to me that the active mind will make the transition to the two main Douglas propositions.

Such transition will not be made by muddlers who think that they refute the A plus B theorem by restating it in four pages of algebra. The eminent Einstein shows himself no better logician than Mrs. Jones, he has had the oriental effrontery to “object to Gesell,; by unconsciously quoting Gesell. If he is not careful he will be given a job in some nation’s cabinet.

I

WORK is not a commodity.

Money is not a commodity.

The state HAS credit, and does not need to rent it from banks.

II

“Marx found nothing to criticize in money,” – S. Gesell.

Many vast and heavy books have ended in muddle from failure to see that property and capital are radically different.

Property does not imply the enslavement of others.

There is a difference between durable and perishable goods, in fact there are all degrees of durability, from that of fresh-plucked fruit to that of the art works of Chaldera.

III

The reason for growing food is to feed the people. The reason for weaving cloth is to clothe them. The function of a monetary system is to get the goods from where they are to the people that need them.

A man’s understanding of any subject should be like a city with enough cross-streets. He should be able to get about it in any direction, and without traffic blocks.

“Intellectuals” do not have any ideas, they only get spare parts of ideas (Rome broadcast, January 11, 1935).

“The indifferent have never made history, they have never even understood any history.” (idem) Economics are like Euclid or like physics in that if you don’t understand a few simple principles you will fall into error after error, but if you have a few very simple perceptions you can

construct soundly without any very great learning.

Property is not the same thing as capital.

Goods have differing durability.

Money has been treated not only as if it were goods, but it has been given privileges above all other goods. This was flagrant injustice. Free men will not tolerate it for one hour after they understand it.

Men living under the domination of catchwords live in a hell of their own making.

Terms like “fiat money” scare people blue. If the printed paper means “let there be wheat or goods, where there is none,” it is a bluff and unsound. The Este “mandati” were of a different nature, as I have emphasized in my Cantos. These slips of paper were orders; GIVE TO a man something that exists and is there in charge of the agents.

If the American government OWNED crops sufficient to order their destruction, it owned them quite enough to order their delivery.

Free coffee too dear for Vienna, Brazil would have GIVEN the coffee for the Viennese poor. Because of brute habit, Austria saw no way to get it without paying IMPORT tax.

Naturally every tax on imports is paid by the consumers, the citizens INSIDE the country who are thus slashed by their own knife.

England that could provide fresh eggs, imports “dead” eggs, liquid in barrels, from China, in order to be able to send goods OUT Of England, she subsidizes shipping companies to maintain this imbecility.

The objection to one chief feature of Douglas, namely the just or adjusted price has been proved false, false up to the hilt here in Italy.

Douglasite theory of fixed price is proved feasible here daily and weekly.

It is no more impossible to conduct a credit office than to conduct a tax office.

The way out of the further twists of IMPASSE, that I, the way to solve the discrepancy between the goods on sale and the purchasing power of THE WHOLE PEOPLE, is by the issue of purchasing power DIRECTLY to the people, equitably, and per person, and not by hand-outs to particular organizations.

SERIOUS and Studious economists have of late and at other times expended considerable ingenuity on the maintenance, or in the calculations for the maintaining, of the fixed value of a monetary unit. Stability of value is a convenience, and beyond a certain point it is very probably an illusion. It is desirable. It eases the life of calculators and accountants. Nevertheless I care much more that my beefsteak should be adequate. If my beefsteak is big enough, sufficiently tender and succulent, and if it is sold at a price that I can easily afford, I do not care greatly whether it is priced at 2/9, or 2/4 or 3/1.

First: the public's purchasing power must be ADEQUATE.

The poor in mind, the sidlers and avoiders of truth, the confused economists fail to see problems in their proper order and ratio. Let the purchasing power be first adequate. After that, the lechers after total security can calculate their decimals and their millesimals.

“Inflation” occurs when you issue more money than can be honoured in WANTED goods or in wanted services. When prices are fixed by government the value of a unit of money does not decline until you print it against more goods than people want or against more services than they want.

The safest place for reserve purchasing power is in the pockets of the people.

Agglomerates of protoplasm, listed as professors in the 'phone book, still bleat that money is just false teeth, metal and spectacle frames. They get paid for this sort of thing. Professors! They started as boys who said “yes” to their teachers, 30 years ago, and therefore got taken on as assistants. Nice soft, incompetent, low-voiced nonentities deficient in perceptive faculty. Once a professor always a guide to the young. In purely decorative branches they do little save discourage the reading of the classics, but in questions affecting the vitality, the whole health of a nation, we have no right to let ourselves be blind-led by men who dare not meet the intelligent members of their own decade, who form habits of authority because they are, by the very condition of their profession, kept predominately in contact with the immature.

