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THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR BULLETIN

Issued by the Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17, Bank Street, Sheffield, 1
Telephone 23902 A. Ballard, Secretary

October 1940

The need for a definite if not detailed statement increases as the days go by. The war effort would be stimulated, sufferers encouraged, and doubters inspired, were curreal objects clearly defined now.

That is why the Co-operative Movement is propagating its articles of faith and its plan of peaceful progress towards the Commonwealth. That is why, too, we are pleading that a Government having the full confidence of a vast majority of the electorate should outline at once its constructive programme for the future.

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MESSAGE FROM FIRST LORD:

"I am quite certain that this war can only be brought to the victorious end we desire by the co-operation of all our people and the co-operative use of all our resources. The spirit of the nation has brought forth a magnificent effort already which will yet, I believe, be improved on. Victory then is certain, and with it the preservation of our liberties.

"Our institutions, our free Parliamentary Government, and our right of association in trade union and Co-operative movements will provide new opportunities and responsibilities for assisting in the building of the new State and the new World. Never should we contemplate the repetition of the experience that, while war brings work to many homes which have suffered from unemployment, peace has often brought them economic war, suffering and hopelessness. We now prove that the war cannot be won without real co-operative effort in the nation. Let us see to it that the same co-operative spirit is kept alive and used for the purpose of creating the new State in which no one truly desirous of serving the family and the community shall be prevented from doing so."

- A.V. ALEXANDER.

CONSTRUCTIVE WAR AIMS

"LONG LIVE ALSO THE FORWARD MARCH OF THE COMMON PEOPLE IN ALL LANDS TOWARDS THEIR JUST AND TRUE HERITANCE." Thus the Prime Minister of Britain addressing Frenchmen the world over.

Our own Representative, Mr. Alexander, the leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Attlee; the national chairman of the Co-operative Party, Mr. Barnes; Mr. J.B. Priestley in his excellent broadcasts; and, in fact, all leaders of progressive thought, are to-day using as their rallying cry the idea of a new world in which the common people will enjoy not only freedom of thought and expression but the right to control their own destinies free from the subjection to, or of, any other class or race.

The tremendous sacrifices that are being made can only be justified if the end is worth the terrible means now being used to resist tyranny.

It would be well if, in moving from the defensive to the offensive in our military action, we stated in more definite terms our real war aims not only for the British people but for the ordinary decent-minded folk in every country in the world.

We have no desire to harass a United Government and a busy Cabinet by an agitation for detailed statements of what is going to happen after the war, but we believe most sincerely that the high ideal to which the peoples of the world are looking can easily be dimmed, and indeed permanently obscured in the implications of war tactics and the instinct of mere self-preservation.

Wedding Bills!

War has always brought special sorrows to lovers. But to the Battle of Britain, there is - or there was - a golden opportunity to soften those sorrows, for the men are on the same soil as their loved ones.

One might have thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in these cases, would have found pleasure in giving the bride away encouraging war weddings by making some little concession towards new home. But Sir Kingsley gives the game away, not the bride the very moment when the young couple go in search of their home presents them with the Purchase Tax: an increase of about one-third of the former cost on curtains, bedding, carpets, furniture, cut everything that the young bride should take a joy in buying. The Chancellor's wedding gift is 25 per cent on the bill.

Penalising large families.

Clothing and footwear of a kind suitable for young children are to go free of tax, but clothing and footwear for adults are taxed. Do these definitions ensure that all children will get shoes and clothes tax free? By no means! Well-developed young people who wear clothes of adults' size must pay adults' tax.

The Purchase Tax is not adjusted to the circumstances of an individual taxpayer. It hits large families and poor families of all, because these must spend a high proportion of their income just those household needs affected by the Purchase Tax.

Indirect Taxation.

Co-operators dislike the new measure for a very logical reason. It is an indirect tax. They prefer taxation to be direct so that each member of the community pays in accordance with his means.

The new tax increases the sum raised by indirect taxation at a time when the standard of living has already been reduced. When war started, the Ministry of Labour's Cost-of-Living figure was in twelve months it has risen to 185. Now it is to soar still higher. The Government endeavours to keep down the cost of living by subsidising foodstuffs to the extent of £53,000,000 annually. On the other hand the Chancellor imposes through the Purchase Tax price increases which will cancel out that subsidy. What can be said for a policy which subsidises certain items of food and at the same time taxes cloth and boots?

Co-operative opposition - a matter of principle.

