

GUARDIAN

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OXFORD GROUPEERS ON "WAR OF IDEAS"

CAPE TOWN. — The "Moral Rearmament Team" has had a good time in the Mother City—starting with the minor triumph of a Mayoral cocktail party and culminating with an address to members of Parliament, given in the Senate's Committee Room this week. This privilege, The Guardian is reliably informed, was obtained through the good offices of Native Representative Mr. Douglas Buchanan, K.C.

Subject of the team's talk to the M.P.s was "The War of Ideas in Europe." Star performers were Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, the Rev. George Daneel, Group Captain P. S. Foss, O.B.E., and Major S. H. Foote.

The past record of the Oxford Group Movement, of which many of its supporters are unaware, makes it pretty clear which side its spokesmen are likely to take in the "war of ideas"—just as it is very clear which

side its leaders were on in the recent war of bombing, shooting, torture and destruction.

Buchmanism (the name comes from the leader of the Oxford Group, Dr. Frank Buchman) masquerades as a religion, asking persons of all faiths and sects to join it. It claims to live by four absolutes (one of which is honesty) and aims to heal all world conflicts by getting the maximum

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1.)

number of converts to its philosophy. If everybody lives the good life, it says, there will be no more wars and no more class struggles. Hence moral re-armament, as opposed to guns and tanks and politics.

"MORE IMPORTANT PEOPLE"

But one of the members of the Oxford Group mission is a gentleman by the name of Vickers, member of the famous family which turns out guns and other implements of war in Britain. Readers of Shaw's play "Major Barbara" will perhaps remember the connection between the munitions manufacturer and the Salvation Army—and the Oxford Group has been called the Salvation Army of the Middle Class.

Before South Africans swallow the dope peddled by the Buchmanites, they should know something about the history of the movement. They should know that although it claims to want a mass membership, it numbers among its supporters only the "more important people."

And the reason why it attracts the "more important people" is because the Oxford Group preaches a philosophy of employer-employee "collaboration" and industrial peace; "spiritual strike-breakers" is what Tom Driberg, British Labour M.P. called them.

ITS SUPPORTERS

Chief among the supporters of Buchmanism in the United States was, before his death, Henry Ford, notorious labour hater and union-buster. Among other supporters of the Group were leading members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the president of the New York Stock Exchange and other big-wigs. The Group got big support also from political isolationists, and was especially praised in the reactionary Hearst press.

Only three labour leaders in the United States fell into the trap, and two of them got out of it when they found out what they had done.

Among Buchmanites in other countries were Prince Konoye, the Japanese Prime Minister at the time of Pearl Harbour; Takasumi Mitsui, head of one of the four cartels owning practically the whole of Japan, who made his wealth on sweated labour and provided the sinews for Japan's war effort; Takashi Akiyama, Japanese multi-millionaire banker, industrialist and war lord; Heinrich Himmler, the Nazi killer who headed the Gestapo, and Rudolph Hess, Hitler's Deputy, recently sentenced by the Nuremberg court as a war criminal.

BUCHMAN THANKS HEAVEN

Buchmanites repaid the compliment by professing the most ardent

admiration for Hitler Germany. "I thank heaven for a man like Adolf Hitler, who built up a front-line defence against the anti-Christ of Communism," said Dr. Buchman himself after visiting Germany in 1936. He went on to say that he did not condone Hitler's anti-Semitism (even some Jews have given financial support to Buchman's outfit), but added:

"Suppose Hitler sees a Karl Marx in every Jew. Spain has taught us what Godless Communism brings . . ."

So that we have Buchman lined up in support of the Fascist Franco, too.

SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Buchmanism was, one thought, completely discredited by the war. Now, just as Fascism is reviving in many countries, so Buchmanism is getting re-established, and recently set up its headquarters in Geneva.

And like the Fascists, it is appearing in a new guise to-day—as the bearer of a "new ideology for the democracies of the world. Labour led by God can lead the world—that is our slogan," said Dr. Buchman on re-entering England.

Maybe. But Labour led by Buchmanism can be the death of Labour.

And in South Africa Buchmanites can help to stir up more hate—of the Soviet Union and the people's democracies of Eastern Europe, of trade unions and of the progressive movement in our own country.