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THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR BULLETIN

Issued by the Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17, Bank Street, Sheffield
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EDITORIAL

A CALL - AND A WARNING.

At this supreme hour in the fight for Democracy and Freedom Co-operative leaders have asked the Movement to contribute every ounce of "energy, courage, and service" to stem the tide of Nazism.

No Co-operator, familiar with the history and principles of his own organisation, will really need his call. Co-operators know that their way of life is opposed to everything in the Nazi system. Experience in every country where Dictatorships have been established has proved this beyond doubt. Even if we were not fighting for our very lives the principles of Democracy and Freedom would need to be defended as basic conditions for Co-operative existence.

At the moment Britain represents the last bulwark in defence of these great ideals, the very nature of which leaves us open to possible integration from within. The danger being that our easy tolerance of varied opinions may expose us to the enemy. Recent events have shown that the Nazi system takes advantage of the goodwill in every country, organisation, or person, to secure its nefarious ends.

We should beware, therefore, of those who can see advantages in the Nazi regime or in Dictatorship of any kind. There are dangerous elements who openly disparage Democracy, others who shake their heads and prophesy its supersession. The so-called efficiency of the German system is contrasted with the alleged incompetency of the British.

We should be on our guard against these wisecracks who would thus shake our faith in well-proven principles. Efficiency in murder is not a characteristic Co-operators seek to develop. Co-operation is founded on an eternal faith in the capacity and the moral right of the people to govern themselves in the economic as well as the political sphere.

Let no man therefore, in the name of Co-operation, give even lip service, let alone adherence, to this wicked German system of mass control that is butchering Europe and destroying civilisation wherever it is allowed to show its ugly head.

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CO-OP. AND RATIONING.

The Co-operative rationing registration in the Spring of 1940 amounted to:-

13,780,681 for sugar;
12,169,834 for butter; and
11,225,818 for bacon.

Very soon we shall have reached the end of the first six months of rationing, and householders will have to take to the shops their ration books for the next six months.

The two Sheffield Societies have made their arrangements for taking the ration cards of the whole of their members and for every rationed commodity, having very carefully and thoroughly organised the staff and their business generally to facilitate quick and easy registration.

There is no excuse for any Co-operator registering with any trader other than his own Society. Food-stuffs are, of course, controlled by the Government, but Co-operative customers can be sure of receiving the best available. Good food, and dividend on all purchases, give the Co-operator a distinct advantage in so far as he uses the facilities of his own Society to the full.

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SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATION'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

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Fullest confidence justified.

The two Sheffield Societies have continued their progress during war conditions.

THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK SOCIETY reports sales for the quarter ended 27th April amounting to £533,651.10s.7d., an increase of £24,067.3s.0d. or 4.72% on the corresponding period of last year. The total sales for the year amount to £2,140,371.1s.3d., being an increase of £36,033.16s.8d.

In membership there is a decrease of 455 when compared with twelve months ago, due mainly to members having removed from the district and the revision of the register of members. The total membership of the Society now stands at 78,437.

The Society has 250 employees now serving or have registered for service in H.M. Forces or National Service.

THE SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL SOCIETY'S cash sales for the quarter ending 27th April amount to £426,911.12s.1d., and represent an increase of £11,506.11s.3d. The annual sales given in the same report amount to £1,627,242.13s.2d., making an increase of £68,379.14s.3d. over the previous year.

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RATIONS FOR YOU
- WITH DIVIDEND TOO
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The Membership shows the record figure of 58,974 or 891 more a year ago.

Developments are reported by the completion of a new branch at the corner of Bocking Lane and Greenhill Main Road, and substantial progress in the building of a new Funeral Furnishing department in Stalker Walk.

The election of Directors held on June 1st resulted in the re-election of the retiring Board members, with Mr. W. Berry filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. G.W. Evison owing to age 11. Ald. J.A. Longden, J.P. (Lord Mayor) was re-elected President unopposed.

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NO NEED FOR FEARS ABOUT SAVINGS

"There is no reason for fears about the position of Co-operative capital under the new Emergency Powers Act," asserts Mr. J.S. Sims, Financial Adviser to the Co-operative Union.