Co-operative Members of Parliament fought the measure through the House of Commons. In its opposition the Co-operative Movement pursues its traditional policy of defending the consumer. It may be easy for the Co-operative Movement to drop opposition to the Purchase Tax which, after all, affects all traders. The National Anti-Corruption League, however, prefers to challenge this measure in the interests of the consumer it represents. The tax may easily become a permanent feature of the fiscal system. Indirect taxation which takes £110 million from the people, regardless of their financial circumstances, can be condoned. Under the Budget the estimated yield of income tax war-time rates is £225 million: the Purchase Tax is to yield £110 million, more than one-fifth of the entire revenue from income tax. And this new indirect impost comes on top of duties imposed on sugar, and other commodities, all of which fall heavily on the members of the community.

Co-operators are willing to bear their share of war costs, not so much the amount of the taxation imposed, but the manner of raising it which causes anxiety.

C O-O P E R A T I V E P A R T Y N O T E S

ATTERCLIFFE Divisional Council has not met recently, but the Information Bureau at the home of the Attercliffe Ward Secretary - Mr. E. Mulligan, 48 Newark Street - has been continued. Members will be notified of meetings by circular.

BRIGHTSIDE Divisional party is to renew meetings on Saturday afternoons as soon as dates can be arranged. Secretary: Mrs. F. Ward, 58 Sisey Avenue.

BURNGREAVE WOMEN'S SECTION is meeting on alternate Wednesdays, at 2-30 p.m. in the Burngreave Vestry Hall. Next Meeting: October 30th. Secretary: Mrs. Yelland, 139 Scott Road.

HILLSBOROUGH party had to abandon Thursday evening meetings and is now meeting on the third Sunday in the month, at 11 a.m. in the large Institute. Speakers will deal with such subjects as: the "Co-operative Party Peace Policy," the "Keynes' Plan," "Purchase Tax," etc. Programme includes musical items and communal singing and the meetings will coincide with a series of Sunday Morning Meetings similar to the popular Sunday Evening Meetings held in the Institute prior to the war. Next meeting November 17th, speaker: Mr. G. Clark.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION has continued meeting throughout the whole period of the war. The Winter session opened on September 2nd and in addition to speakers a series of First Aid lectures has been given, under the auspices of the Sheffield Education Committee, the last lecture October 28th, at 2-30 p.m. November 4th, monthly social, and on November 11th Alderman T.H. Watlins, J.P.

The Section, who along with other sections of the Co-operative Party have repeatedly entertained the wounded soldiers, made a proposal that wounded soldiers be allowed free tram rides within the City area. Representations were made to the Transport Committee through the Central Executive, as a result of which wounded soldiers in uniform are now granted free tram rides.

NEEPSEND party is commencing regular meetings on the second Wednesday in the month when the City Council report will be given by one of the public representatives. The Party has suffered a loss in the death of one of its members, Mr. A. Boot. Secretary: Mr. W. Elms, 34 Fowler Street.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION is maintaining its meetings on Monday afternoons, under the Secretaryship of Mrs. Hall. A Harvest Festival was recently organised by the Section.

SOUTHEY & NORWOOD party's Bureau of Information is proving of inestimable value to the residents in the district; rotas for interviews fixed for Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings in the Institute. Moreover, practically every member is engaged on the work of collecting and distributing the Forces Aid Fund, up to date over £100 has been collected. Mr. Holder, the Party Secretary, who is honorary secretary to the fund, has received scores of letters of thanks from men and women in H.M. Forces who have benefited. In spite of the pre-occupation of the members in this useful work, Meetings are to be arranged on the second and fourth Sundays in the month, at 10-45 a.m., commencing November 10th.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION which meets in the Institute on Wednesday afternoons has had some very useful lectures recently on First Aid and A.R.P. A programme of speakers is being arranged and a Whist Drive will be held each month. Secretary: Mrs. Allen, 163 Everingham Road.

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL party commenced the new session by an open

conference on Saturday September 28th, addressed by Mr. E. Topham, on "The iniquities of the Purchase Tax." Mr. Topham, who is Chief of the Co-operative Union Publications Department, kept his audience interested for an hour and provoked a keen discussion when he showed the anomalies created by this latest vicious form of indirect taxation.

