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THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR BULLETIN

Issued by the Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17 Bank Street, Sheffield, 1
A. Ballard, Secretary
Telephone 23982

No. 12.

July 1943



Now is the time to plan a celebration worthy of the coming-of-age of this co-operative fete, and to use the occasion to arouse public enthusiasm for the people's great co-operative heritage.

Today, almost every social organisation is producing its plans for reconstruction from the political parties, trade unions and big business to the intellectuals and the Churches. THE TIME IS OPPORTUNE FOR CO-OPERATORS TO MAKE IT MANIFESTLY CLEAR THAT THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT FROM THE DAYS OF ROCHDALE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMIC BASIS OF SOCIETY.

By now it should be clear to all that the political path to reconstruction will not be as easy as some people imagine. The reception accorded the Beveridge Report is a case in point. The Beveridge Plan is not a scheme to transform society, but simply an effort to ease the burdens of social casualties of the existing economic system.

The Government has received the proposals with trepidation and hesitancy. If that is the official attitude over such a modest plan, what will the official attitude be to more radical and fundamental changes? The Co-operative Movement, however, provides a ready-to-hand means of altering the present balance of economic relations, beginning right now, without any need for legislation. THE PEOPLE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT IN THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT THERE DOES EXIST THE MEANS FOR PRODUCING BETTER SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT, A MORE EQUITABLE, EFFICIENT ECONOMY, AND A MORE BALANCED SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY.

(Desmond Flanagan from "The Co-operative Review")

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CO-OPERATORS HELP SHEFFIELD "WINGS" WEEK.

The investments of the C.W.S. in War Savings and Government securities now total £150,000,000. During the Sheffield "Wings for Victory" Week the Wholesale invested at the rate of 10/- per Co-operative member, which totalled £70,500. The Co-operative Insurance Society (a C.W.S. institution) invested £20,000.

The C.W.S. recognised the unique position of the Hillsborough Parliamentary Division in having a Co-operative Member in the Cabinet by investing a further £50,000 through the First Lord of the Admiralty, thus making a grand total during the Sheffield "Wings for Victory" Week of £140,300.

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SHEFFIELD CO-OP. PROGRESS. The two Sheffield Societies are still making progress despite war-time conditions. The last Report of the Sheffield & Ecclesall shows investments totalling £1,069,200 - a record in the Society's history.

The Brightside & Carbrook Quarterly Report ended April 24th shows sales amounting to £583,259 - an increase of 8.07% when compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Developments are projected in the establishment of a new branch on the Parson Cross estate and extension of the Eroughton Lane Dairy Plant.

WHY WE CELEBRATE

JULY 3rd, 1943 will be the 21st celebration of Co-operative Day.

celebration of the coming-of-age of this co-operative fete, and to use the occasion to arouse public enthusiasm for the people's great co-operative heritage.

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Sat. July 3rd
(See announcements)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1944 FREEDOM FUND.

The Co-operative Congress held at Edinburgh at Whitauitide enthusiastically endorsed the action of the Co-operative Union in launching the 1944 Freedom Fund to create a minimum of £500,000 to restore continental Co-operative Movements as they become free from Nazi and Fascist occupation. Both Mr. R.A. Palmer (Acting-President) and Miss G.F. Polley (Secretary of the International Co-operative Alliance) expressed gratitude for the generous response which British co-operators had made to the appeal. Already £160,000 had been contributed by societies and the rank and file are to have a chance to make personal gifts.

Mr. E. Mynderup, the Swedish Movement's delegate to the British Congress, reported: "Last week the Swedish Co-operative Wholesale Society had a conference in Stockholm, and Albin Jonansson made a speech on International Co-operation. I should like to quote the following passage: "We must not forget the terrible suffering and privation in the world to-day, and it is our plain duty to do our utmost to help our fellow-men in the countries devastated by war. We are pleased to see that, on the initiative of the I.C.A., the British Co-operative Movement has decided to raise a Freedom Fund of £500,000 for post-war relief. We, too, in Sweden, would like to join in this good work and give as much help as we can."

SCIENTISTS TOLD CO-OPERATION CAN HELP EUROPE.

Eminent British scientists recently heard from R.A. Palmer how the Co-operative Movement could do its part in restoring stable economic conditions in Europe after the war and speeding up relief work in all kinds of countries, co-operative organisation, with its facilities for distribution and production, would be the main factor in the distribution of relief supplies.