"The speech by Mr. Attlee in which he outlined the powers to be taken by the Government to mobilise the nation's resources in the national effort has created an impression among some people that the Government can come along and confiscate co-operative savings," says Mr. Sims. "There is positively no need for such a fear. The Government will certainly not select co-operative savings for special confiscation. If there was to be confiscation it would make no difference where the capital was invested. But any idea of confiscation is foolish. That can only happen if the Nazis occupy and overrun this country."

"Meantime, capital is as safe in co-operative societies as in any other place, and safer than in most others."

The fact that Mr. Alexander, a Co-operative M.P. is a member of the British Cabinet, in addition to the known Co-operative support from other Labour Members of the Government, is a guarantee of fair treatment for the Co-operative Movement in all these matters.

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"I'd like every Co-operator to remember that the Co-op. can stand up to the Co-op. One shilling's worth of goods bought in a Co-op. is a better and more practical act than six speeches about profits and hoarders." - "CORK CO-OPERATOR."

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 THE EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DAY
 Saturday, 6th July, 1940
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The Education Committees of the two Sheffield Societies considered the possibility of celebrating Co-operative Day this year in a somewhat less ambitious form than heretofore, but owing to the developments in the War situation both celebrations have had to be cancelled.

In this country, where we are now defending our liberty as never before, Co-operators may not have an opportunity of glorying in the peaceful triumph of Co-operative self-help because of the pressure of duty. They will, nevertheless, have the honour of celebrating 'The Day' in the very fact that they are carrying out their duty with heightened ardour as workers or combatants. They should not let International Co-operative Day pass without a thought of its significance and without registering a vow to redouble their efforts for the triumph of justice and the coming of a better world.

The following is the resolution that is to be adopted wherever demonstrations are held:-

"This assembly of Co-operators, united under the Rainbow Banner of the International Co-operative Alliance on the Eighteenth International Co-operative Day, in the midst of the most brutal and destructive war in the history of mankind, on the outcome of which the whole future of civilisation depends -

EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND SYMPATHY with all those Co-operators who have been deprived of their freedom and right to carry on their co-operative activities, and whose countries today are suffering under the domination of the forces of aggression which occupy their territories;
 DECLARES ITS CONVICTION that the Co-operative System provides the best basis for a World Settlement calculated to ensure Freedom, Security, Social Justice, and Universal Peace; and
 CALLS UPON ALL CO-OPERATORS AND CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS to exert their force and influence to secure the restoration of full human rights, and the inauguration of a new era of PEACE based upon the CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES of FREE ASSOCIATION, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT and EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE WORLD."

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CO-OPERATION AND CHINA. The first annual report from the Northwest Headquarters of the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives illustrates the valuable work being achieved in that region by the application of the Co-operative principle. In September 1939, after a year's activity, there were 357 societies with 4,308 members.

Some of these societies are occupied in making greatcoats, blankets, bandages and sandbags, others in washing gold, producing motor spirit, and mining coal. Thus the C.I.C., or Indusco as it is also called, is contributing materially to the national effort to resist aggression, as well as providing employment for refugees from other parts of China.

MORE VICTIMS. Two further Co-operative Movements have fallen foul of the Nazi war machine. The Dutch Movement had about half-a-million consumer members in several separate organisations.

The Belgian Movement had also about 500,000 members. Societies in Belgium were closely connected with the Socialist Party of that country. A prominent feature of the Movement was its organisation of restaurants and recreational centres. The Movement was lately reconstructed.

ALEXANDER AGAIN AT ADMIRALTY

Mr. Churchill chooses Co-operative Leader as his Successor.

The appointment of the Right Hon. A.V. Alexander, M.P. as the First Lord of the Admiralty came as a surprise to some people, but not to those who know the fine impression he made as First Lord of the Labour Government. His reputation was enhanced as the controller of the Senior Service. He was not only successful in the sense of capable administration but was extremely popular with the Naval authorities themselves.

To take such a position at the present time is to assume a heavy responsibility. This has been realised and we believe appreciated by scores of Co-operative organisations and thousands of Co-operators. The Executive of the Union and the Parliamentary Committee

"Strange political fate resulted in Mr. Alexander firing the final shot in the debate on May 8th which brought down the Chamberlain Government. Mr. Chamberlain was the initiator of the penal taxation on co-operative societies, and as such for years he had been a marked man for the Co-operative group in the House of Commons.