October 5th, Mr. J. Atkins spoke on "Federal Union; 19th, Mr. A. Goodram dealt with "Land Values and War-time Finance." Speakers for November: 2nd, Coun. J.H. Bingham, J.P.; 9th, Alan Flanders; 23rd, Mr. C.S. Dervill. Secretary: Mr. G.W. Evison, 220 Carterknowle Road.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION closed for two months only in the summer, was opened on September 12th. A successful Social held on the 19th, and Ald. Thraves was the speaker on the 26th. On October 3rd Mr. J.H. Pearce showed two talkie films: "North Sea Radio" and "People with a Purpose" showing the progress of Co-operation in the Royal Arsenal Society. October 10th a Whist Drive was held for the benefit of members' sons or husbands who are serving with the Forces. October 17th, Miss Edith Moore gave an interesting address on "India." 24th, Mrs. Roebuck, J.P. dealt with work in the Juvenile Court. 31st, Miss War of the League of Nations Union.

War-time cookery lectures, under the auspices of the City Education Committee, will be given on Thursdays November 7th, 14th, and 21st. Meetings held in the Education Institute, Napier Street, Thursdays, 2-30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. D. Bramley, 11 Greystones Crescent.

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HILLSBORO' CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE

Communal Singing. Cheerful Music. Bright Addresses

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 11 o'clock.

1940	Speaker	Subject	Music
Oct. 5th	FELLOWSHIP (monthly meeting, conducted by Coun. J.H. Bingham)	(Musical Director: J.E. Poppleton, L.R.A.M.)	
" 13th	RT. HON. A.V. ALEXANDER, M.P.		Hilda Pearson
" 20th	MR. W.M. WATKINS, B.Sc., LL.B.	"Vibrations"	Doreen Thompson
" 27th	Lantern talk by MRS. E. HAYTHORNTHWAITE	"Sheffield's Green Belt."	Shiregreen N.V.C.
Nov. 3rd	FELLOWSHIP (as above)	Speaker from THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.	Sharrow Trio.
" 10th	MR. G. CLARK	"Purchase Tax"	J.E. Poppleton, L.
" 17th	MR. W. VAUGHAN REYNOLDS, M.A., B.Litt. Oxon.		
Dec. 1st	FELLOWSHIP (as above)		
" 8th	MR. H. BARTON, B.Sc.	"A morning with the Operas" (Gramophone)	
" 15th	MR. J. BAILEY	"Keynes' Plan"	J.E. Poppleton, L.
" 22nd	MR. G.W. EVISON	"The People's Press"	Foxhill Singers
" 29th	MR. A. BALLARD	"Christmas"	S. & E. Choral Soc

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

COME TO IT!

A GRAND
C O N C E R T
.....
in the
FORUM PICTURE PALACE, SOUTHEY

3 p.m. on
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th

Artistes:

PHYLLIS ROBINS
PATIENCE GILMAN and JOHN ANDERSON
HILLSBOROUGH MALE SINGERS
GORDON AND HARRY
THE BAND OF THE I.T.C. YORK
& LANCASTER REGIMENT.

Balcony 1/6d and 1/-. Stalls
Proceeds to the Southey & Norw
Forces Aid Fund and the Lord
Mayor's War Entertainment Fund

Speaker:

RIGHT HON. A. V.

A L E X A N D E R,
FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY

T H E N E W O R D E R

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY'S PEACE AIMS

I

A New Order. The existing competitive system cannot give mankind Peace, security, and social well-being. The Co-operative Movement has, therefore, always sought a new social order based on Co-operation. The history of the last century, and especially the last twenty-five years, has shown how essential it is that the ideal of a Co-operative Commonwealth must be made a reality if permanent Peace is to be ensured.

II

Liberty, Freedom and Democracy, two vital principles of Co-operation, are essential to any world order. The peoples of all lands must have the rights of free association, free speech, free Press, and freedom of criticism guaranteed as the basis of their citizenship.

III

Disarmament. An effective agreement to outlaw war, which is the only means by which disarmament can be achieved, requires the collaboration of all nations, and to this end Peace should be sought at the conference table as a world responsibility.

IV

World Unity. The experience of the Co-operative Movement, especially in the economic field, convinces us that exaggerated economic nationalism prejudices the welfare of the whole world. The time is fully ripe for a serious attempt to establish a "United States" of Europe, or some form of federal union between erstwhile competing States.

V

Freedom of Trade. Tariff and other barriers to trade should be immediately reduced with a view to their early abolition. Economic disarmament should be substituted for the present era of economic nationalism. Nations should maintain close collaboration on all problems of trade, employment, production, and distribution. Freedom of trade and freedom of travel should be added to the other basic liberties of a democratic world.