Most European Governments were alive to the importance of the Co-operative Movement in this connection, a view which was endorsed by a Polish speaker and other overseas representatives present.

CO-OPERATOR AT ROOSEVELT'S FOOD CONFERENCE.

The Co-operative Movement was represented at the special conference to deal with food problems which President Roosevelt summoned to meet at Hot Springs, Virginia. Mr. Murray D. Lincoln, President of the Co-operative League of America, represented the viewpoint of co-operative consumers. This is the first of a series of conferences which are to be called, and 38 different nations were invited to send delegates.

AID FOR ALLIES.

The Movement's generous help to great causes is shown by the following figures: The National Council of Labour Help for Russia Fund at the beginning of May amounted to £505,912. Of this fine total co-operative societies' contributions amounted to £138,577.

The United Aid for China Fund, inaugurated later, showed in May £26,868 collected through the National Council of Labour. Of this sum the Co-operative contribution represented £12,615.

CO-OPERATION THE SOLUTION.

Servicemen wherever they meet are talking of the post-war world. Some of them too are probing the nature of Co-operation and looking upon injustices of the pre-war industrial age. Thus, a youthful lecturer took members of the Cairo Victory Club on an imaginary tour of the co-operative world. He told eager listeners the useful jobs co-operative societies were doing in Britain, Europe, Canada, China, and elsewhere. This was his conclusion:

"Co-operation seems to me to be a solution which acknowledges the dignity of labour. Co-operation involves planning without regimentation, economic security without state domination, the decent things of life without the mad scramble of capitalism, freedom without social anarchy. "I propose Co-operation instead of cut-throat competition; Co-operation instead of capitalist cartels; Co-operation instead of Communist class warfare; Co-operation between the people of the world instead of international gangsterism in all its forms."

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE. Following upon a meeting addressed by Councillor A. Ballard, the Party Organiser, an effort is being made to increase the number of individual members with a view to discussing Co-operative policy. (Secretary: Mr. E. Mulligan, 48 Newark Street.)

BRIGHTSIDE. At a recent meeting held in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Councillor J.W. Holland, J.P. spoke on "Co-operation in the modern world." We regret to report that Mrs. P. Ward, who has been Secretary for a good number of years, has had to resign owing to ill-health. The thanks of the Party were accorded Mrs. Ward for her splendid services. Mrs. Ashley, 22 Burngreave Bank, has been appointed Secretary.

HANDSWORTH. A fine membership has been built up in a comparatively short time; the flourishing Youth organisation in this area is largely the result of Party members. The section is working in close collaboration with the Woodhouse Co-operative Society Party and were jointly responsible for a meeting on the Beveridge Report, at the Woodhouse Picture Palace, addressed by Sir George Riddle, C.B.E. Meetings held fortnightly on Fridays, at 7-30 p.m. in the Working Men's Club - next Meeting July 9th; Whist Drives Mondays at 7-30 p.m. (Secretary: Mr. T. Neville, 2 Richworth Road.)

HILLSBOROUGH members were honoured by a brief visit from the Right Hon. A.V. Alexander, C.H., M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, on May 23rd. Mr. Alexander spoke of the work of the Navy and of the general war situation with an optimistic look for the future. He expressed regret that he was unable to visit the constituency as regularly as heretofore but stated that he did keep in touch with his constituents through the medium of the Party organisation.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday July 4th, at 7 p.m. in the Guild Room, Middlewood Road, when Conference reports will be given by Councillor A. Ballard and Mr. W.H. Bottom; also documentary films will be shown. (Members please note: no further circular will be sent in regard to this meeting.)

THE WOMEN'S SECTION continue their Meetings on Monday afternoons, having been addressed recently by Mr. C.E. Greaves (a B. & C. Grocery Branch Manager), Alderman A. Smith, and Mrs. S.E. Kennie.

MANOR. Meetings held monthly in the Guild Room, 14a Ridgeway Road. At the last meeting Mrs. J. Billam gave an interesting report on the Party's Annual Conference. On Monday July 7th, 7-30 p.m., Alderman A. Smith will speak on "Civic Development." We regret to report the passing of one of our members and workers, Mr. Fairest, the husband of the new Secretary, Mrs. M. Fairest, 28 Alger Crescent.

