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THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR BULLETIN

Issued by the Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17 Bank Street, Sheffield, 1
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RECONSTRUCTION

Democrats will make a mistake if in their enthusiasm for the war they forget preparations for the peace.

Obviously the Atlantic Charter - freedom of speech and expression, religious freedom, freedom from fear and want - can never be applied under the old anarchy of competition. There must be no return to the unplanned competitive world of the past. Planning is the first condition of worth-while reconstruction. The blue-prints of the new world will have to be designed now if they are to be ready for the peace - and they will have to be designed by the people whom they serve.

Since the Co-operative Movement representing as it does a laboratory in which nearly a century of experimentation has taken place, where the problems of future society have been investigated on the plane of economic democracy - is to make its contribution. In the realm of production, wholesale and retail goods, banking and insurance, this great institution has proved that the people themselves have the capacity to build the New Order, given the opportunity.

The Movement is, therefore, determined to play its part in reconstruction, as it is playing its part in the war. The Co-operative Party will shortly submit proposals based on its own democratic practice and principles, and in alignment with the fundamentals of the Atlantic Charter.

This planning for the future enhances rather than lessens the war effort. It gives a purpose to the fight other than a mere negation of Nazism. It is the logical ful-

filment of the selfless service that this war has called forth.

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ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND EDUCATION

Mr. L. A. Hart, Co-operative Union Education Chairman, addressing the new Archbishop of Canterbury at the Easter Education Convention said: "You and we occupy the same platform. We, as co-operators, spend much time seeking to make the world fit to live in; you have spent many years, and we hope will be spared for many years more, in making men fit to live in it."

Speaking of education, Dr. Temple, who received a great ovation, insisted that education should aim at laying bare the foundations of our liberty and the grounds on which we value it. Education should quite consciously aim at training men, not only to be free, but to use their freedom in a social spirit. "I suppose no one can express anything nearer to the heart of the Co-operative Movement than that."

His Grace proceeded: "In all respects our aim is to create people vigorously thinking of freedom but in service of a deliberately conceived national purpose, which purpose, however, must be such that it can be shared by other nations."

"It is this and not the absence of purpose which must distinguish our civilisation and the education that ministers to it from illiberal systems that have lately sprung up upon the Continent."

"BATTLE FOR BRITONS" a pamphlet published by the Co-operative Union, shows clearly the valuable part the nine Co-operative M.P.s. including Mr. A.V. Alexander, C.H. (First Lord of the Admiralty) have played in the war-time Parliament.

CO-OP BUSINESS TRIUMPHS
OVER WAR-TIME DIFFICULTIES

The two Sheffield Societies report excellent results despite the conditions.

THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK SOCIETY in presenting its 292nd Report and Balance Sheet for the half year ending January 26th, 1942, shows a trade of £1,074,549 and completes a year's trade of £2,085,935. The decrease is accounted for largely by restriction of supplies and the clothes rationing scheme; another factor may have been the destruction of the large central emporium. However, the Society was able to declare a dividend of 1/6d in the £. plus a bonus of 6d.

The Optical Department is now running three consulting rooms at 66 Middlewood Road, Hucklow Road, and 8 Townhead Street. A temporary branch has been erected at Scott Road to replace the one destroyed by enemy action.

The Society has taken over the fairly extensive premises of Messrs. Wilks Bros., (Ironmongers) in Exchange Street, to be opened some time in June. There are four storeys in the building and it will be possible to house all departments of the Society there; they will need no structural alteration. The new premises will replace to a great extent the fine modern City Stores destroyed in the air raid, being the same side of the street, only a few yards separating the two plots. Arrangements are being made to bring the offices back into the town but at premises other than those acquired from Wilks Bros.

Mrs. S.E. Agor (Vice-President of the Sheffield Co-operative) retires from the Board, under the Society's rules, after 26 years' service. The Board and members expressed their appreciation of her long service and their good wishes for her health and happiness in the future.

THE SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL SOCIETY'S 272nd Report and Balance Sheet shows a total trade (34 weeks) of £1,186,603, compared with a corresponding number of weeks last year this is an increase of £11,913. Sales for the 52 weeks total £1,783,157. The increase for the period under review is very commendable and shows that the Society is stepping up to war conditions remarkably well.

The present Membership is 62,038 - the highest recorded - which is an increase over February 1941 of 1975.