The self-professed opponents of Douglas provide comic relief, but this is no time for idle pleasantries or for incompetent algebra.

The strength of Douglas' position comes from the fact that he was not drifting about in vapid theory, or trying to get himself noticed in the papers or in order to get a better job as an economist. He observed a concrete fact on the books of the airplane factory which he was running and for which he was responsible.

He observed that that company was creating prices FASTER than it gave out the power to buy. Having the concrete case before him, he considered its consequences. And if that happens in every other factory, every other industry?

It needs no fancy algebra to prove that the purchasing power of the whole people can never catch

up with the price of the goods that they bring into being.

There is one way for the serious man to refute this, he can show us the books of two, three or one prospering company where such is not the case.

As to the percentage of company failures, Dexter Kimball has printed some interesting figures. During the sixteen years that I have been Douglasite I have never met ANY serious argument against Douglas' analysis.

There is perhaps a little serious difference of opinion as to the details of remedy. But even there the serious economists are inclined to believe that if you don't cure it with Douglas' system you will have to cure it with something so like Douglasism that the difference is not worth wrangling about, at least, until some government shows a serious desire to take action.

Roosevelt's entourage are nearly as vapid, and stuck in village-horse-collar superstition as was the complete and utter idiot Sinclair in California. They would rather be members of a cabinet than take the trouble of learning any thing they didn't mug up as undergraduates. If any one of them has learned anything during his tenure of office, the fact has lamentably failed to reach public print. As they went into the Washington dung hill so they have stayed. Fixed and fussy as a district probation officer or soft as some theosophist séance, bleating of universals to avoid concrete, immediate fact.

As to your English high-gangsters, all I know is that no foreigner has respected any English cabinet minister for a decade. No English political name has any present connotations outside England higher than those of the traditionally fishy French parliaments or even on a level with Herriot's (which I cite as an indication of level and not in trusting naivete'.) Duff Cooper's remarks on investigation of the English Monetary system would lead one to suppose that he is a nice ignorant trusting young Englishman stuck up to say what he has been told to, and unaware of what he is doing.

Japan and Italy, the two really alert, active nations are both engaged in proving fragments of the Douglas analysis, and in putting bits of his scheme into practice. Why England should be the slowest and last country to utilize ideas invented in London must be left to your local pathologists. As a benevolent foreigner I can do little but hope you will CURE IT.

Ninety-seven sects and cliques and sub-divisions of social creditors, fussing and fuming like lily-livered Bloomsbury pinks, or Chelsea pansies do not inspire the historian with any more respect than he already had for the brawn of old England.

The foregoing does not mean that Italy has "gone to Social Credit." And it does not mean that I want all Englishmen to eat macaroni and sing Neapolitan love songs. It does mean or ought to mean that Englishmen are just plain stupid to lag behind Italy, the western states of America and the British Dominions. And if you hadn't the lousiest press in Europe with the exception of the French which is flagrantly and blatantly OWNED by the Comite' des Forges (the link-up of war profiteers and gun-bastards), it wouldn't have taken ten years for news of Cursitor Street to reach Chancery Lane.

Grant that the British Black Shirt is an annex to the Gaiety Chorus, English Freedom, especially the traditional freedom of the English Press is a music hall memory in comparison with the de facto actual freedom one has for printing and thinking in Italy.

As to your “democratic principles,” the next ten years will show whether your groggy and incompetent parliament “represents” the will of the English people half as effectively as the new Italian Consiglio of the Guilds, where men are, at least in terms of the programme, represented by men of their own trade.

An institution cannot be eternally judged by its high hats and Eton collars, it will be judged by what gets DONE.

I never make out what Englishmen think their government is. I believe it is a constitutional accumulation of indefinite hand-me-downs. But if a man were a royalist he would believe (I mean the theory he would think he believed would imply), that the KING is boss of the coinage. If he were a “democrat” he would believe that the power to issue money is delegated by the people to its representatives.

Neither of their beliefs can sanction the mere leaving it in the hands of men, who, if judged by their record are the persistent murderers of the people, ruiners of the health of the people, unrepentant and putrid in mind, insensible to fact, deniers of the truth, with no answer to public reason save a “mysterious carriage of body” and such phrases as “is not the Government practice.”