The appointment of the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee to the Admiralty met with universal approval. The new Prime Minister has been in constant contact with Mr. Alexander since the war began, and it is a significant tribute that he selected "A.V." to serve in the post he himself held since the present war began and during the last War. The Co-operative Union is proud to provide the nation with a great leader in Britain's hour of peril.

"CO-OPERATIVE REVIEW."

as Mr. Alexander's committee have approved of his selection and conveyed their wishes. The Brighton, Carbrook and Sheffield Ecclesall Societies have both sent messages of congratulation and good wishes. The Co-operative Party was first to express their approval and to offer congratulations.

That Mr. Alexander can again justify this confidence is a foregone conclusion. He needs the loyal support of all who would preserve democracy and freedom. He will still be fighting valiantly the co-operative battle, for in the unlikely event of a Nazi triumph Co-operation would be crushed in this country and has been in country after country on the continent under the wicked Nazi rule.

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THE NEW SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS.

Regulations provide for the single pensioner a standard income of 19s.6d. a week; and for the pensioner couple 32s. a week, subject to adjustment if the rent paid is above or below standard. There will be no adjustment either up or down in the case of a couple paying a rent of 6s. a week. Such a couple might therefore expect to receive a supplementary pension of 12s. in addition to their two pensions of 10s. each, but if only one is a pensioner the standard income would be 31s. If the pensioner or any member of his household has resources the treatment to be given follows in the main that which would be given under the Unemployment Assistance Regulations but it has been altered in a few directions.

Following is a list of weekly income which, whatever its ownership, will be disregarded: Friendly Society sick pay, the first 5s.; National Health Insurance Benefit, the first 7s.6d. and the first 5s. of any maternity benefit; disability pensions the first £1; Workmen's Compensation, one half; Superannuation, the first 7s.6d.; first 7s.6d.

The treatment of earnings agrees with that set out in the Unemployment Assistance Regulations except that the Board will take no account of earnings by the pensioner or by his wife up to 5s. a week each (as compared with 3s.).

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE. A Divisional Meeting was held on June 17th when Councillor W.G. ROBINSON gave an interesting address on international affairs. Mr. A. Ballard was present to deal with the establishment of an Information Bureau in the Attercliffe area, and the relationship of the Co-operative Party to the Trades & Labour Council.

BRIGHTSIDE Divisional Council held a short meeting on June 18th to appoint representatives to the Trades & Labour Council.

THE BURNGREAVE WOMEN'S SECTION is continuing to meet in the Burngreave Vestry Hall on Wednesdays, at 7-30 p.m.

HILLSBOROUGH Divisional Council held a business meeting on June 20th. Mr. A. Ballard also addressed the meeting on "Co-operators and the War" showing the necessity of unity in a firm adherence to Co-operative principles and the fullest possible support to the Government in its fight for freedom.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION has continued meeting throughout the whole period of the war and is still getting good attendances. The members recently carried a resolution thanking Mr. Alexander, on behalf of the Mothers in particular, for the Navy's splendid work at Dunkirk. The women are entertaining thirty wounded soldiers to a Tea and Social on June 26th: Messrs. Hirst & Sweeting are conveying the boys from the hospital to the Institute and back free of charge.

A series of Cookery Demonstrations under the auspices of the Sheffield Education Committee are to be given at the Section Meetings June 17th, 24th, and July 1st. Meetings commence at 3 p.m.

WADSLEY & WISWOOD Section is meeting on the last Wednesday in each month, at 7-30 p.m. in the Co-op. Institute, Wisewood Road. On June 26th one of the members, Mr. G.T. Battery, is to give a talk entitled "The romance of a suit." At the May meeting Mr. Joe Johnson, a member of the S. & E. Section addressed the Wisewood members.

WEEPSEND Women's Section has continued its meetings on Monday afternoons.