Mrs. A. Davis has been appointed as the members' representative on the Congress at Edinburgh. At the Quarterly Meeting to be held in the Education Institute, Napier Street, on Tuesday May 12th, at 7-30 p.m. the election of four members to the Education Committee will take place due to resignation of Mr. E. Pearson and Mr. J.F. Eastwood. The retiring candidates, Mr. H. Ward and Mr. H.R. Smith are both eligible for re-election.

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THE CO-OPERATIVE MILK TRADE

Action is to be taken by the Co-operative Union on the foolish statements made in the House of Lords which asserted that co-operative societies stood in the way of rationalising milk distribution.

Co-operative societies have rationalised milk distribution enormously. Thus, in England and Wales, while 400 co-operative units supply about one-quarter of the population, there are still 50,000 private traders and 30,000 producer retailers operating.

In face of wartime restrictions, the Co-operative Movement's milk trade has grown by 30 per cent. Protests have been made repeatedly the past by societies about the high price of milk. Restrictions compelled societies to charge prescribed prices for milk. Societies had to fight to pay normal co-operative dividends on milk, through an important saving was effected for consumers.

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FIRST LORD'S REPLY TO TORY ADMIRAL

The confidence of the Co-operative Movement in Mr. Alexander is based upon years of experience under his leadership through very difficult periods. When he was called to the Admiralty for a second time we knew that he would justify the confidence of the Prime Minister and the nation, but it was never expected that he would be free from criticism.

Therefore we do not complain about legitimate and constructive criticism, but the recent speeches of Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, M.P. cannot be thus classified. Sir Roger represents a southern division in the Tory interest and has apparently allowed political bias to interfere with his judgment, for in a public speech he stated that: "the Navy is under the control of a First Lord who when he held office for a short time previously did more harm to the Navy than it has ever suffered before by forcing the limitations of the London Naval Treaty of 1930 on a weak Board of Admiralty."

Mr. Alexander, of course, made a vigorous reply to this, in which he showed that the limitation imposed by the London Naval Treaty was on a ratio of 5: 5: 3, parity being between the U.S.A. and the British Commonwealth and the lower ratio for Japan. Moreover, it is doubtful whether with this provision we should have possessed as many cruisers as we actually did had it not been for Mr. Alexander's insistence upon the building of the 'Leander' Class which has done such valuable service.

Furthermore, it was the Conservative Government in 1935 which entered into a further limitation agreement in the Anglo-German Naval Treaty, and when the time came for the 1930 Treaty to lapse it was a Conservative Government which tried to secure its renewal. In other words, it is clear that the London Naval Treaty of 1930, with which Mr. Alexander was associated, was in the line both of previous and subsequent limitation treaties negotiated by other British Governments.

Press comments

Fortunately the Press has not followed Sir Roger Keyes' lead. In the 'London Letter' of the TELEGRAPH AND INDEPENDENT the writer says:- "It is the fact that the policy of Naval (as of all other types) disarmament was not Mr. Alexander's own any more than it was ours or yours. He carried out the policy of the Government, in fact four successive Governments, based on treaties and agreements into which this country entered with its eyes open."

And further:-

"To-day the Fleet owes a dozen fine cruisers to Mr. A. V. Alexander and to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. They withstood their own followers and insisted on starting a new cruiser programme which the Conservatives took over."

Public confidence

Apropos of the criticism which arose after the escape of the 'Gaisensau,' 'Prinz Eugen,' and 'Scharnhorst,' and the fact that no Cabinet change was made in consequence, 'Current Topics' wrote:- "To-day's announcements emphasize Mr. Churchill's trust in the man he has at the Admiralty - a trust which, we venture to say, is shared by most people."

KNOWS HIS JOB!

"It was he whom Winston Churchill, when he formed his Government, invited to take the place at the Admiralty which he was himself vacating. Alexander has been for years one of the most respected leaders of the Labour Party, but he is not only a politician; he is a business man as well..... He was First Lord of the Admiralty during the Labour administration and then acquitted himself with credit; when he resumed this office he entered upon a job which he already knew a great deal about." (From W. Somerset Maugham's latest book "Strictly Personal.")



ON THE HOME FRONT

PRICES AND RATIONING

The Ministry of Food has issued a pamphlet giving official maximum prices for nearly all controlled goods. Most co-operative food branches display a poster in their shops that you can consult the official price list. This saves the shop manager the worry of displaying the various price posters and, at the same time, affords protection for the consumer.

Meat, fish and greengroceries are not, however, covered by the system. Alterations to the prices appearing in the book will be made as supplements at the beginning of each monthly rationing period. The price book also states points values.

MORE POINTS RATIONING. From April 6th consumers have 24 pink points to use instead of 20. Coupons A in the ration book count as one point; coupons B as two points and coupons C as three points.