No one but a “governor” would have the crust to imply that a “practice” quia practice was inviolable chiefly because it produced distressed areas, and a level of health so low in England that your officials dare not print the results of their findings.

I don’t suggest that any Englishman should do violence to his own sensibilities. I once heard a Briton express at least 65 per cent of his race by saying “I don’t believe ideas.”

I myself don’t much like ideas, if you mean abstract generalities. I am constantly scrapping with the Major because I think he still shelters an illusion about the “homo economicus,” the economic man moved by reason, instead of the human man.

I think Mussolini’s efficiency is due to the mental quality which causes him to yell that the “economic man” is all bunk, that there “ain’t no such animal,” that nobody ever saw “hominem economicum”; and that when you talk to 99 per cent of humanity you’ve got to use just rough horse sense.

Cromwell says the same thing. “Got to talk to these men in their own language,” he said to “Cousin Waller,” the fancy poet, speakin’ as two gents about the vulgar Roundhead fightin’ men. Shorten the workin’ day! SHORTEN it!

Its got to come. After they get the work all divided up there’ll STILL be the brawny old LACK

of purchasing power, until you start looking at MONEY. What is it? Who makes it? How much do they make? How does it get where?

And how the hell are you going to get it to where it will do the most work quickest, namely to the people who will spend it quickest because they simply can't wait?

That means DOUGLAS; it don't mean the half-way house of Gesell (which is a bully half-way house), with a lot more eats than the pore bdy. Workin' man now gets under the bank bastards who dare not print the facts of Gesell.

"Marx found nothing to criticize in money." Tell that to the half-masted socialists. They need it. They need tellin'; They need an awful LOT of telling. Thee is nothing less capable of mental notion than a socialist, unless it is his side-kick, the bolo.

I firmly believe, and more's the pity, that the stupidest set of men in England (apart from those of them that are just slimy and crooked) are the British "leaders" of Labour. And I equally believe that the Tories will stick where they are, until Labour kicks out its dead clogging executive and starts yelling for sane economics.

Perhaps it is only an American who could write like this to the English without insulting them. We Anglo-Saxons are the tamest and most prominent race n the planet. We have a common shame, there is not a ha'p'orth to chose between us. We Americans tolerated the infamy of Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover (of Kensington, W.8); you English have put up with MacDonald and Simon. We deserve every skunk deal we have had.

The most manly speech I have seen reported in the British Press for a twelve month, was made by Lord Melchett.

Naturally foreign stock will come in and rule if you don't stand by your heritage.

NINE... future Policy

One of the most urgent tasks facing those concerned with the welfare of contemporary literature is to re-establish creative contact with the past. We are therefore planning a series of numbers of NINE in which we hope to present, by means of texts and translations, commentaries and general criticism, a highly selective but representative picture of various great periods or traditions. Our principle concern will be with literature, but the historical and cultural background will be sketched in so far as possible. The subjects that we intend to cover during the next two years are provisionally the following:

(i) Spring, 1951. Romance Literature of the Renaissance, in Italian, Spanish, French. Portuguese etc., with paticular stress om epic and lyric poetry.

(ii) Autumn, 1951. 2,000 years of Latin. A number which will show the continuity of Latin literature from the classical period, through the Middle Ages to Renaissance and modern times.

(iii) Spring, 1952. 3,000 years of Greek. Greek literature from Homer to the present day, including the Byzantine period. Again designed to show the continuity of a great tradition.

(iv) Autumn, 1952. Mediaeval Literature. A number that will present both the Romance and the Germanic achievement in epic and lyric poetry, with an account of Troubadour metric. Complementary to these studies in comparative literature, the alternate numbers of NINE will be more contemporary in tone. They will devote more space to original prose and verse, including fiction and the critical dialogue, besides articles of a general nature designed to elucidate the wider implications of NINE'S literary principles.

Clearly these ambitious designs will not be adequately realized without a great deal of collaboration from our readers. We are particularly interested in:-

(a) Verse translations accompanied by the original texts.

(b) Prose translations of poetry, accompanied by detailed analyses.

(c) Notes on, or studies of any aspect of these literary periods or of related subjects, e.g. the other arts, historical, religious, intellectual questions etc.

We are looking for translations which do not sacrifice poetic vitality to accuracy, nor accuracy to poetic vitality. Analyses, notes and studies should be informed by the qualities NINE stands for, viz the sense of continuity, the belief that the present cannot be understood except in relation to the past, and that the most valuable studies of the past are those which illuminate the problems of the present.

Concision and lucidity will also be appreciated!

The Editors, NINE,
114b Queen's Gate, London S.W.7.