

from the dregs of society, by a perverted use of his free will, and a consciousness of destiny, to become the commander of a nation. But if this man's zeal and ingenuity could be used to destroy the happiness of most of the world, why cannot we muster enough courage and determination to restore the world and undo the ruin he and others have created? It is a challenge and a challenge that each and everyone of us, especially on the North American continent should and must accept if we are to build the fortress of a new economy, and a true democracy in the path of false ideologies.

—ALBERT LANNAN '51.

Something Old

THE DISTRIBUTIST'S ANSWER

I wonder how many of us are aware that we are living under a system which is slowly destroying our very nature; that we are living a way of life which is opposed to the normal way in which we should live. If we were conscious of these facts, I'm sure we'd be willing and enthusiastic about doing something about it. We might not be able to do very much, but at least we could do a little to better our situation. "Do anything," says G. K. Chesterton, "however small, that will prevent the completion of the work of capitalist combination."

It is more than twenty years ago since Mr. Chesterton outlined a sane means of combatting the two great evils, Big Business and State Socialism. The methods he proposed were directed to the situation as it existed in his own country (England), but they could be used to the same advantage in our own country at the present time. The situation is almost identical.

"The natural thing to do with a wrong operation," says Mr. Chesterton, "is to reverse it. The natural thing, when property has fallen into fewer hands, is to restore it to more numerous hands", this is what is known as Distributism in its simplest form—the restoring of property into more numerous hands. It may not be an easy task. It's going to require a great deal of sacrifice—"vows and volunteers". Nevertheless it has to be done before it is too late. We cannot afford to become victims of Communism or chaos. We mustn't let the principle of property vanish.

Mr. Chesterton's program of Distributism is not the dream of some extreme fanatic; for he was neither ex-

treme nor fanatical. Nor has it proved to be unworkable, because it has never been tried. It is, on the other hand, a very sensible method of dealing with a very real problem; and a problem, by the way, which cannot be ignored too much longer. The peasantry must be revived; one which will be able to govern itself; one which will be independent and simple. The big capitalistic monopolists of our day are trying to persuade us that all this centralization, consolidation, standardization, combination, etc., is necessary. This attitude has been broadcasted so forcibly by radio, press, and other public devices, that people have come to the conclusion that it must be true. They have gotten away from the proper notion of what a normal life should be. "On the removal of that particular plutocratic pressure," says Mr. Chesterton, "the appetite and appreciation of natural property would revive, like any other natural thing". The religion of small property must be taught to the people. They must get the feel of 'possession' once again. Then shall the capitalistic system begin to break up and the real life on the land be appreciated.

Mr. Chesterton was thoroughly acquainted with, and clearly understood, the problems of his age (and consequently of ours). He was probably the most outstanding of the reform writers in this regard. His extraordinary discipline of mind and clarity of thought give an expression which is somewhat unique, yet easily intelligible. He has a way of making problems which appear extremely complicated seem almost absurdly simple. He possessed good judgment and sound common sense, and that's just what he uses in **Outline of Sanity**. It would be an excellent book for discussion clubs, especially at this time when the question of reconstructing the social order is so much to the fore. Besides obtaining a keener insight of the evils which are to be faced in the modern world the reader may also profit from many sane, practical suggestions which the author puts forth. They are at least worthy of consideration. The book is published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York.

—L. O'HANLEY '51.