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THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR BULLETIN

Issued by the Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17 Bank Street, Sheffield, 1
Telephone 22982
A. Ballard, Secretary

September, 1942



THE FOURTH YEAR

September 1942 sees the beginning of the fourth year of a war which we can truthfully say was not at Britain's seeking.

In rededicating ourselves to the war effort, we cannot help but recall the times when this nation has stood in imminent danger of defeat during the last three years; occasions when a comparatively few people and apparently quite fortuitous circumstances have stood between us and extermination. We think of the sea on land, sea, and in the air. The scientists, the technicians, the mechanics - men and women alike - who at the right moment have stepped in with inventive genius, technical skill, and supreme courage to deflect the blows of a skilful and unscrupulous enemy. These people deserve not only our gratitude and confidence, but the reward of a victory, which means a peace permanent in character and constructive in purpose, that a better world may emerge from their devotion and sacrifice.

We can look back upon milestones on the way when we seemed to be threatened beyond our capacity to resist.

When our political and military leaders were overwhelmed by the immensity of their task, or seemed to be incapable of that aggressive leadership essential to success, a new leader and a Government more representative of the people were appointed. When Germany appeared victorious on our very doorstep, with only a few miles of sea between us, the Battle of Britain was fought and won by that famous few. When our cities were rocking with the bombs of a murderous enemy, the common people asked no quarter, they

stood firm. When the enemy launched his magnetic and acoustic mines, the native capacity of our scientists met the menace with skill, rapidity and success. When again Germany was at least militarily prepared to strike us once more at the peak of its power, we were joined by new allies with immense man-power and unflinching determination. Finally, when our cousins in the West still doubtful as to whether they should stand by us to the utmost limit, at last were provoked by the treachery of Japan to fling all their resources into the scale on our side, we knew that the end of Nazism was certain.

This sequence of events has brought us new hope and faith, but it places upon the British people new and heavier responsibilities for renewed effort and sacrifice.

The organised forces of Democracy the world over are now marching together. Whether this fourth year of war will be the year of our victory depends on every democrat giving of his or her best from now on.

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"A SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY OF CO-OPERATION"
Having had many years of practical experience of the working of the Co-operative Movement, Mr. J. J. Worley, a former Congress President, has just completed a book, "A Social Philosophy of Co-operation."

This book deals with a living philosophy to which nine million British co-operators and nearly a hundred million co-operators in different parts of the world subscribe. When men and women are searching for a new world order, this book on Co-operation should be a source of inspiration to them.

Copies 2s. net may be had from the Co-op Party office, 17 Bank St.

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GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE defined Co-operation as a new form of industry; its inspiration is fraternity; its method is economy; its principle equity.

CO-OP OPPOSES SHOP LEVY

Mr. R.A. Palmer, Co-operative Union General Secretary, has proposals to pay compulsory compensation to shop-keepers who are out of business on account of the war. The proposals, he asserts, impose a levy of several million pounds sterling per annum on which, in the main, would pass as rent and interest into the hands of landlords and mortgagees.

Societies bear own burdens.

So far as the Co-operative Movement is concerned, Mr. Palmer declares it will shoulder its own burdens. The Board of Trade Committee proposed the creation of a fund by a levy on traders of one per cent on turnover. Small traders with a turnover of less than £1,000 need not participate in the scheme, other traders it is compulsory.

Trade Union signatories to the report deplore the past inordinate opening of shops. If the recommendations of the Government Committee were put into operation it would mean that co-operative societies would be expected to compensate uneconomic units and traders who have rarely observed trade union wages and conditions for employment.

A press comment

The "Manchester Guardian", commenting on Mr. Palmer's report, stated in a leading article: "This is substantial criticism which is bound to influence Parliament."

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FREEDOM FOR THE CONSUMER

During the House of Commons debate on the retail trade, Mr. Barnes, M.P., defined the attitude of the Co-operative Movement to a proposal for restrictions on shopping and the attempts to "freeze" retail organisation. He said:

"It is a basic principle of our method of trading that not for the Government or the trade to settle these things, but for the consumer."