WEEPSEND. Regret was also expressed at the passing of Mr. W. Elms, the late Secretary, at an organisational meeting held on June 9th. Alderman Hawnt, Councillors Ballard, Fisher, and Stokes attended and the following officers were appointed: Mr. J.H. Allen (President), Mr. W. Loukes (Treasurer), Mrs. L. Hall (Secretary) and Mr. G. Phoenix (Assistant-Secretary). The next meeting on Wednesday July 7th, at 7-30 p.m. will take the form of a Film Show, in the Guild Room.

NORWOOD & SOUTHEY Section officers appointed are: Counc. R. Fisher (President), Mr. L. Baines, 78 Deerlands Avenue (Secretary), and Mr. W. Habeshaw (Assistant-Secretary). Meetings held in the Guild Room, Southey Avenue, on the second Thursday in the month, at 7-30 p.m. THE WOMEN'S SECTION meetings held Wednesdays, 2-30 p.m.

SHEFFIELD & ECLESALL. A meeting will be held on Monday July 5th, at 7-30 p.m. in the Napier Street Institute. WOMEN'S SECTION Meetings held in the Institute (Room 2) Thursdays at 2-30 p.m.



All Co-operators
to the
CITY HALL
SATURDAY, JULY 3rd
8-30 p.m., for a
"SALUTE TO CO-OPERATION"
and to hear
B.B.C. artistes in a
first-class programme
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Several recent Parliamentary Debates have provided Co-operative M.P.'s with the opportunity of making valuable speeches in support of Co-operative policy.

In the debate on the estimates of the Ministry of Food the Chairman of the Party, Mr. A. Barnes, M.P. (East Ham South) came out favourably on the Government's policy in stabilising food prices. This lent great force to his criticism of the Government in a later debate on a motion asking for a vote of credit of £1,000,000,000.

Mr. Barnes argued that price stabilisation should be applied to the whole field of domestic necessities. He quoted figures showing that according to a test carried out at Oxford, taking the figure of 100 as representing the 1938 level of prices, clothing and footwear had in 1943 reached 168, furniture 250, household textiles 265, hardware and household stores 185, leather and travel goods 185, fancy goods 185, and drugs and toiletries 156. He further quoted a comparison of goods made by the Council for Art and Industry showing that in 1938 the cost of equipping a working-class home was £52.10.4., whereas it would have cost £167.11.10. in 1943. The amount less purchase tax would have been £136.8.8.

Mr. Barnes claimed that the introduction of utility charges had helped to arrest the rise in prices, and urged the Government to increase the range of utility goods to cover more articles of domestic use. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in reply promised "to take into account all that he (Mr. Barnes) has said and study it." The debate was restricted as to time and the Chancellor said "I wish the Hon. Member for East Ham South had had a little more time to develop the case he put forward, because he is an authority on that subject."

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SHEFFIELD NEWSPAPER'S TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST LORD

Recently Francis Sulley, who writes 'London Opinion' in the SHEFFIELD TELEGRAPH, paid a tribute to Mr. A.V. Alexander. Speculating on the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle in which the possibility of Mr. Alexander leaving the Admiralty was mentioned, Mr. Sulley wrote:-

"The Navy will regret this if it happens, for the First Lord has its confidence - nay, its affection. He has stood by his Sea Lords and other professional advisers, he has fought other departments to get the Navy more and better aircraft under its own control, and he has never forgotten the needs of the lower deck.

"I think the country is in Mr. Alexander's debt for another thing which he has done during his term in the Admiralty. Early in the war, some naval shipbuilding orders were given out on terms which gave the contractors exceptional profits. Some people in Whitehall said, 'What does it matter. We get the ships and shall recover all the excess profits through E.P.T.'"

"But the First Lord stood out for a scaling down of contract prices for ships as soon as that could be done. He saw that before excess profits were retrieved by taxation they would have been paid and much of the payments put into circulation.

"More notes would be printed and issued, more goods bought, prices would be forced up, and the vicious spiral would take a turn or two upward before Sir Kingsley Wood could regain some of the increased payments.

"These are considerations which should have been more in the minds of other Government Departments than they were, in fact, when aerodromes were built or aircraft constructed."