Condensed milk and breakfast cereals have gone on to the points system. Oatmeal for breakfast porridge will still be obtainable without giving up points.

A grocery manager asserts that some people are using their points for certain popular foods such as salmon and canned meats at the beginning of the month, forgetting about their requirements in the way of bread and cereals, which leaves them short at the end of the month. Plan your points!

SUGAR FOR PRESERVES. Between April 6th and June 28th people who do their own fruit preserving may obtain one pound of sugar instead of one pound of preserves.

Thus, instead of buying jam, you may now buy sugar to make your own preserves. The ration book page for preserves will, of course, be cancelled to correspond with purchases. There is to be no additional sugar allowance for preserving this year.

TEA RATIONING. Tea coupons will now be cut from ration books when purchases are made. You must buy a full month's supply at a time for each ration book. The ration remains unchanged at 4 ounces per week, per person.

SOAP FOR BABY. Baby gets more soap up to 12 months. Applications for the extra ration must be made to the Food Office in person, or in writing, stating the name of the baby, address, Maternity Registration number and date of birth. A special page of coupons will be issued.

COAL SUPPLIES. Restrictions have been imposed on the delivery of coal. The coalman can only deliver to households which buy less than half a ton of coal on the premises at the beginning of each monthly rationing period. No more than 8 cwt. may be delivered in South-Eastern and N. Midland divisions where the limit is 5 cwt. and London, Southern, South-Western and Eastern divisions where it is 6 cwt. The quantities are, however, the maximums which may be accepted.

YOUR LOAF IN KHAKI!

White bread has vanished for the duration by Government Order. Nutrition experts for a long time have been recommending the wholemeal loaf and the new bread is considered to have better health-giving properties as well as effecting economies in flour consumption.

An independent testimonial as to the excellence of co-operative bread was recently given. The food reporter of one important group of dailies told the WORLD'S PRESS NEWS that people have found out that some bakeries turn out a first-class wheatmeal loaf, for example, co-operative societies. Clearly, the new loaf varies from bakery to bakery, but co-operative societies with their up-to-date, large, hygienic bakeries are making a grand job of the new national loaf.

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

ATTERCLIFFE. At the Annual Meeting held in January, Mr. E. Mulligan was re-elected Secretary, Mrs. K. Bailey President, and Mrs. L. Marrows Vice-President. Hitherto the Manor members have been associated with the Attercliffe Division, from this date however a separate Ward organisation was formed. A proposal is now on foot, too, to establish a Ward association at Handsworth; members in the area will be notified of the first meeting by circular.

At a recent meeting Mrs. Mulligan was selected to represent the Attercliffe Division at the Annual Conference in London.

BRIGHTSIDE Divisional Council held its Annual Meeting on March 16th when the annual report showed a healthy financial position. Mr. J.H. Shearman was re-elected President and Mrs. P. Ward Secretary. On April 20th Mr. Shearman reported on the London Conference and Councillor Ballard dealt with the national Party's policy in the present Parliament and proposals for the reconstruction period. A further meeting is to be held on Monday May 18th, at 7 p.m. when Mr. Ballard will speak on "Education in the post-War World."

HILLSBOROUGH Party has continued its monthly 'Forum.' At the January meeting Mr. C. Buckner (Federal Union) dealt in detail with the possibilities and interpretation of the Atlantic Charter. Councillor A. Ballard opened a discussion at the February meeting on the Annual Party Conference resolutions: and at the March meeting Mr. Allan Flanders opened a debate on "Monopoly v. Public Control of Industry." Lectures and discussion proved extremely interesting and informative in every case.

The Annual Meeting was held in April when the financial report, given by Mr. Mead, showed a substantial balance in hand. Mr. W.H. Bottom was re-elected Secretary for the fourteenth year in succession, and Mr. G.T. Buttery was appointed Assistant-Secretary. Mr. R. Payling (President) and Mr. F. Tyson (Vice-President) were also re-elected. Reports were given on the work of the Sheffield Executive by Mr. Bottom and the National Executive by Mr. A. Ballard.

Mr. Payling represented the Party at the Annual Conference. The Party also sent delegates to the Labour Conference addressed by Mr. E. Shinwell, M.P. and to two Fabian Society meetings addressed by members of the German and American Labour Movements respectively.

It was decided to hold evening meetings during the next few months.