"It is for citizens to decide whether they want to get commodities from one trader or another. We want the position open so that we can expand, if the consumer desires us to expand. We have never tried to exclude anybody else from trade. All we want is for people not to exclude us from trade."

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EXPORT DRIVE

The importance of developing Britain's exports after the war has lately been stressed by economists. The disappearance of our capacity in purchasing war materials makes this vitally important. Income comes to Britain as a result of interest payments on overseas capital holdings will no longer benefit the country.

The Government has just appointed a co-operator, Dr. R.S. Ellis, as C.W.S. Director and former member of the Co-operative Union General Board, to serve on the British Export Council. The wholesalers who have already in existence export departments and the future may see co-operative factories supplying not only co-operative consumers at home but also abroad.

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WATCHING AFRICA

West Africa may seem a long way off, but a co-operator has been appointed to serve on the Government's new West African Produce Council. He is Mr. H.B. Balmforth, an official of the C.W.S.

The appointment recalls the Government report some years ago on cocoa trading in this area. The report paid high tribute to the integrity of the dealing of the C.W.S. with the native producers.

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THE RT. HON. A.V. ALEXANDER, C.E., M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty) is to speak in the Longley Council School, Sunday September 20th, at 10.45 a.m., on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Southey and Woodford Forces Aid Fund.

THE RT. HON. OLIVER LYTTTELTON, M.P. (Minister of Production) is to address a meeting at the City Hall, 6 p.m. Wednesday September 16th, under the auspices of the Ministry of Information. Admission by ticket which may be obtained from the Co-operative Party office, 17 Bank Street.

"CO-OPERATORS' DAY" PROCEEDS. The two Sheffield co-operative societies in conjunction with the Co-operative Party, celebrated "Co-operators' Day" on Saturday July 4th, in the City Hall. Mr. J.B. Priestley was the speaker, and concert items arranged by the People's Entertainments Society - a new Co-operative organisation - were of a high order. Sir George Middle C.B.E. presided over a large audience; the celebration was a pronounced success. The total proceeds - £80.13.0. were equally divided between the 'Help for Russia' Fund and the Sheffield Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

CO-OPERATORS' EFFORT FOR RUSSIA. Week by week, as Russia has withstood the ferocity of the Nazi attack, the contributions of co-operative societies to the 'Help for Russia' Fund have grown. Already no less than £42,000 has been sent by co-operative societies to the National Council of Labour Fund. Donations continue to come in and societies are doing their utmost to afford the maximum help through their own contributions and through the individual gifts of their members. In addition, many societies are also working in collaboration with local efforts organised on behalf of Russia. The total collected so far amounts to £290,000. It will be remembered that the two Sheffield societies, in addition to voting substantial amounts to the fund, arranged their dividend to the fund, desiring to allocate part of the Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-operative Society for the short period of £240, and the Brightside & Carbrook Society for the half year ending July 27th, 1942 has contributed £176. Purchases by members and non-members alike may still be continued on the two "Russia" Share Numbers, as follows: Brightside & Carbrook Society 900; Sheffield & Ecclesall Society 36.

of Special Interest

CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH. The Brightside & Carbrook Education Committee has opened a Youth Club at 14a Ridgeway Road, for three evenings in the week. The Sheffield & Ecclesall Youth Club, which meets at Napier Street each Monday and Wednesday evening has proved a great success. The sports ground at Darwin Lane is also used by the young people on Tuesday evenings. The Club has had the distinction of winning one of the scholarships offered by the Co-operative Productive Federation - Thomas Brewin was the successful candidate.

THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK SOCIETY opened its new central store on Friday September 4th, at 39 Exchange Street - the commodious premises lately occupied by Wilks Brothers, and quite near to the old site. Central shopping facilities in the following departments are now available to the members: Grocery & Provisions, Drapery, Tailoring & Outfitting, Footwear, Furnishings, and Drug.