VI

British Empire. Imperial domination is an obstacle to world Peace, and is completely out of harmony with the trend of human development. The recognition of full Dominion status within the British Commonwealth points the way to similar freedom for Colonial possessions as soon as these are capable of sustaining Dominion status.

VII

New Peace Treaty. Peace terms must not be a mere restoration of the pre-war position, which was one of armed Peace, insecurity, recurring crises, and universal fear.

VIII

World Co-operation. Co-operation is the fundamental basis of a just and stable Peace, and all our experience strengthens the belief that the principles and practices of Co-operation should be applied to every phase of national and international life.

ON THE KITCHEN FRONT

OF INTEREST TO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEWIVES.



MORE MEAT. Like the Cabinet, rations have been changed. Since September 30th the amount of meat which each person may purchase has been 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2d. per person per week. This is only a temporary measure, stated the Minister of Food, and is due to supplies of home-killed meat being available.

LESS BUTTER. On the other hand, the butter ration has been cut from 4oz. to 2oz., although the combined butter/margarine ration remains at 6oz., and an additional 2oz. of margarine or lard may be obtained on the cooking fats coupon. Butter at this time the year is brought from Australia and New Zealand. In normal times supplies have been made up from Danish and other sources which are not now available.

OTHER FOOD CHANGES. The prices of home-produced cheese are down. Oranges, too, have been reduced. Condensed milk prices have risen. The prices of all these commodities are fixed by the Government.

CHRISTMAS FARE. The second War Christmas is in sight, and it looks though the plum pudding will miss its usual company the turkey. But that is not going to spoil Christmas. Co-operative Societies will see to it that their members get the best possible for Yuletide.

MAKING MILK SAFE. Pasteurised milk is safer in wartime. This is admitted in advice given by the Government which recommends people to bring raw milk to the boil and then cool it quickly. This is not necessary with pasteurised milk, which the Co-operative Society supplies.

MILK DICTATORS. New powers have been conferred on the Milk Marketing Boards. They have to decide what price milk will be sold at, and who shall sell it. The Milk Boards are virtually producer monopolies. It was hoped that the Minister of Food would control their activities in the interests of consumers. Now he has extended their powers. The effects of this policy will be closely watched by the Co-operative Movement, which retails one-quarter of the entire retail milk supply of the country, has repeatedly made practical suggestions for the more efficient organisation of the community's milk supply.

NEW COAL SCHEME. A big emergency scheme has been prepared for the distribution of house coal. Last winter serious difficulties were encountered in the supply of coal. Steps are now being taken to avoid a repetition of last year's short supplies.

For the sake of economy a certain amount of collaboration will take place between Co-operative Societies and other coal merchants. The Director General of the scheme has appointed a co-operative and the Co-operative Coal Trade Association is represented on the executive council. Societies are retaining their rights to pay for coal depend on trade with their members. In some areas it may happen that Co-operative lorries and workers will take coal to non-co-operative houses; and private merchants' vehicles will deliver coal for the society, to effect economies. Co-operative members will still be trading through their own society, however.

WHAT TO EAT IN WAR-TIME. An attractively prepared and illustrated booklet, issued by the British Medical Association, gives the very latest information on the best possible diet for health in war-time. Copies of the booklet may be had from the Co-operative Party Office, 17 Bank Street.

VICTORY ON TWO FRONTS

MR. ALEXANDER PAYS FLYING VISIT TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

A well-attended meeting was held in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute on Sunday morning, October 13th, when the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), was able to pay a flying visit to his constituents on his way from a large meeting at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Mr. Alexander, who was accompanied by Commander Fletcher, his private parliamentary secretary, expressed confidence in a British victory. He warned his hearers against false optimism. Optimism, he said, must be based on the resolution to carry on in spite of hardship and disaster. We are going to win not only the military fight but the social fight too," declared Mr. Alexander.

The nation had been in tight places, but we had seen the situation gradually improving. There had been mistakes, but an amazing thing was that in five months, as well as re-equipping the British Expeditionary

Force we had armed and equipped additions to the Forces and the Home Guard. We had increased the number of aircraft despite losses in air battles.

"We must confess that we should like to hear Mr. Alexander a little more often than we do. Such a speech as he gave at Manchester has rich tonic properties." - ('Current Topics', 'Sheffield Telegraph')

Commander Fletcher said that Mr. Alexander had put in five months of tremendously hard work, doing sixteen and eighteen hours a day - a great deal of it in the middle of the night. Five months of such work was calculated to bear down any but the strongest man.