WOMEN'S SECTION meetings have been held on Monday afternoons. At the Annual Meeting Mrs. M. Carver was elected Secretary. A tribute was paid to Mrs. C. Bottom for her long years of service, who had to give up the position owing to pressure of other work. March 2nd a M. O. I. Film Show was much appreciated by the women: 9th, Mr. Greaves dealt with co-operative trading problems: 16th, Mr. E. Wood spoke on "The old World and the New Society - the Labour Party's interim report on Reconstruction" and Mr. W.H.S. Marsden (a new member of the B. & C. Board of Management) was the speaker; 23rd, a long-standing member of the Co-operative Party) was the speaker; 30th, Councillor H. Slack on "Regionalism;" and on April 27th Councillor A. Ballard spoke on "Education and the Workers."

Meetings will be continued until the middle of July.

MANOR. An inaugural meeting was held at the Standhouse School on March 17th when Mr. A. Ballard, the Party Organiser, outlined the constitutional programme of the party, with suggestions as to future organisation. Membership Cards for the new Ward association can be obtained from the Secretary: Mrs. A. Goodenough, 5 Rollett Close.

NEPSSEND Women's Section has had difficulty in carrying on following upon the 'Blitz' from which many of its members suffered rather severely: none-the-less, fortnightly meetings have been held. Now, however, quite a number of the women are on war service in the munition works, canteens, etc. and cannot spare the time for afternoon meetings.

At the concluding meeting on March 25th, Miss Cole of the Ministry of Food, who had previously given cookery demonstrations, questioned women as to their reaction to the Rationing system with a view to a report to the Food Controller.

It is hoped to renew evening meetings jointly between the Section and the Ward Association in the near future.

SOUTHWY & NORWOOD Section has held very few Party meetings but has done an enormous amount of work for the Forces fund. The total collection for the 'Russia' fund amounted to £270.2.0. which was equally divided between the National Council of Labour fund and Mrs. Churchill's fund. A successful concert was held in the 'Forum' Cinema on February 23rd, when Mr. A.V. Brown, the First Lord of the Admiralty, gave an inspiring address and the Brown concert party provided a first-class entertainment. As a result about £70 was raised for the Forces fund which provides grants to and women on leave from the Services.

The Annual Meeting took place on April 16th when Councillor [Name] was re-elected President and Mr. G.A. Holder Secretary. Mr. A. [Name] spoke on the work of the National Committee. It was decided to hold fortnightly meetings during the Summer months.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION has continued meeting weekly on Wednesdays but it has been decided to commence in May with fortnightly meetings.

SHEPPFIELD & ECOLESALL Party heard an address on March 7th from Mr. Wilkinson on "Co-operation and the World after the War." and on the 21st Councillor H. Sleek spoke on "Regionalism and its effect on Local Government." A Whist Drive was held on the 28th. Section is to discontinue meeting on Saturday afternoons for the time being and instead to meet on the first Monday of the month, commencing in May. These will be mainly business meetings but problems facing the Party will be raised and discussed. Next meeting: Monday May 4th, 7.15.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION has concluded an interesting session, the speakers having been Councillors Ballard, Bingham, Dinsley, and Mrs. E. Barton, J.P., and others. Whist Drives have been held and work carried on in giving garments for the Merchant Navy as well as other gifts to the members' relatives serving in H.M. Forces.

The Programme for the new session has been circulated to members.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY, in pursuance of its policy of wholehearted effort to secure victory for our Cause, has supported the Government not hesitated to contribute constructive criticism when necessary. At the Annual Conference held in London at Easter, pressed on the Government the cause of the workers, the servicemen, and the masses. Resolutions dealt with Democracy and Freedom in our War, Nationalisation, Wealth, Family Allowances, Pensions for Widows, War Damage Payments, Service Pensions and Service Conditions. The Conference however, welcomed the Government's offer of Dominion Status after the War for India, and expressed the hope that negotiations based on the offer would lead to an acceptance by the leaders of Indian political thought.

MR. ALEXANDER was able to spare a short time from his important duties at the Admiralty and addressed the Party Conference and spoke of the work that had been accomplished in spite of many setbacks. "By the end of May 1940 until June 1941," he said, "this nation of 45,000,000 people held the fort for freedom in the world. With the exception of that gallant interpolation by the Greek nation we were almost alone. Looking back on that period perhaps we should congratulate ourselves severely but also take stock of what has been accomplished." "Don't let us get it into our minds we are doing nothing," he urged. "We are doing a great deal. That applies also to the output of the workers of this country. We want that output extended but don't let us under-rate the output they have made." "Through this last winter," Mr. Alexander said "convoy after convoy has been taken through the stormy, dark, ice-bound Arctic Sea to Russia."