The Society's offices have now been established at 32 Sycamore Street. The trading results for the half year ending July 27th amount to £1,108,680, making an increase of nearly £100,000 over the corresponding period of last year. The total sales for the year amount to £2,185,230. The membership has increased by 1,532 during a recent period of 23 weeks amounting to £789,431, being an increase over a year ago of £45,000. The Sheffield & Ecclesall Society's sales during a recent period of 23 weeks amounted to £789,431, being an increase over a year ago of 1,054. The present membership is now 62,857 and represents an increase of 1,054.



ON THE HOME FRONT

Remember that the points ration and the ration cannot be carried over till the following rationing period. The ration period is not identical with the calendar month. So watch those dates. Biscuits are now included on the points ration. Syrup and Treacle have now been taken off the points ration and are supplied on the points book. One pound net of syrup and treacle is equivalent to 4 points.

The Ministry of Food has now issued a further edition of the Prices Book. Copies are on sale at 6d. net.

Furniture Prices and Supplies Furniture prices are now rigorously controlled. Percentage fixed over the actual cost of production. The retailer may be charged delivery, but the trader may not take any on this charge.

Under Hire Purchase agreements, the buyer must put down 12 1/2% of the price of the goods, whichever is the higher. Furniture production is now severely controlled. Luxurious furniture will no longer be made and the Board of Trade has prescribed amount of wood to be used for different articles.

Prices of towelling, sheets, pillow cases, quilts and so on are now also rigorously controlled.

Luxury cutlery is now banned. Spoons and forks made wholly or mainly of non-ferrous materials will no longer be made. Fish eating grapefruit and coffee spoons and other items of a similar kind will not be made.

Tax Off Utility Clothing Purchase Tax was removed from new supplies of utility clothing from August 3rd. Removal of the tax will mean saving for consumers, and the Co-operative Movement deserves credit for pressing the Government to free utility items from this tax. Articles covered are clearly marked with the symbol CC41.

Use of sole crepe for footwear is now prohibited, either for boots and shoes or for repairs. The Ministry of Supply is taking stocks of crepe from boot repairers.

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LORD WOOLTON'S TRIBUTE

Speaking at a London conference of co-operative bakery managers in the South of England, Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, paid high tribute to their work in maintaining the wartime bread supply.

"The way in which you have worked together in the bakery trade to ensure that bread supplies are forthcoming despite the terrible blight constitutes one of the romances of the war.

"Your organisation has played a very great part in the creation of emergency services at the Ministry and it is proper that I should express to you the gratitude I feel for the way you have helped in our task.

The Minister, inspecting samples of co-operative bread, said that the supplies exhibited were excellent and he had not seen better elsewhere.

TEA-TIME THOUGHT! Although co-operative plantations in India and Ceylon have as yet been preserved from the extension of the war in the East, some anxiety is felt about their future. The Co-operative Movement is the largest producer and distributor of tea in the world. Great efforts have been made to help the native workers on these plantations in accordance with enlightened colonial policy.

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

ATTERCLIFFE Divisional Council held its last meeting on July 23rd when discussion ranged round the subject of the Ward organisation in the future. It is intended to hold a series of monthly meetings in the respective Wards, dates and times along with venues will be announced. The Secretary appeals for every Co-operative member to join the Party and thus be kept informed of meetings, etc.

The Information Bureau run by the Secretary, Mr. E. Mulligan, 48 Newmark Street, is proving of great benefit to people in the district.

BRIGHTSIDE Divisional Council held a meeting on August 24th when Mr. G.W. Evison spoke on "Regional Control." There were very few members present and the Secretary makes a special appeal to all for the next meeting, of which they will be notified. (Secy: Mrs. Ward, 58 Sacey Avenue.)

HANDSWORTH Party, which was only started recently, is flourishing. A well-attended meeting was held on August 13th when Mr. T. Neville was the speaker, on "The Co-operative Commonwealth." On the 27th, a further successful gathering, Mr. Hilton (ex-Headmaster of the Co-operative Evening School) spoke on the relationship of the individual to the community life and its problems: an interesting discussion revealed the keen interest of these new members.

On September 10th (Thursday) at 7-15 p.m., in the Handsworth Wesleyan Schoolroom, Main Road, Councillor A. Ballard will speak on the work of the City Education Committee; all Co-operators cordially invited.