WOUTHEY & NORWOOD party is now meeting twice a month - on the second Thursday (City Council report) and on the fourth Thursday. Meetings commence at 7-30 p.m. and conclude at 9-15 p.m. The Information Bureau is still maintained. Hours for interview: Thursdays 6-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. and Sundays 11-0 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Section has suffered a loss in the passing of Mr. W.H. Wood, an active member whose association with the Party dates back for a long period. The heartfelt sympathy of Sheffield co-operators is extended to Mrs. Wood and her son.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION is still meeting on Wednesday afternoons.

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL. At a recent meeting of officials it was decided to arrange an Executive Committee to co-ordinate the work in that area. The Committee will act as an advisory body on all matters concerning the work and policy of the Party, and will comprise the Secretary and President of each of the Sections, along with one elected member, and two representatives from the Political Council members elected at the Quarterly Meeting.

The Party has run monthly meetings during the Summer months in the Napier Street Institute. On June 24th Mr. C.W. Carpenter (Secretary, Sheffield branch, League of Nations Union) spoke on "World Settlement after the War."

THE WOMEN'S SECTION meetings have been continued on Thursday afternoons, a good attendance has been maintained and the membership is on the increase.

THE GLEADLESS ROAD SECTION is now holding monthly meetings in the Guild Room, Gleadless Road, on the third Monday of the month at 7-30 p.m. Mr. G.W. Evison was the speaker on June 17th.

CO-OPERATORS! GET DIVIDEND ON YOUR RATIONS.
PRICES THE SAME. DIVIDEND A-GAIN.

FULL PARTNERSHIP
CO-OP. AND LABOUR IN NEW GOVERNMENT.

After the debate on the Norwegian position, and on the same day that Holland and Belgium were invaded, the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party issued a statement declaring its unanimous decision "to take its share of responsibility as a full partner in a new Government under a new Prime Minister which would command the confidence of the nation."

Mr. Winston Churchill became Prime Minister and proceeded to form a new Government. Labour became a full partner in the new War Cabinet consisting of the following five Ministers:-

- PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Mr. Winston Churchill.
- LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL: Mr. Neville Chamberlain.
- FOREIGN SECRETARY: Lord Halifax.
- *LORD PRIVY SEAL: Mr. C.R. Attlee.
- *MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Mr. Arthur Greenwood.

* Other Labour appointments are as follows:-

- FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY: Mr. A.V. Alexander.
- MINISTER OF SUPPLY: Mr. Herbert Morrison.
- MINISTER OF LABOUR: Mr. Ernest Bevin.
- MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC WARFARE: Mr. Hugh Dalton.
- SECRETARY FOR MINES: Mr. D.R. Grenfell.
- SOLICITOR-GENERAL: Sir William Jowitt, K.C.
- PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE: Mr. G.H.B. Williams
- PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. Tom
- " " " " BOARD OF EDUCATION: Mr. J. Chuter
- " " " " MINISTRY OF PENSIONS: Miss Ellen Wilkins
- " " " " MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT: Mr. Fred Montagu
- UNDER-SECRETARY FOR SCOTTISH OFFICE: Mr. J. Westwood.

The annual Conference of the Labour Party endorsed the National Executive's decision by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Attlee, speaking at the Conference, concluded a rousing speech with the words: "Let us keep our eyes on the goal of the future. The world that must emerge must be one attuned to our ideals. Our war effort needs the application of the Socialist principle of service before private profit. This war will call for heavy sacrifices. We have to see to it that the sacrifices shall not be in vain. We are here to-day to take a decision, not only on behalf of our own Movement, but on behalf of Labour all over the world. Life without liberty is not worth living. Let us go forward and win that liberty and establish it for ever on the sure foundation of social justice."

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100 PER CENT E.P.T. Wages and profits will be under Government control. The Excess Profits Tax will be at the rate of 100 per cent. (instead of 60 per cent.). There will be no profit out of the national emergency. Over a wide field industry will be carried on for the community and not for private profit.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY'S LEAD: At the national Co-operative Congress held at Glasgow during Whitsuntide the Co-operative Party's Peace Policy was carried by an overwhelming majority. Representing the whole of the British Co-operative Movement Congress has therefore confirmed the Party's political policy with regard to Foreign Affairs once again. (It will be remembered that the Party's proposals on Foreign Policy were carried in like manner at the Bath Congress some two years ago.)