He was heartened by the resolution shown by the workers everywhere. Whether or not that spirit continued depended

on social injustices and inequality being rooted out. That was a task which should not wait until the end of the war.

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CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS

SHEFFIELD TRADE NEARLY £4 MILLIONS

The two Sheffield Co-operative Societies reported definite progress during the last half year, in spite of restrictive war conditions.

THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK sales amounted to £1,092,100 and completed total for the year of £2,176,885, making an increase of £62,778 over the previous year. The Board of Directors were gratified to note that every department had contributed to the increase. The rationing of several of the principal commodities in the Grocery department necessarily resulted in a decreased turnover in such goods, but the sale of non-rationed goods had increased.

The Society had 428 employees serving in H.M. Forces, whilst a further 260 had registered for service.

THE SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL Society's annual sales now amount to 1,593,345, and represent an increase of £110,660 over the previous year.

The Income and Excess Profits Taxes for the half year amounted to 14,000. The membership showed an increase of 748 on the year.

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STILL THE BEST EMPLOYERS! The Co-operative Movement was the first big distributive employer to give a war bonus to its employees. It led the way in war-time advances to its laundry workers. It has recently accorded further advances to both groups of workers - a lead not yet followed by the private employers! Even in time of war, the Movement is well maintaining its record as the best employer in the trades in which it operates.

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virtually a challenge to the Co-operative Movement to reshape what is, politically, cultural, and press machinery, to conform to the conditions created by the war and the certainty of their projects into the post-war period. The scheme, which has been outlined in "Co-operative News," involves a thorough reorganisation of the Co-operative structure on functional lines. The scheme has already been discussed by representatives from Co-operative federal institutions and at a special conference of retail societies.

Mr. Barnes has been invited to outline his new plan to members of the Sheffield Co-operative Party. The meeting arranged has had to be postponed but it is hoped that a convenient date will be found for a thorough discussion of these important proposals.

NO PROFITEERING. The Minister of Health has issued a circular to Local Authorities reminding them of their powers to take proceedings under the Rent Acts against landlords who are exploiting air-raid victims. The Minister points out that the Courts are empowered to prevent more than a normal profit being made. Landlord charges exorbitant rents for furnished lettings are also liable to a fine not exceeding £100.

Local Authorities are also reminded that they have power to requisition empty houses, and where a shortage is known the Minister advises the Authorities to use their power.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES (OCTOBER 3rd). Mr. Neville Chamberlain resigned and Sir John Anderson became Lord President of the Council and a member of the War Cabinet. Sir Kingsley Wood (Chancellor of the Exchequer) was added to the War Cabinet. Mr. Bevin (Minister of Labour) became the third Labour member of the Cabinet, the other Labour members being Mr. C.R. Attlee and Mr. Greenwood. The War Cabinet is thus increased to eight, the other members being Mr. Churchill, Lord Halifax and Lord Beaverbrook.

A. R. P. PROBLEMS. In his first speech as Minister for Security, Mr. Herbert Morrison pointed out in the House of Commons that Local Authorities have power to make suitable premises available for use as basement shelters and he blamed some Local Authorities for not using that power. While rebuking those who spread the idea that "all that has to be done is for the Government to wave a wand and deep shelters will be there for everybody," Mr. Morrison made it clear that his intention is to provide such shelter so far as it can be provided.

We believe that the public mind is easier for the knowledge that Mr. Morrison and Miss Ellen Wilkinson can be relied upon to put their ounce of energy into their new task and not to allow any vested interests to stand in the way.

PEACE POLICY. "During the last war Co-operators decided that they must take part, as Co-operators, in the political direction of the country's affairs. The passing years have confirmed and strengthened that decision. The outbreak of another war and its economic and social consequences have convinced Co-operators that they must have a say in national as well as in domestic affairs."

The above is an introduction to a set of notes published on the Co-operative Party's Peace Policy. These notes may be had from the local Party office: they are useful to organisations for discussion purposes.

"WHEN THIS WAR BEGAN I FOUND US WITH A RULING CLASS, A FOREIGN OFFICE, AND A DIPLOMATIC SERVICE THAT WERE UNABLE TO SYMPATHISE WITH THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE, TO UNDERSTAND EITHER ITS IMPORTANCE OR ITS CHAMPIONS. IF BRITAIN HAD BEEN REPRESENTED BY MEN LIKE MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON IN THE COUNCILS OF EUROPE AND THE EMBASSIES OF EUROPE IN THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING THE WAR, HISTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT."