

the works in order to remove them. But he did deem it necessary to tell his Conservative audience that he doubted whether there would be a good case for putting a turnover tax on industry as a whole and thereby raising the cost of production in order to remit it for exporters. Ye gods! His further remarks were, in effect, an indictment of the protectionist policies which he, among others, has carried out. "There will be no sheltered markets left for us, including the one at home, in the relatively near future," he said. To that we would simply add that if there had not been any in the past we would not now be worried sick about the Six and in danger of destroying the Commonwealth.

**A**T the mass rally which concluded the Conference, the Prime Minister touched on many matters including foreign affairs with a special reference to Berlin, and the Common Market—"We must expect competition to intensify; it is a bracing cold shower we shall enter, not a relaxing Turkish bath." Of the prospects for social progress Mr. Macmillan painted a rosy picture flecked with admonition, exhortation and warning as befits an office-holding politician. Up till now we've never had it so good but in future, apparently, we are going to have it even better.

#### NOTES OF THE MONTH

### Plain Words On The Common Market By the Christian Science Monitor's Financial Editor

**P**RESCRIBED reading for every liberal who still nurses the vain illusion that the Common Market is a step toward free trade are the splendid articles which Mr. Nate White, business and finance editor contributes to the *Christian Science Monitor*. The skilful propagandists who have successfully deluded so many (even, we are sorry to say, a few Georgeists) have failed to pull the wool over his eyes. Supplementing the extracts from one of his earlier articles published here in August are these from articles which appeared in the October 13 and 16 issues:—

"The six nations of Europe in the Common Market are not the protectors of the so-called free enterprise system. They are in a very large sense state capitalistic and socialist economies, operating collectively and exclusively in their own interests. Cartels have long operated in Europe. Their control has always been hidden. Today's state-operated enterprises in Europe, seldom issuing full reports of their activities, operate as state cartels in much the same way that private cartels have always operated.

"Control of these cartels, control of these state capitalistic enterprises is difficult to trace. The interlocking directorates of Europe are complex, interrelated. Common traditions, common practices, often traceable far back to the days of the Florentine merchants, prevail.

In the last 10 years the real value of wages had gone up by one third, he said. If they could keep the general rate of increase the same, level with, but not ahead of productivity, the average wage packet should rise from the present figure of £15 a week to something like £20. That means the average industrial wage earner should be a £1,000 a year man at current prices. This would have seemed an impossible dream a few years ago. He was confident that given goodwill great strides forward could be made over the next 10 years. It was no easy road. If the Government were to preach thrift they must practice it. Mr. Macmillan added that they intended to see that Government expenditure, current and prospective, was kept in line with national resources. Greater skill than we command is needed to comment adequately without overstepping the bounds of journalistic propriety. A partial answer is afforded by the letter we reprint elsewhere from Mr. W. C. Bond, patron of Orpington Conservatives.

We end as we began: the three Conferences offer scarcely a crumb of comfort to those gravely concerned about the cankers threatening to destroy our society.

A similarity in background, religion and tradition throughout Europe finds its principal unifying factor in the Treaty of Rome which established the European Common Market of six nations. This is the tightly manipulated economic situation which Britain now hopes to join. Doubtless the problem of hidden control will be the most difficult one confronting the British . . .

"Much of Europe today, especially key members of Euromarket, are operating as collective economies in the name of modern capitalism. They are socialised collectives in which the major interest and control is hidden. Sometimes the control is the federal government. Sometimes it is a municipality or province. Often it is in the hands of church-controlled trusts . . . Control in Europe is a secretive thing. It has always been so. World War II changed nothing except to make the cartel system a little more efficient, and the state capitalism or socialistic system on the surface more nearly competitive.

"In many European industries the visible officers of a corporation are only the front meant for the hidden system which lies behind them. Much of this development, it needs to be pointed out, is supposedly benevolent in nature. It is a form of social justice to keep people employed, to improve standards of living, to increase ultimate consumerism. Even so much of so-called free Europe today is a collective economy . . .

"Church control of finance and industry is also openly existent in Europe, as it is in Latin America and elsewhere. For example, in France, newspapers frequently discuss the extensive economic and financial involvement of the Holy See in the European banking system, railroads, airlines, hotel chains, oil companies, and so on. The whole problem of control confronts the nations which must do business with or try to integrate with the European Common Market nations. It is better that their governments understand what they are getting involved in before rather than after the integration.

"This is not the time for the building of competitive political and economic trading blocs inside the free world. It is a time for eliminating them . . . Instead of the present Paris and Brussels negotiations pointing toward Britain 'joining' the Common Market there should be today vigorous consultations of all the nations of the free world pointing toward the widest possible economic co-operation and development which would be not mutually exclusive but mutually inclusive. A beginning exists in OECD, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Unless its members give it power and influence, however, the centripetal forces of Euromarket will overpower it. Either Britain will conform with the centrepotence of Euromarket, or Euromarket itself could fly apart. It could just go on, as it now is, mutually exclusive without outsiders. Then Britain and the Commonwealth with the United States would need to construct a countervailing power. The better solution is free world 'inclusivity' opposed to the Soviet-Sino power."

## Keep Britain Out!

THE "Keep Britain Out" Campaign sponsored by a number of leading British free traders has held a number of exceptionally well attended meetings in and around London. Speakers have included Mr. S. W. Alexander, Mr. Oliver Smedley (chairman) and Mr. W. Newton Jones. It goes without saying that such men present sound arguments persuasively. What chiefly is of interest are the audience reactions. At the meetings we have attended protectionists have considerably outnumbered free traders and appeared to be mainly middle-class Conservatives. The vehement intensity of their opposition to British membership which they regard as a form of unconditional surrender and a betrayal of the Commonwealth and of British agriculture has to be experienced to be believed. We found ourselves out of sympathy with much that was said from the floor while comforted by the thought that if (which is far from certain) the Six are prepared to offer terms which the Government could accept, these people and millions more like them could well bring the Government toppling down. The meetings should be covered by the

press and radio of Britain and Europe and Messrs. Edward Heath and Duncan Sandys certainly ought to attend one or two.

Supplementing the meetings are the articles by Mr. Alexander, Mr. George Winder and others in the *City Press* newspaper, the distribution of leaflets, including a very useful one by Mr. Newton Jones, and lectures and debates before various important bodies. These few men and their associates are of the breed who won the earlier battle of Britain 21 years ago. They are determined to win and deserve maximum support.

## Umbrella Knobs And Goldfish Shells

THE assiduous men and women in the Tariff and Import Policy Division and the Merchandise Marks Committee at the Board of Trade deserve a break. Their new chief, Mr. Iain Macleod, should despatch them, equipped with weights, measures and note books, to hunt snark, unicorns and leprechauns. Taxpayers would prefer to pay salaries for such innocuous futility rather than for a new pile of investigations on which these worthy folk are now engaged. According to press notices received up to end October these include:—

Requests that imported handles and knobs, etc. for umbrellas, sunshades and walking sticks should be marked with the name of the country in which they are made, and that the 1939 Order governing the marking of watch straps, wristlets, bands and cordettes, etc., not made wholly or mainly of metal should be tightened up;

Applications to increase the import duty on flaxboard and change (presumably increase) the duty on tomatoes which enter the U.K. between May 16 and 31. The May 1961 request for increased duty on dried onion bulbs and shallots (more than 1½ inch diameter) has been amended by the applicants and is being re-examined.

Pleas from various British manufacturers engaged in the export trade who want refunded the import duty they pay on materials used for goods sold abroad include: corrugated asbestos paper wheels, certain chemicals used for making compound fertilisers, apricot kernels and oats in husk, iron and steel cigarette boxes, sundry materials used by hatters, and microphones and earphones used in deaf aids. It seems particularly beastly that the government taxes hearing aids, especially in view of its welfare-mindedness, though since medicines are taxed no doubt the practice is strictly logical.

Every cloud has its silver lining and so it is at the Board of Trade. Civil Servants are considering two applications for a *reduction* in import duty. One concerns handbag frames not less than 5 inches and not more than 20 inches in length and the other relates to hothouse