Future meetings are to be held fortnightly; Whist Drives and Dances too are being arranged in the Working Men's Club. It is hoped shortly to meet the requirements of the members in the Richmond area by alternating the meetings as between Richmond and Handsworth. (Secretary: Mr. F. Neville, 2 Richworth Road.)

HILLSBOROUGH Party held a meeting of the 'Forum' on July 15th. A debate on "The Worker in the Post-War World" was opened by three representative people - a housewife, a trade unionist, and a citizen. Mrs. E. Barton, J.P. (for many years National Secretary of the Co-operative Women's Guild - the largest housewives' association in the country) represented the women-folk; Mr. Eddie Wood (a Trade Union official) presented the Trade Union case; whilst Mr. G.W. Evison (Chairman, Sheffield Co-operative Party) spoke on the position of the citizen as such in the 'New Order.'

The Hillsborough Executive is to meet shortly to draw up a programme for the Winter period: Party members will be notified.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION were to have recommenced their Monday afternoon meetings on September 7th, with a Social, but this has now been postponed. The new session will re-open on September 14th with the first of a series of three Cookery Demonstrations to be given by an expert from the Sheffield College of Domestic Science. These have proved of great use previously and it is hoped that members and friends will turn up in good numbers. Further Demonstrations will be given on September 21st and 28th. (Secretary: Mrs. Carver, 44 Burgoyne Road.)

MANOR newly-formed Ward Association is arranging monthly meetings in the Co-operative Club, 14a Ridgeway Road. The meeting on September 7th (Monday) at 7-30 p.m. will hear an address from Mr. G.W. Evison on "Regional Control." This subject is one upon which the national Labour Party has already issued a memorandum and upon which the Sheffield City Council has carried a unanimous resolution; it is closely related to Town Planning and Reconstruction in Local Government generally. (Secretary: Mrs. A. Goodenough, 5 Rollet Close.)

SOUTHEY & NORWOOD Party held a special meeting on July 16th to consider the position of the Secretary, Mr. G.A. Holder, who was obliged to resign temporarily owing to pressure of work. Councillor R. Fisher was appointed in his stead.

The Party, along with the Men's Guild and the Southey Community

Association, organised a field-day in Longley Park on Saturday Aug. 22nd.
 THE WOMEN'S SECTION meetings are to be held every Wednesday after-
 noon. The session recommenced on August 19th with a business meeting.
 26th, Miss Dale (League of Nations Union) was the speaker. September 2nd
 monthly Social; 9th, Councillor P. Dinsley and 16th Councillor H. Slack
 will be the speaker.

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL Party opened its Winter session with a Whist Drive
 and Dance in the Napier Street Institute on Sept-
 ember 3rd. Meetings will be held in conjunction with the Men's Guild,
 the first a Business meeting, on Saturday September 5th, at 3 o'clock.

(Secretary: Mr. G.W. Evison, 220 Carterknowle Rd.)
 THE WOMEN'S SECTION opened with a Social on Thursday September 3rd.
 An excellent programme has been arranged for the Autumn session. Mrs. E.
 Barton, J.P. will be the speaker on the 10th; a Whist Drive on the 17th;
 and reports and discussion on the 24th. (Secretary: Mrs. D. Branley,
 11 Greystones Crescent.)

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THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

ANNOUNCE



An Old Time Dance

in the

CUTLERS HALL (LARGE BANQUETING HALL)

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
on

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

M.Cs:

- Messrs
- G.T. BUTTERY
- G.A. HOLDER
- H. C. ORGAN
- R. PAYLING

Our Purpose:

To re-open our Winter's work under
 pleasant social conditions; to give
 our members an opportunity for a happy
 evening amongst old friends; and to
 provide a programme of old-time dances
 in contrast to the modern jazz.



PROGRAMME-TICKETS 2/- EACH
 from local secretaries or
 the Co-operative Party
 Office, 17, Bank Street.

Fast bus leaves City 10-15 p.m.
 Fast car leaves City 10-45 p.m.

Select company.
 Limited number of tickets