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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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No. 11

December, 1942



CHRISTMAS 1942
DEMOCRACY ADVANCES

The fourth Christmas of the war sees a really vital change in the position of the Allied Nations. The American, Australian, British, Chinese, and Russian forces are all virtually on the advance instead of retreat. We have every reason to believe that these advances will continue on every front as the Allied strategy is developed and the enormous potential of production and man-power of the Allied Nations proceed to their peak.

It is appropriate that, along with recent military victories we should also note the favourable public reception of the Beveridge Report - appropriate because the winning of the war is the first essential to a new social order as well as a new world order. The principle of social security is embodied in the Atlantic Charter; one of the main freedoms which it is hoped to gain as a reward for the tremendous sacrifices of the common people the world over is

freedom from want. More and more, if the workers and the fighters are to retain their morale and the Allies their unity, shall we have to implement in national legislation as well as international agreements and pledges, the inspiring promises of the Atlantic Charter.

It is on these grounds that we welcome the suggestion of the establishment of a Ministry of Social Security, representing as it will considerable economy in the cost of administering social services, and guaranteeing at least a minimum of human needs to all.

The Co-operative Party has advocated a Ministry of this kind and an all-in insurance scheme for many years past. The attitude of the Government when the various suggestions of the Beveridge Report come to be implemented will be an indication of its sincerity in regard to one of the principal War Aims. That there is room for constructive criticism we should be the last to deny, but the main principles of this excellent Report must be embodied in legislation at the earliest possible moment. We hope that this will be the beginning on the home as well as the world front of the establishment of the Democratic ideal, making real and meaningful the Christmas message of 'Peace and Goodwill to All Men.'

*Greetings
to all our
Readers
everywhere*



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

ATTERCLIFFE Divisional Council is preparing to launch a Membership campaign in the respective Wards of Attercliffe, Tinsley, and Darvall, in the New Year. Monthly meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons alternately in the Attercliffe Co-operative Institute (over B. & C. Florist shop) and the Darvall Labour Hall, Balfour Road. (Secretary: Mr. E. Mulligan, 48 Newark Street.)

BRIGHTSIDE Divisional Annual Meeting will be held in January, in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute: members will be notified by circular. We regret to report that the Secretary, Mrs. P. Ward, is laid aside at the present: we wish her a speedy recovery.

HANDSWORTH Party is taking up enthusiastically the Membership campaign having already made rapid increases. In a recent circular the Secretary asks for replies as to the type of education, recreation or social facilities members would join. Weekly Whist Drives on Monday evenings and fortnightly Dances on Wednesday evenings are being held in the Working Men's Club. Meetings alternate Thursdays, 7 p.m. in the Handsworth Wesley Schoolroom. December 31st, New Year Eve Social, admission 1/-. Four centres for Co-operative "Wayside Pulpits" have been established. This young healthy organisation is determined to put Co-operation on the map in the Handsworth area. (Secretary: Mr. T. Neville, 2 Richworth Road.)

BILLSBOROUGH Party has been running monthly meetings. The one in September was held in the centre of the City as it coincided with a visit from the Right Hon. A.V. Alexander, C.H., M.P. The October meeting took the form of a Film Show with addresses from Dr. Hsun Lee and Mr. John Galvin, in connection with the Aid to China fund. In November Alderman C.W. Gascoigne (Chairman of the Estates Committee) gave an informative address on 'Housing in Sheffield.' The December meeting was cancelled in view of the Central Council Meeting which dealt with the proposals for the Annual Conference.

A Reunion is to be held during the Christmas period when the proceeds will be devoted to the Aid to China fund. In this connection the party is running Dances on Wednesday evenings, in the Guild Room, admission 1s. The new Maple floor has proved very popular.

THE WOMEN'S SECTION have held weekly meetings during the whole of the period. December 7th, a Whist Drive in aid of the China fund raised £5.10.0. On the 14th Councillor P. Buchanan (Chairman of the Finance Committee) was the speaker. Meetings will recommence January 4th when nominations will be taken for officers and committee for 1953. The women have arranged a pantomime "Beauty and the Beast" for January 11th. (Secretary: Mrs. Carver, 44 Burgoyne Road.)

MAHOR Ward Party hold monthly meetings in the Guild Room at 14a Ridgeway Road. At the November meeting Mr. Ward spoke on "State Medical Service" and in December Mr. Tickhill spoke on "Reconstruction". The Annual Meeting will take place on Monday January 11th, at 7.30 p.m. (Secretary: Mrs. Goodenough, 5 Rollet Close.)

SOUTHEY & HORNWOOD Women's Section have returned to weekly meetings, the last of which was held on December 9th, addressed by Councillor J.S. Worrall who has arranged to give a monthly City Council report. Meetings reopen Wednesday January 13th. The Section has been holding small social events on behalf of the Aid to China fund. (Secretary: Mrs. N. Jackson, 106 Crowder Avenue.)

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL Section has continued in collaboration with the Men's Guild. The November meetings were

were addressed on the 7th by Mr. Goodrem on "National Expenditure and Price Stabilisation," and on the 21st by Mr. C. Wood on "Co-operative Party Reconstruction." December 5th a Business Meeting and on the 19th a Whist Drive. Programme for January: 9th Meeting at 3 p.m. 16th a Joint Social with the Men's Guild at 5 p.m. 23rd Annual Meeting for election of officers and committee, 3 p.m. (Secretary: Mr. G.W. Evison, 220 Carterknowle Rd.)

THE WOMEN'S SECTION weekly meetings have maintained a good attendance despite war-time difficulties; amongst the speakers were Mrs. E. Barton, J.P., Councillor J.H. Bingham, J.P., Mrs. D. Cole, and Councillor A. Ballard. The programme for the next session is now arranged, commencing with the Annual Meeting on January 7th.

In addition to contributing to the Aid to China fund, proceeds from monthly Whist Drives have been devoted to comforts for members' relatives serving with H.M. Forces. (Secretary: Mrs. M.D. Bramley, 11 Greystones Crescent.)

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A MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN based on the National Committee's interim Programme of Reconstruction, is to be inaugurated and carried out in all the Wards and Divisions where Co-operative political organisation is in being.

AGE LIMIT. The Central Political Council will discuss the fixing of an age limit for new Candidates to the Municipal Panel at a meeting on December 20th.

EMERGENCY DEPUTY. The Party Secretary, Councillor A. Ballard, who has been Chairman of the Sheffield Information Committee since its inception, has been appointed by the Regional Office as the Deputy Emergency Information Officer for the City.

WAR EMERGENCY SOCIAL LEGISLATION. The Sheffield Co-operative Party in collaboration with the Trades and Labour Council have under consideration proposals to assist victims of air raids, concerning the inadequacy of the compensation for private chattels, in connection with which a special conference was proposed. In view of the fact that headquarters of both the Labour and Co-operative Parties have always been used as Advice Bureaux in connection with citizens' needs, it was agreed that the respective Secretaries should offer their services to any members who feel aggrieved by Government assessments of War Damage.

CHINA AID FUND. Co-operators in the City are assisting the United Aid to China Fund following upon the lead given by the National Council of Labour and by our Representative, the Right Hon. A.V. Alexander, when he addressed a special meeting held at the City Hall recently.

The two Societies have donated £150 and allocated Share Numbers as follows: Brightside & Garbrook 945; Sheffield & Ecclesall 255, the dividend from which will be handed to the fund. Already the Brightside & Garbrook number has contributed £30.

At the time of writing Co-operative organisations in Sheffield have contributed £244/3/5d, but efforts are still being organised and the Share Numbers mentioned above may still be used.

HELP FOR RUSSIA FUND organised by the National Council of Labour now totals £378,993, of which the Co-operative Movement has directly contributed £89,360. Co-operative Societies, however, have assisted various local efforts and these contributions cannot be ascertained exactly.

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PURCHASE TAX. In a reply to a question in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade indicated that the Purchase Tax would not be charged on Utility furniture. It will be remembered that the C.W.S. made representations to the Government on this point some months ago.

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BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT
HARD FACTS

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The following facts are taken from a speech made by Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P., at Cardiff on November 1st. They are part of the record of Britain's last war effort.

World Record. Britain with its 45 million people has achieved a war output that stands in the front rank of production, achievements on either side. Its output per head is greater than that of any country in the world, ally or enemy.

Britain's shipbuilding workers have an output twice as great per head as those of any other country.

Eighty per cent of the war production of this country is shipped overseas. So is every fighting man for whom space can be found.

There is also the transport to our shores of a great part of America's war production and the increasing flow of food of every sort which she sends to us. This is the work of our Navy and Merchant Service.

Sailors and Seamen do their job The Navy's battle is fought day in, day out, over an area of 2,750,000 square miles in the Atlantic alone. In that ocean no less than 250,000 men man the fighting Tanks and aircraft and oil have to fight their way on escort ships.

They go from us to Russia, the same distance from America to us, the same from us to Malta - and over five times the length of the vast Russian front from us round the Cape to the Middle East.

The Navy regularly patrols over 80,000 miles of trade routes - 3½ times round the world. It keeps constant guard over the two to three thousand British and Allied merchant ships which are always at sea. It sweeps mines from over 14,000 miles of sea lanes.

Ships with Wings Its warships and the aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm and the R.A.F. have escorted over 120,000 voyages in convoys and have brought safely to port 199 out of every 200 ships in these convoys. It has at sea constantly 600 warships and auxiliaries, some of which have travelled a distance equal to nine times round the world.

The Navy has swept the enemy from the high seas and destroyed, captured or damaged more than 125 of his warships and over 8,000,000 tons of his shipping.

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M P. A L E X A N D E R
on
ANGLO-AMERICAN CO-OPERATION

The Right Hon. A.V. Alexander, C.H., M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, delivered a great speech to the American Society in London, on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th. Outlining the history of Anglo-American co-operation, he said it is too much to ask that this combination should continue not only through the war but right through the process of reconstruction and the building of peace. The first step had been taken in the Atlantic Charter. Let us reach heart and soul together in bringing justice, peace and social security to suffering humanity.

Mr. Alexander told his audience that the sea power of the United Nations now dictates Hitler's strategy just as the sea power of the British finally dictated Napoleon's. The fact that finally destroyed Napoleon and will destroy Hitler is that land power is ultimately parochial. Sea strategy is world strategy.

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CO-OPERATIVE SECURITY
BEVERIDGE REPORT PAYS TRIBUTE TO
CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE



There has hardly been a single example of a Government Enquiry or Report touching upon any business with which the Co-operative Movement is concerned, during the last twenty years, that has not paid a tribute to the economy and efficiency of Co-operative administration. The Food Commission, the Royal Commission on Coal, the recent Perry Report on Milk distribution are a few examples. Now Sir William Beveridge adds his testimony. Of the Co-operative Insurance Society the Beveridge Report says:-

"This company is unusual in several ways: as the only industrial assurance company registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts as having, next to the Prudential, the lowest expense ratio of any industrial office, and as showing spectacular growth.

"The company has a nominal capital of £105,000, held by the two Co-operative Wholesale Societies as shareholders.

"The surpluses of the industrial assurance branch are divided among the policy-holders, after certain superannuation provision for the staff. The company employs now about 43,600 agents, remunerated on specially favourable terms, including 50 per cent. of the premiums for the first 40 weeks, and entitled to book interest.

"The low expense ratio achieved is presumably due, among other things, to its having a selected clientele and exceptionally easy means of canvassing. Its progress may fairly be attributed to combination of three factors - appeal to Co-operative sentiment, favourable terms to the policy-holders, and the strong incentive given to the agents by their terms of remuneration and by book interest to develop their business."

+ This figure is incorrect. The actual figure as given for September 1942 is 5,767.

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NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PARTY
ON THE BEVERIDGE REPORT.

The National Executive, after giving careful consideration to the Beveridge Report, states that it must be considered

in its proper context. It does not claim it to be a panacea for all our economic and social ills. It claims that only within the framework of our existing economic organisation, provision can be made for every emergency of life which involves loss of family income. The Report itself makes it clear that an orderly planning of our society to overcome unemployment, the provision of better housing, and so on, will be undertaken by the Government.

The Executive Committee therefore welcomes the Report as a first step towards the abolition of want and poverty, and urges that all co-operative opinion should be concentrated upon the adoption of the main plan, reserving the right to advocate detailed amendments which would both apply and expand the principles of the Beveridge plan.

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A Co-operator, Mr. P. Robinson, C.W.S. Director, was a member of the important committee on Land Utilisation in Rural Areas, whose report has just been published. The Scott Report will help to determine the future of the countryside. Mr. Robinson has signed a supplementary Report which, if put into operation, will help to stop speculation in land, which, in the past, has prevented development of all kinds of public welfare schemes.



SHEFFIELD MILK SUPPLY

Mr. Dan Chater (Co-operative Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green) asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether adequate steps are being taken to ensure that non-priority consumers in Sheffield receive in the future a fair share of the supplies of milk which are available in the country, having in mind the fact that in the middle of November supplies were nothing like sufficient to meet the entitlement figure announced by the Ministry?

Mr. Mabane, replying, said: "The normal seasonal decline in milk production took place more quickly in November than had been anticipated, and consequently the quantities of milk available for diversion in that period were insufficient to meet shortages which occurred in a number of areas in the middle of the month. The reduction in the maximum non-priority allowance to two pints on Sunday 22nd November, has freed more milk for diversion and adequate supplies are now being sent to the deficiency areas. So far as I am aware, dairymen's requirements in Sheffield are now being met."

SHEFFIELD SOCIETIES' PROGRESS

THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK SOCIETY reports an increase in trade for the quarter ending October 24th amounting to £52,977 (10.66%) compared with the corresponding period last year: the sales for the whole year totalling £2,236,207. The present membership is 81,069, 855 having joined during the quarter under review. There are 806 employees, male and female, serving in H.M. Forces and Civil Defence: a Christmas gift of £1. has been sent to all those whose addresses are in the Society's possession.

THE SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL SOCIETY'S Half-Yearly Report, showing 25 weeks' trade ending September 12th, records sales amounting to £876,664, which, compared with the corresponding number of weeks last year, represents an increase of £66,249. Sales for the whole year amount to £1,849,253. Present membership is 62,912.

CO-OPERATION IN TUNISIA

British, American, and French forces are making their way towards that "tip of Tunisia" mentioned very much to the point by Mr. Churchill in his last broadcast to the Empire and the U.S.A.

Some of the soldiers of the United Nations who are bound to be co-operators will be agreeably surprised to find when they march into Tunis, the capital of this French Protectorate, that the Co-operative Movement has been there before them, for even the natives have learned the value of co-operation.

Spread all over Tunisia are examples of Co-operative effort, but most Co-operative activities have their headquarters in the capital. In Tunis there are the Co-operative de Consommation, which is most akin to our own consumers' societies; the Co-operative d'Eleveurs des Porcs - a pig-breeders' society; and the Co-operative de Motoculture, which undertakes the maintenance and repair of all agricultural vehicles. In a country where wine is produced, it is only natural that Co-operative effort should be introduced into that industry. Tunis, then, has the headquarters and depots of the Co-operative de Vinicole de Kledia, which wholesales and retails the wines of the vinegrowers of the Protectorate.

Bizerta, the great harbour town 50 miles from Tunis itself, has its own well-established and well-known Co-operative grocery establishment - Co-operative Populaire.

